

# Statistical News

Summer 1999/Issue 124/Office for National Statistics

**Progress on a Possible Merger of The National Food Survey and The Family Expenditure Survey**



- **Twenty years of Housing Surveys in England**
- **Public Confidence in Official Statistics**



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# STATISTICAL NEWS

DEVELOPMENTS IN  
BRITISH OFFICIAL STATISTICS

*Summer 1999 - No. 124*



**THE GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL SERVICE MISSION**

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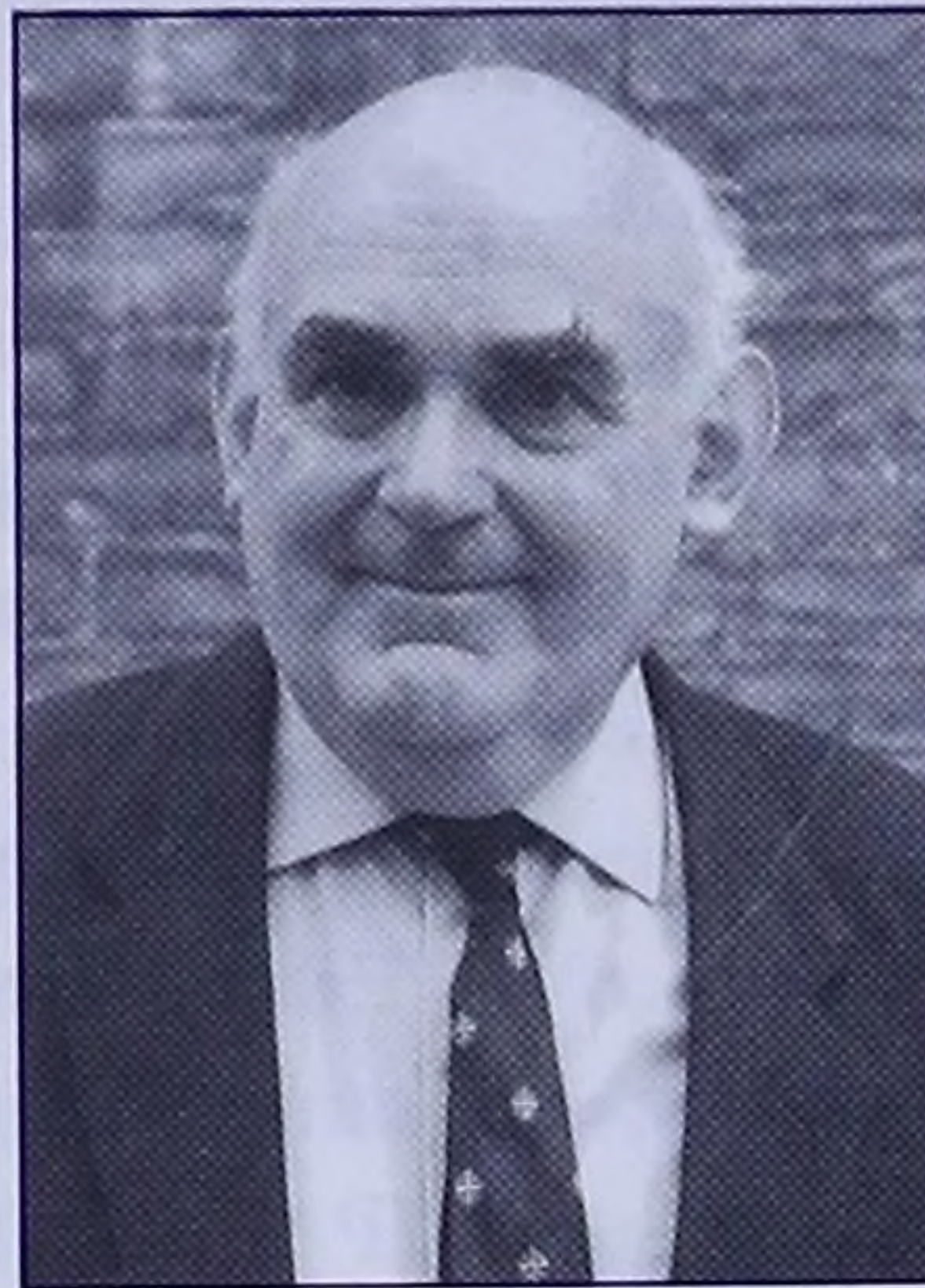


# TWENTY YEARS OF HOUSING SURVEYS IN ENGLAND: FROM THE NATIONAL DWELLING AND HOUSING SURVEY TO THE SURVEY OF ENGLISH HOUSING

*By Alan Holmans, Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions*

## INTRODUCTION

With the publication of results from the 1997/98 Survey of English Housing, it is now 20 years since what is now the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions started commissioning and publishing data from a comparable series of national housing surveys.



