



OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICER
BUREAU DU DIRECTEUR PARLEMENTAIRE DU BUDGET

August 24, 2020

Mr. Anil Arora
Chief Statistician of Canada
100 Tunney's Pasture Driveway
R.H. Coats Building, 26th Floor, Rm A
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0T6

Anil.Arora@canada.ca

Information Request: IR0538

Dear Mr. Arora:

As you are likely aware, the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) provides independent and non-partisan analysis to the Senate and to the House of Commons about matters related to the nation's finances and the economy, the estimates, certain other government documents, and the cost of proposals. In carrying out my mandate, I often require information held by government departments and Crown corporations and I am entitled to free and timely access – subject to limited exceptions – to such information under section 79.4 of the *Parliament of Canada Act*.

I am currently undertaking an analysis pursuant to paragraph 79.2(1)(a) of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, which mandates the PBO to prepare reports analyzing the following federal government documents: (i) a budget tabled by or on behalf of the Minister of Finance; (ii) an economic and fiscal update or statement issued by the Minister of Finance; (iii) a fiscal sustainability report issued by the Minister of Finance; (iv) the estimates of the government for a fiscal year.

For this analysis, I am requesting the following information:

- Anonymized microdata from the monthly Labour Force Surveys covering the time period beginning on March 13, 2020. More specifically, all questions added to the survey related to COVID-19 (for example, see questions CVID Q03 and CVID Q07). If available from the microdata, we would prefer a delineation of the number of self-employed workers that applied for CERB by reduction of hours (for example, 0, 50%) or loss of business, by industry/business type and by wage/salary.
- As well, anonymized microdata from the monthly Labour Force Surveys covering the time period beginning in January 2019 until the most recently available month. Please see attached Appendix A for a detailed description of the microdata we are requesting.

In order to provide the analysis to parliamentarians in a timely manner, I ask the information to be provided to my office no later than **September 8, 2020**. If access to the requested information cannot be granted by that date, a response must be provided by you or your Assistant Chief Statistician for Social, Health and Labour Statistics as soon as possible.

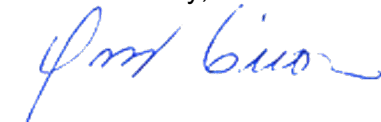
Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Jason Jacques can be contacted directly at Jason.Jacques@parl.gc.ca, 613-853-1596.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by September 8, 2020, whether or not you provide access to the requested information. Should you refuse to provide access to the requested information, you or the Chief Statistician for Social, Health and Labour Statistics must provide a written justification for the refusal as required under section 79.41 of the *Parliament of Canada Act*.

The response letter will be posted on the PBO website and, therefore, it should not be marked "confidential". As well, the requested information should be attached separately. If this information is confidential, please clearly mark it as such, either on the electronic spreadsheet or the hard copy version.

Providing timely and effective analysis to the Senate and House of Commons and promoting greater budget transparency and accountability are the PBO's primary objectives. The degree to which this is possible depends, to a large extent, on free and timely access to quality information held by government departments. In doing so, you are assisting us in better serving the Senate, the House of Commons, and their members.

Yours sincerely,



Yves Giroux
Parliamentary Budget Officer

c.c.: Antoine Brunelle-Côté, Privy Council Office, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet,
Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy
Lynn Barr-Telford, Assistant Chief Statistician, Social, Health and Labour Statistics

Attachments: IR0538 - Appendix A

Reply form for IR0538



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IR0538 - Appendix A

1. the number of people on leave from work for part of the week due to caring for their children
2. number of people on leave from work for part of the week due to caring for an elderly relative
3. number of people on leave from work for part of the week due to other personal or family responsibilities
4. the number of people on leave from work at least a full week due to caring for their children
5. number of people on leave from work for at least a full week due to caring for an elderly relative
6. number of people on leave from work for at least a full week due to other personal or family responsibilities
7. how many hours during the previous week they were absent from work
8. how many weeks they have been absent from work
9. whether the person is getting paid while on leave
10. whether the person gets paid sick leave at their job
11. whether the person gets paid vacation leave at their job
12. whether the person has been on CERB
13. any other covid-related variables
14. the person's wage, how long the person has been at their job
15. the person's labour force status (variables LFSSTAT in the LFS PUMF)
16. and the person's type of job (variable COWMAIN in the LFS PUMF)
17. actual hours worked per week
18. usual hours worked per week.