



**Request for Proposals**  
**Research Data Centres Program**  
**Statistics Canada**  
**Employment Insurance Program Status Vector /Data**  
**Pilot Project, Fall 2017**

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To increase the accessibility of administrative data from the Employment Insurance program, Statistics Canada, together with Employment and Social Development Canada, is conducting a pilot project. Researchers with approved projects will have access to the Status Vector (EISV) data through the Research Data Centres (RDCs). In addition to providing data access, this pilot will enable Statistics Canada and Employment and Social Development Canada to determine appropriate vetting rules for, and develop collective knowledge of, the EISV data. It will also allow Statistics Canada to test and evaluate an accelerated process of data provisioning and access.

**Information to aid in proposal development**

The Employment Insurance (EI) program provides temporary income support to unemployed workers while they look for employment or upgrade their skills. It also provides special benefits to workers who take time off from work in relation to specific life events (e.g., illness; pregnancy; and caring for a newborn, newly-adopted or critically-ill child or a family member who is seriously ill with a significant risk of death). Workers receive EI benefits only if they have paid premiums in the past year and meet qualifying and entitlement conditions. Self-employed workers may participate in EI and receive special benefits. For more information, please refer to the most recent [EI Monitoring and Assessment Report](#).

The EISV data consist of individual-level, weekly records covering the period of 1997 to 2016. For each individual, there is a hierarchy of files, including one “header” file and multiple “trailer” files. The header file contains policy-relevant information for each claim submitted by every EI claimant. The trailer files contain supplementary information on a weekly basis for those claims. There are three trailer files, capturing relevant weekly information on:

1. Disqualification or disentitlement;
2. Benefits (i.e., information reported by an EI claimant on biweekly reports to Service Canada, and the outcome of these reports, regarding the payment of benefits, the reason for non-payment of benefits, and receipt of income from other sources, such as part-time work or training allowance);
3. Earnings (i.e., detailed work activity and earnings, as reported by an EI claimant to Service Canada on a biweekly basis);

The EISV data set stores both header and trailer files as a single text file and researchers will have access to all header and trailer files.

## Submission objectives

This pilot project is the first occasion that Statistics Canada will make EISV data available to researchers outside of Statistics Canada.

Researchers are invited to present submissions that explore the analytical potential of the EISV. To test the robustness of the vetting rules, research projects that include the following types of analysis or results are of particular interest:

- Studies involving the production of basic tabular outputs (e.g., frequencies, means, ratios), including supplemental tables (to produce graphical outputs or support covariance matrices)
- Studies that incorporate one or more of the following:
  - Use of the longitudinal aspects of the EISV data
  - Focus on specific industry, occupation, or socio-demographic groups
  - Analysis of the duration of EI benefits.

As well, researchers' experiences working with the EISV are being solicited, regarding:

- Data coding and internal consistency
- The usefulness of the documentation
- What kind and level of support researchers require once they have RDC access to the EISV data.

## What to include in the proposal

The particulars of what information to include in an RDC research proposal can be found on the [RDC website](#). Specifically, please refer to "Step 1: Draft a project proposal." Do not complete "Step 2: Complete the online application form on the SSHRC website," as proposals for the pilot should not be submitted through the SSHRC website (see below).

If you have questions regarding proposal development or the EISV data, please contact Lee Grenon ([sfurdc@sfu.ca](mailto:sfurdc@sfu.ca)).

## Submission instructions

Researchers are invited to submit proposals for consideration no later than (date). The submitted proposals will be assessed on the basis of their research question/s and feasibility, as well as the types of analysis and results presentation. There is a limit on the number of proposals approved for this pilot project, and those that are better aligned with the characteristics outlined above have a greater likelihood of success.

Researchers with approved projects are expected to:

- Attend regular data user group meetings for the duration of the pilot project
- Provide feedback on the EISV data and documentation
- Understand the EISV data have not been processed or documented by Statistics Canada
- Bear in mind that disclosure rules as a protection mechanism for confidentiality are being assessed, and vetting will be done by a committee; therefore, release of analytic output will take longer than usual (i.e., non-pilot projects)

Researchers should be aware these factors when considering participation in the pilot.

Proposals will be evaluated as they are received, up to a maximum of seven projects. Once the maximum number of projects is reached, researchers will be notified via the [Canadian Research Data Centres Network \(CRDCN\) website](#).

**Proposals must be submitted by Friday, September 29 to:**

Mustafa Ornek,  
rdc2@mcmaster.ca