
DATA CRUNCH

Issue 4

September 2000

Welcome to DataCrunch,

the newsletter of Data Library Services at the University of Regina. We hope you will find this newsletter to be informative as we strive to keep you abreast of surveys and services available through the Data Liberation Initiative, the ICPSR and other data producers.

The aim of Data Library Services is to support the research and teaching activities of University of Regina faculty, students and staff. Your comments or questions are always welcome and we invite you to contact us by telephone, e-mail or in-person!

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Labour Force Survey (LFS)

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) has undergone extensive revisions to reflect two important changes to the production of labour market data. As a result, all LFS estimates have been revised back to January 1976. This report uses these revised data. For more information on these revisions, refer to "Improvements in 2000 to the LFS" on Statistics Canada's Web site

<http://www.statcan.ca/english/concepts/method.htm>

The new revised data, which are available on CANSIM <http://datacenter.chass.utoronto.ca:5680/cansim/cansim.html>, must be used to make historical comparisons of Labour Force Survey estimates. Before obtaining any data from CANSIM, please read the "Revised Historical Labour Force Survey Data" communiqué at

<http://www.statcan.ca/english/CANSIM/communiqu/2000020124199.htm>. As well, Statistics Canada released an

"Overview of the 1999 Labour Market". This article provides an in-depth analysis of trends in 1999 according to the newly revised numbers

http://www.statcan.ca/english/indepth/71-005/feature/lf2000_v04n1_win_pre.pdf

To harmonize with other Statistics Canada data sources, the Labour Force Survey recently introduced a new definition of the public and private sectors. As a result, the estimates of public employment that are not seasonally adjusted are somewhat underestimated prior to May 1999. To better reflect real changes in public and private sector employment, and to avoid a break in the series, the historical seasonally adjusted series have been modified. In addition, the annual averages available on CANSIM have been calculated using the "modified" seasonally adjusted data instead of the unadjusted data.

Small Business Profiles

The Small Business Profiles provide detailed financial and employment data for an average small business. A small business is defined as having annual gross operating revenue between \$25,000 and \$5 million. Profiles are available by type of business (unincorporated, incorporated and both) for about 680 different industries in Canada. Profiles are also available for each province and territory, but with reduced industry detail. The profiles contain information on gross operating revenue, selected expenses, net profit/loss, employment, balance sheet items and selected financial ratios. The data provide performance benchmarks for the financial planning of start-up and established small businesses. The source for the 1995 profiles is a sample of 193,000 tax returns submitted to Revenue Canada by both unincorporated and incorporated businesses.

The measure of employment is an average labour unit (ALU), which represents an average annual level of employment or count of employees. This measure is not a full-time equivalent count and does not distinguish between part-time and full-time work. ALUs were obtained by dividing wage and salary expenses by estimates of average annual earnings per employee from the Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours.

The Small Business Profiles for 1993, 1995 and 1997 are available on Strategis, Canada's Business Information Site by Industry Canada at: http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/cgi-bin/sc_mangb/contact/sbp/sbp.cgi

Free Spatial Data

GeoGratis is a web and file transfer protocol (ftp) site that distributes geospatial data of Canada. Data is available for download, without charge. Vector mapping data is available in scales ranging from 1:250 000 to 1:30 000 000 in a variety of file formats. Similarly, several types of full resolution satellite imagery are on-line.

The data that is available from GeoGratis is primarily oriented to an audience familiar with geographic information systems (GIS), or image analysis, or desktop graphics. GeoGratis by Natural Resources Canada is available at <http://geogratias.cgdi.gc.ca/frames.html>

IPS Catalogue

Statistics Canada's Information on Products and Services Catalogue has undergone a major facelift <http://www.statcan.ca:80/english/search/ips.htm>. The improvements to the catalogue include:

- an easier to read screen
- more search options, including the ability to search by author, title etc. in our "Power search"
- improved "Help" and search tips
- an improved browsable Thesaurus
- easier to read pages for the records, including internal links to the abstracts, table of contents and more information
- and there is more to come ... including a Theme search

Modern Biotechnology, Quality Of Life, and Consumers' Access To Justice, Nov. - Dec. 1999

This round of Eurobarometer surveys queried respondents on standard Eurobarometer measures such as public awareness of and attitudes toward the European Union (EU), and also focused on applications of modern biotechnology, quality of life and lifestyle, the symbol for the European Commission (EC), and consumers' access to justice. Respondents were asked whether they believed that new, developing technologies such as biotechnology and genetic engineering, computers and information technology, telecommunications, the Internet, new materials and substances, solar energy, space exploration, and nuclear energy would improve their lives over the next 20 years. Standard demographic information collected included left-right political self-placement, marital status, age at completion of education, age, sex, number of people in household, number of children in household, current occupation, previous occupation, religious preference, household income, type of residence, size of locality, and region of residence. Contact Marilyn Andrews for more information. ICPSR 2893

1996 Census Handbook

The 1996 Census Handbook is now available through the DLI. As described in the Online Catalogue of Products and Services, the 1996 Census Handbook provides a non-technical overview of the complete census process, from content determination to the dissemination of products and services. It also discusses data quality, confidentiality issues, and gives examples of different applications of census data. A brief history of Canadian censuses is presented as well. It is available from the Data Library Services Web Page at

<http://uregina.ca/datalibrary/census96/handbook-e.pdf>

"Catch and Effort" Data For Atlantic Canada

We have recently received our first data set not produced by Statistics Canada and disseminated through DLI.