**Alan Holmans**

## THE NATIONAL DWELLING AND HOUSING SURVEY

The 1977/78 National Dwelling and Housing Survey (NDHS) was a landmark in housing surveys, both in terms of its sheer size, and the flexibility of the computer system set up to analyse it.

There were, strictly speaking, two parts to the NDHS as carried out in late 1977 and early 1978: a national survey with a sample of approximately one half percent of all domestic properties in England and a set of local housing surveys in each London borough and sixteen urban areas outside London<sup>1</sup>. Following the success of the original NDHS, two further rounds of local surveys (Phases II and III) were carried out in 1978 and 1979 to provide information for all of the Metropolitan Districts and for each non metropolitan (or "shire") county. The information about individual areas was intended originally for housing policy

purposes, but Phase III was undertaken primarily for use in allocating the "needs element" of the Rate Support Grant<sup>2</sup>. The local surveys were not repeated in later years and so are not discussed further in this note except in connection with the sheer magnitude of the work undertaken. The term "NDHS" is therefore used to refer to the national one half per cent sample survey, which was the

first of a sequence in which the 1997/98 Survey of English Housing is the most recent to be published.

The national half per cent sample (just over 84,000 addresses) by itself would have dwarfed all previous sample surveys (unless the 1966 Sample Census is counted), but including the London boroughs and sixteen other areas brought the total of addresses to 416,000. These addresses were dealt with between October 1977 and June 1978. To carry out that many interviews within nine months was beyond the means of any one survey organisation, so a consortium of three major market research firms was organised to do the work<sup>3</sup>. They also did the fieldwork for Phase II, and a similar consortium, though of different firms, carried out Phase III, which between them consisted of almost half a million more addresses. Organising such large amounts of interviewing, editing and processing the forms and producing the final data from them in a way that kept a firm control over quality was a massive task, which was directed by the late Roger Sellwood, a Chief Statistician in the Department of the Environment.



The NDHS was not only a landmark in terms of size and hence the detail in which it could potentially be analysed, but also in the highly flexible system that was set up to produce from the database tabulations as specified by users, on request. Instead of having to pre-specify the tables required before there were any results to study, with NDHS the user could begin with a few simple tables to see where the numbers were sufficient for more detailed analysis and then specify the more complex tables. It was this advance in data handling that enabled the NDHS to be used in following years as the starting point for comparisons across time. The basic structure of the NDHS data set has been followed in all the successor surveys, and by successive translation of the data through several generations of data processing software, the data set remains available for processing alongside its successors to this day.

### **SUCCESSORS TO NDHS: THE LABOUR FORCE SURVEY HOUSING TRAILERS AND THE SURVEY OF ENGLISH HOUSING**

To update the information collected by NDHS was clearly desirable, but the high cost of a free standing survey with a sample size the same as that of NDHS was a serious obstacle.

Instead, a short housing questionnaire was attached as a “trailer” (i.e. supplement) to the Labour Force Survey (LFS), which was carried out by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys for the Department of Employment and for the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat). To use the LFS in this way was much cheaper than a repeat of NDHS, so the cost was acceptable. From 1973 to 1983, the LFS was carried out in March to May of each alternate year. A housing trailer in 1981 would provide data which could be compared with the Census. More ambitiously, attaching housing

trailers to the LFS offered the attractive prospect of a sequence of biennial survey based data, bench marked to the decennial census, provided this was done with 1981 LFS. The 1981 LFS housing trailer is described in *Housing Trailers to the 1981 and 1984 Labour Force Surveys*<sup>4</sup>. The sample size was the same as for NDHS and the sampling frame (rating valuation lists) was the same, except that local authorities lists were used as in Phases II and III of NDHS.

The Labour Force Survey was restructured in 1983 to become an annual survey, with the sample drawn from the Postcode Address File (PAF). In 1984 a housing trailer was added again, to the “boost” sample that was added in March to May to meet Eurostat requirements. This provided an achieved sample of 36,000. The same procedure was followed in 1988 and 1991<sup>5</sup>, with achieved samples of between 37,000 and 38,000. The Postcode Address File gives no information about the address, in contrast with the Inland Revenue rating records that were used as the sampling frame in 1977. For NDHS descriptive information, such as rateable value, date of construction and floor area, was extracted from the rating records for the sample properties. This information proved useful, so in 1988 the sample addresses from the PAF were sent to Inland Revenue for the same information to be extracted<sup>6</sup>. Owing to the impending abolition of domestic rates for replacement by the Community Charge, this was the last opportunity to use rating records in this way. By 1991 domestic rates had gone.

