CCSD's Community Data Program presents:
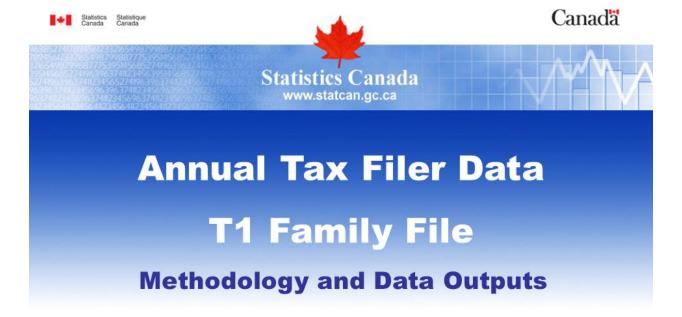
Tax filer data webinar

Jan 18th, 2017 and Feb 1st, 2017

Total registered participants: 198

OUTLINE:

1. Mandate
2. T1FF population
3. Methodology
   - Family formation
   - Special tax filers
   - Geography
   - Confidentiality rule
4. Typical T1FF usage
5. How to get data
   - CANSIM
   - Standard tables
   - Custom tables

SUMMARY:

The T1 Family File (T1FF) is primarily based on income T1 tax returns submitted to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). Our mandate is to supply personal and family income data for different levels of geography, with a focus on lower level geography. As part of our mandate, guaranteeing the security of the tax filer data within Statistics Canada is one of our top priorities.

For T1FF, there is no release of Public Use Microdata File (sample of the micro-data). Based on confidentially guidelines, only aggregate data where suppression or rounding rules have been applied are released.

In 2014, T1FF represents 34.2 million individuals (26.9 million tax filers plus their dependents), 9.8 million census families and just under 6 million individuals not in families. Generally, the T1FF population includes those who completed a T1 tax return for the year of reference or who received Canada Child Tax Benefits, non-filing spouses and non-filing children. Those not included are a certain number of late T1 tax filers and those who received a T4 but did not file a T1.

Postal codes are standardized and confirmed for validity before used to assign different levels of census or postal geography. This includes Canada-wide data, provincial and territorial, economic regions, census divisions, federal electoral districts, census metropolitan areas, census agglomerations and census tracts. Census subdivisions and dissemination areas can be created as user defined geographies for custom tables.

Typically, T1FF is used for studying the number of families by source of income or income groups, analysing the median total income or after-tax income by family type, looking at trends on individuals in low income situations, or comparing between groups with different levels of income.

More information on the T1 Family File can be found on the Statistics Canada website here:

http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=4105

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

GENERAL

Q: When is the cut-off date for tax filers to be included in the T1FF?

A: Tax filer data collection is different from survey collection. For tax data, the CRA will accept tax filers even if they are late. Most people file in March and April, so the population reflects this. The date is based on when we extract the file from CRA. For example, there is an early release with charitable donations in late August. So, anyone who filed before mid August is included. The final T1FF is released in June of every year, and that is based on snapshot in December or January after the taxation year,

about 13 months after the taxation year. Anyone who filed before that 13 months is included.

Q: Is Working Poor is not a custom request?

A: It is a custom request from the Community Data Program and other organizations. These Working Poor and Income Inequality tables are available on the Community Data Program website, but are not available on the Statistics Canada website.

Q: Will the linking of tax filer income to the short form, do you anticipate that have any impact on the T1FF product?

A: Not really, there are no plans to slow down what is produced from family file. There has been Improvement from the census side, but this will not change the quantity of information produced for T1FF. Our data will have more detailed information as the T1FF data is collected from tax filers, not a survey. We do work jointly with the census, however, there is no impact on T1 Family File.

Q: With the income changes, will we be able to do any accurate comparisons from 2016 to previous census years for income?

A: Unfortunately, there is no direct answer. There may be some comparison issues, however, the latest 2016 data will be very accurate. Typically, the census produces a lot of technical guides on how to use the data, and will include warnings on what people should take into account when comparing census products.

GEOGRAPHY

Q: What level of geography is the LAD (longitudinal administrative database)?

A: The LAD is available at similar geographies as the T1FF, and it is possible to create municipal level data. However, since the LAD is a 20% sample of the T1 data, users should take caution.

Q: Can you provide mapping products, too? Shapefiles, kml, etc.

A: Unfortunately, the way the data is built, we have to use lists of postal codes or census geography to create data from the T1 family file. Other data sources like the census can use shapefiles and mapping products to create custom areas, but that's not a service with the T1 Family File.

T1FF USAGE

Q: Is it possible to isolate the GIS (Guaranteed Income Supplement) for seniors?

A: Yes, it is possible. There are standard tables that group it with another income source. Also, there is spousal allowance attached. In a custom table, this can be broken down.

Q: Do you estimate GINI coefficient?

A: There are no GINI coefficients in the standard T1 tables. However, these can be produced in custom tabulations.

Q: Why would ratios and percentages be calculated on rounded values?

A: When the numbers behind the ratios are quite small, we use rounded values. For example, a 7 rounded to 10 and 44 rounded to 40. This is to prevent isolation of smaller numbers and the rounding has less of an impact on the ratios. We want to prevent "back-calculating" due to confidentiality.

Statistics Canada | Statistique Canada

Canada

Questions?

Client Services, Income Statistics Division
Telephone: Toll Free 1-888-297-7355 or 613-951-7355
Statistics Canada, R.H. Coats Building, 15th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6
Online requests: STATCAN.income-revenu.STATCAN@canada.ca

Webinar presented by:
   François Pagé, Section Chief
   Administrative Data Income Processing, T1 Family File (T1FF)
   Income Statistics Division, Statistics Canada