Indeed, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans supplied DLI with an extensive data set of "Catch and Effort" data for Atlantic Canada. These data are available from 1987 to 1998 and because of their size they will only be available on CD-ROM. All files were prepared using SPSS V10.05 and, as such, are self-documenting.

Information and Communications Technologies and Electronic Commerce Survey

Being a business survey, no public use microdata file can be produced. However, there will be a series of tables summarizing results on the eighteen key questions asked.

These will be on the Statistics Canada web site in early October. The author division will also be doing an analytical piece that will look at the determinants of e-business/commerce. This should come out in November and will also be on the STC web site as a free publication.

Social Policy Simulation Database and Model (SPMDM)

The Social policy simulation database and model: Version 8.0 (SPSD/M), which is based on 1996 microdata, is now available. The SPSD/M is a static microsimulation model. It comprises a database, a series of tax/transfer algorithms and models, analytical software and user documentation. The SPSD/M has been produced as an occasional product since 1985. It has been widely used by policy analysts in Canada studying virtually every change to the tax and transfer system since then.

The SPSD/M is a tool designed to analyze the financial interactions of governments and individuals/families in Canada. It allows estimation of the income redistributive effects or cost implications of changes in the personal taxation and cash transfer system. The SPSD/M assists researchers examining the potential impacts of changes in taxes, earnings, demographic trends, and a wide range of other factors. It can be used to study federal and provincial tax and transfer changes from 1984 through 2003.

The SPSD/M allows us to answer "what-if" types of questions. What if there were a change to the taxes Canadians paid or transfers they received? Who would gain and who would lose? Would single parent households in a particular province be better off? By how much? How much extra money would federal or provincial governments collect or pay out?

Post Secondary Student Survey (1984) and Survey of Smoking Habits

These surveys will not be released to the DLI due to the lack of availability of a public use microdata file.

DataCrunch is available on-line:

<http://uregina.ca/datalibrary/datacrunch.html>

RECENTLY RELEASED

CANADIAN TRAVEL SURVEY, 1999

"CATCH & EFFORT" DATA FOR ATLANTIC CANADA, 1987-1998 - DEPT. OF FISHERIES & OCEANS

EXTRACTION SYSTEM OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS, 2000

ICPSR 2893 - EUROBAROMETER 52.1: MODERN BIOTECHNOLOGY, QUALITY OF LIFE, AND CONSUMERS' ACCESS TO JUSTICE, NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1999

NATIONAL CHILD CARE SURVEY, 1998

NATIONAL POPULATION HEALTH SURVEY (NPHS) - HEALTH CARE INSTITUTIONS 1996-97

POSTAL CODES BY FEDERAL RIDING FILE (1996 REPRESENTATION ORDER), JUNE 2000

POSTAL CODE CONVERSION FILE, JUNE 2000

RESIDENTIAL TELEPHONE SERVICE SURVEY, MAY 2000

SMALL AREA DATA, 1998 (SAD)

SOCIAL POLICY SIMULATION DATABASE AND MODEL

SURVEY OF HOUSEHOLD SPENDING, 1998

COMING SOON

EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE SURVEY (EICS) 1999 - OCT. 2000

GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY, CYCLE 13: VICTIMIZATION (OCTOBER 2000)

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 1999 (NOVEMBER 2000)

NATIONAL LONGITUDINAL SURVEY OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH (NLSCY) - CYCLE 3, 1998-99 (SPRING 2001)

NPHS - HOUSEHOLD COMPONENT 1998-99 (SEPT 2000)

SECOND INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION 1999 (SITES) (WINTER 2000)

SURVEY OF FINANCIAL SECURITY (JANUARY 2001)

SURVEY OF LABOUR AND INCOME DYNAMICS (SLID) (SEPTEMBER 2000)

WORKPLACE & EMPLOYEE SURVEY 1998-99 (FALL 2000)

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Data Library Services is located in the Dr. John Archer Library, LY 311, University of Regina.

Hours: Monday to Friday, except holidays.

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Previous Issues of DataCrunch:

<http://uregina.ca/datalibrary/datacrunch.html>

Send to:

If you wish to have your name added to our mailing list please let us know. Likewise, if you wish to have your name removed from the mailing list please inform us.