Further changes to the Labour Force Survey in 1993 meant that it could no longer support ‘housing trailers’. If the same housing data were to continue to be collected, a free standing survey would be needed. To keep the cost within bounds, the new survey, given the title of Survey of English Housing, was a continuous survey





through the year, with an achieved sample of just over 20,000 a year. This was little more than one half of the LFS housing trailer samples. More precision could however be achieved by pooling samples for two or even three years. Since these were adjacent years, the results that could be achieved in this way were as good in many respects as with the LFS housing trailers which were larger but were three or four years apart.

The first Survey of English Housing (SEH) took place in 1993/94, with results published in *Housing in England 1993/94* by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, whose Social Survey Division carried out the survey for the Department of the Environment. The annual reports from the SEH, the *Housing in England* series are published in the year immediately following the surveys, e.g. *Housing in England 1993/94* with the results of the 1993/94 SEH was published in 1995. This interval between the time of the survey and publishing the report marked a return to what had been achieved with NDHS. NDHS was larger, but the report on the national NDHS contained only brief comments on the findings. In contrast, all volumes in the *Housing in England* series have contained a substantial amount of comment and analysis.

### **SPECIAL TOPICS IN HOUSING SURVEYS**

By reason of its size, the National Dwelling and Housing Survey could be used as a "sift" survey to provide samples of households that were of special interest but comparatively few in relation

to the totality of households, where to draw a sample of adequate size by sampling the whole population would be prohibitively costly. NDHS was accordingly used a sift for households renting from private landlords, households with members who had changed their usual residence within the previous year and households (and potential households) that lived in shared housing. The private rented sector was of major policy interest (as at the time of writing it still is); information about household members that had changed their usual residence can be used to analyse the circumstances of households entering and leaving owner-occupation and entering and leaving local authority tenancies. No way other than a survey of all movers has been found which can find out about movers out of owner-occupation or local authority renting. The reason for surveying sharers was to find out how many shared from choice.

Experience with these surveys<sup>7</sup> showed that there were disadvantages in re-interviewing households at addresses picked out by the primary or "sift" survey. In particular, circumstances could change in the meantime. Accommodation rented on the first occasion could have been sold or vacated and owing to movement, some accommodation might no longer be shared. There was no way in which property newly rented since the primary survey could be found, or accommodation that had only begun to be shared. Notwithstanding these disadvantages, the same procedure had to be followed for the 1988 and 1990 Private Rented Sector Surveys and the 1990 Sharers



Survey<sup>8</sup>. All three used the Labour Force Survey as a sift. A possible alternative would be to include the special topics in the main survey and ask the special topic questions where appropriate. The scale of NDHS ruled out this possibility. It was not possible with the LFS housing trailers either, both because of narrow limits to the length of the trailer for which space could be found, but also because as a matter of policy, LFS included no questions on financial matters, for fear of reducing the response. For the special topics financial questions, for instance rents and incomes, were essential.

It was here that the Survey of English Housing broke new ground. It was a free standing survey, so the questionnaire could be as long as desired, subject to interview practicalities and cost. Questions could be asked as desired on financial topics, subject to acceptability in interviews. Questions for private renters became part of the SEH, both where whole households rented privately and where household members rented privately even though the household as a whole did not (e.g. lodgers). Similarly, there were extra questions for households where members had lived at the interview address for less than three years. The special topic questions were asked as part of the same interview as the questions asked of all households, so the problems previously encountered that had been caused by the interval between the original interview and the re-interview did not arise.

Nevertheless, the feasible length of the interview meant that not all the information sought by the NDHS follow up surveys could be collected within the single SEH survey. This was particularly so of the recent movers and sharers. In *Recently Moving Households*, for instance, owner-occupiers were asked for the price paid for the house and the amount of the mortgage and if they were owner-occupiers before the move, what price had they got for selling the previous house

and how much had been outstanding on it. Similarly, the Sharer Survey had asked questions about how much more rent sharers would be prepared to pay for self contained accommodation.

## ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN HOUSING CIRCUMSTANCES OVER TIME FROM NDHS AND ITS SUCCESSORS

From NDHS through the LFS housing trailers to SEH there has been a central core of questions. Some are demographic, for instance, the sex, age and marital status of household members and their relationship to the household head. Employment status of the household members above school leaving age has been asked for, also details of job and occupation sufficient for classification by socio-economic group. This information, like the demographic data, was collected by LFS itself and so did not have to be included in the housing trailer. Core information about housing includes the type of dwelling, the number of rooms, the number of bedrooms (for applying the bedroom standard), amenities and services (including central heating), tenure, type of landlord and length of residence at the address. These core questions have been added to over the years, for instance all surveys since 1981 have asked whether owner-occupiers bought their residence from a local authority and whether they rented it before buying it. A notable addition from 1984 were questions about housing tenure one year previously. Other questions, such as those about being on a local authority's waiting list or transfer list, or about mortgage arrears, have evolved in the light of experience with the way in which they have been answered.

The report on the 1988 and 1991 LFS trailers and the reports on the SEH (the *Housing in England* series) all include analytical chapters which draw on previous surveys, often back to NDHS. A topic of recurring interest is the way in



which household characteristics differ between housing tenures. If a question were asked on the lines of what was the single most noteworthy discovery made from NDHS, the answer could well be the existence of a systematic difference in unemployment rates between owner-occupiers and tenants. The size of the NDHS made possible an analysis by occupation within tenure, which showed that the explanation was not that people in socio-economic groups that had higher than average unemployment rates overall were more likely to be tenants. That "mix" effect contributed, but was far from being the whole explanation. The existence of Phases II and III of NDHS made it possible to show that this difference in unemployment rates between tenures existed in all parts of the country. In absolute terms, the difference was less in places with low unemployment rates, but in proportional terms it still existed. If the NDHS information about unemployment by tenure had been available when the 1977 *Housing Policy Green Paper* (Cmnd 6852) and its Technical Volume were being written, it is highly likely that less would have been said about how similar were the circumstances of owner-occupiers and local authority tenants except at the top and the bottom of the income distribution and instead, more attention could have been drawn to the probable existence of a selection (including self selection) process<sup>9</sup>.

When unemployment rose sharply in the 1980s, the difference in unemployment rates between tenures widened still more. The information collected in the LFS trailers about sitting tenant purchases allowed the effect of the "Right to Buy" in this regard to be estimated and separated off. The survey report concluded that sales by local authorities to sitting tenants had had the effect of transferring to owner-occupation large numbers of those tenants who in terms of employment most resembled other existing owner-occupiers.<sup>10</sup> The result was that transfers to

owner-occupation explained arithmetically about two fifths of the increase in the unemployment rate among local authority tenants between 1977/78 and 1991.

An example of how the database from the NDHS and then the LFS trailers could be drawn on to analyse a specific aspect of change through time is the work on the age at which children leave their parents home, which first appeared as a chapter in the report of the 1988 and 1991 LFS Housing Trailers. This concluded that although the proportion of young men and women who were married (a major driver towards leaving the parental home) had declined steeply between 1977/78 and 1991, there was a large fall in the proportion of non-married young men and women living with their parents. These two opposing trends had cancelled one another out, so that there was little overall change in the proportions of young men and women living as members of their parents' household. Updates of this analysis appeared in the 1994/95 and 1997/98 SEH reports. This illustrates how the sequence of surveys from NDHS to SEH can be used to make comparisons over time - now 20 years - to throw light on questions that were not current at the time when the earlier surveys were being planned and carried out.

There are many other aspects of housing where the NDHS and its successors can be and have been used to monitor change over time. One is the composition of the private rented sector both in terms of accommodation and in terms of the circumstances of the people that live there, the tenancy categories (in particular assured shorthold, assured and regulated) and the rents. Another is the changing mix of types of household and their housing tenures. A brief selection of comparisons between 1977/78 from NDHS and 1997/98 from SEH is given below.



Note must be taken of the change in 1981 of the definition of a household. OPCS estimated that the result of the change (if both definitions were correctly applied) was a net reduction of 108,000 households, of which 89,000 was in the number of privately rented households. The number of one-person households was reduced by 162,000. These and other discontinuities are small in relation to the differences between 1977/78 and 1997/98 discussed here.

## HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Of the net increase of 3.4 million households between 1977/78 and 1997/98, 2.2 million consisted of one person households (men and women living alone). Of this increase in one person households, 1.8 million (over 80 per cent of the total) were owner-occupiers (*Figure 1*).

