

Call for Proposals
Economic Research using the Survey on Financing and Growth of Small and Medium Enterprises 2014 in the Research Data Centres
Statistics Canada

Deadline for submissions of proposals: November 4th, 2018

Introduction

Since 2011, professional researchers have been accessing Statistics Canada's holdings of business microdata to conduct approved research projects at its headquarters in Ottawa, through the Canadian Centre for Data Development and Economic Research program (CDER).

In this call for proposals, Statistics Canada is piloting the use of business microdata at its Research Data Centres (RDCs) located in 29 universities across Canada. Researchers will work directly with a scientific-use business micro dataset before submitting their programs to Statistics Canada staff to be run on the actual microdata. The pilot will consider only research proposals using the Survey on Financing and Growth of Small and Medium Enterprises 2014 (SFGSME) linked to administrative data. This enterprise-level survey is designed to find out what kinds of financing small and medium enterprises are using, and to collect information on recent attempts to obtain new financing. The database also contains information on barriers to growth, the financial position of small and medium enterprises, the characteristics of ownership and the extent to which the enterprise is involved in innovation and intellectual property.

Researchers are invited to review the following documents on the SFGSME data and/or contact CDER at statcan.cder-cdre.statcan@canada.ca to discuss their prospective projects before making an application.

Scope of pilot

- Research projects using only the SFGSME database described in the SFGSME documentation;
- Projects where a draft research paper can be provided to Statistics Canada by October 31, 2019;
- Research projects conducted using SAS and/or STATA.

Submission and evaluation process

Researchers are invited to submit project proposals in accordance with the following requirements and to indicate in their proposal that they would like to participate in this pilot project:

- Title of Project
- Justification of the research: include context, research questions and project's contribution to the literature
- Analytical framework and proposed methodology
- Justification for using the microdata

- Detailed data requirements
- Expected output: detailed descriptions of tabulations and regressions models
- Software requirements – SAS or Stata
- Name and contact information of principal researcher and all other researchers
- RDC location to be accessed – <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/rdc/network>

Proposals will be assessed by two academic peers and by Statistics Canada. Approval will be based on:

- Scientific merit and viability of the proposed research;
- Relevance of the methods to be applied and the SFGSME data to be analyzed;
- Demonstrated need for access to the SFGSME microdata;
- Expertise and ability of the researchers to carry out the research.

Proposals will be accepted and evaluated on an ongoing basis November 4, 2018. It is expected that the evaluation process will take four weeks. This period may be extended to accommodate resubmissions based on feedback from reviewers.

Eligibility

The principal investigator identified in the application must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada.

All investigators under the research project must undergo a security screening process, provide a letter of acknowledgement from their employer/academic institution, and take the *Oath or Affirmation of Office and Secrecy* in Section 6(1) of the *Statistics Act* to become a deemed employee of Statistics Canada for the duration of the project.

Costs

There are no costs for investigator that are affiliated with an academic institution that is a member of the Canadian Research Data Centre Network.

Working with the SFGSME from the RDC

Researchers with approved projects for the pilot will conduct their research on a scientific-use version of SFGSME at the RDC. In that version, variables and records have been treated in a way that modifies the observed values while preserving the underlying covariate relationships between the variables.

Once researchers have finalized their analysis, they will submit documented and error-free programs to CDER. A CDER analyst will run the programs on the confidential micro data and will perform the confidentiality review of the results to ensure that only non-confidential output is released to the researcher.

Obligation of Researchers

In addition to providing Statistics Canada with a draft research paper by October 31, 2019, researchers are expected to give written feedback on the scientific-use SFGSME, the documentation provided to them, and the working environment.

**Proposals should be submitted to CDER by November 4, 2018:
Canadian Center for Data Development and Economic Research
statcan.cder-cdre.statcan@canada.ca**