Most of the additional outright owners were widowed or, more rarely, divorced former members of couple households. But the larger proportion of the increase in owner-occupiers living alone was among mortgagors. Never married men and women living alone who were

owner-occupiers were discussed fairly fully in Chapter 4 of *Housing in England 1995/96*.

1977/78 was very close to the time when the local authority housing stock and what only later came to be termed the "social" housing sector was at its maximum size, and the number of such households fell by nearly one million between 1977/78 and 1997/98. Within this overall decline, however, the number of social tenants living alone actually increased by half a million.

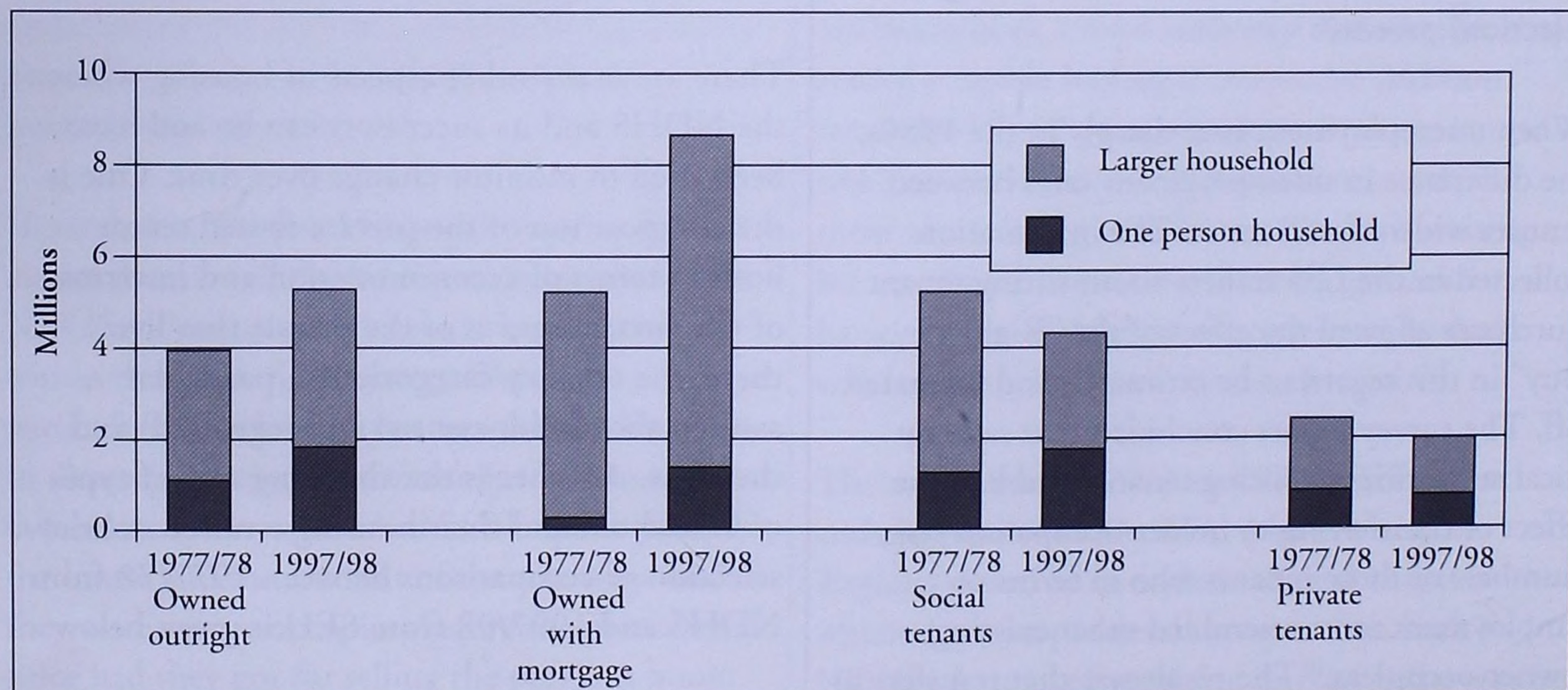
## AGE OF PRIVATELY RENTING HOUSEHOLD HEADS

Between 1977/78 and 1997/98, the number of private sector tenants aged 55 and over fell by 600,000; as a proportion of all households in this age group the fall was from 14 per cent to only 5 per cent. In 1977/78, there were considerable numbers of older tenant households who had set up home when renting from a private landlord was much more common than it subsequently became. Their number was eroded by ageing; but owing to the growth in owner-occupation among younger

**Figure 1 Tenure by size of household: 1977/98 and 1997/98**

*Households*

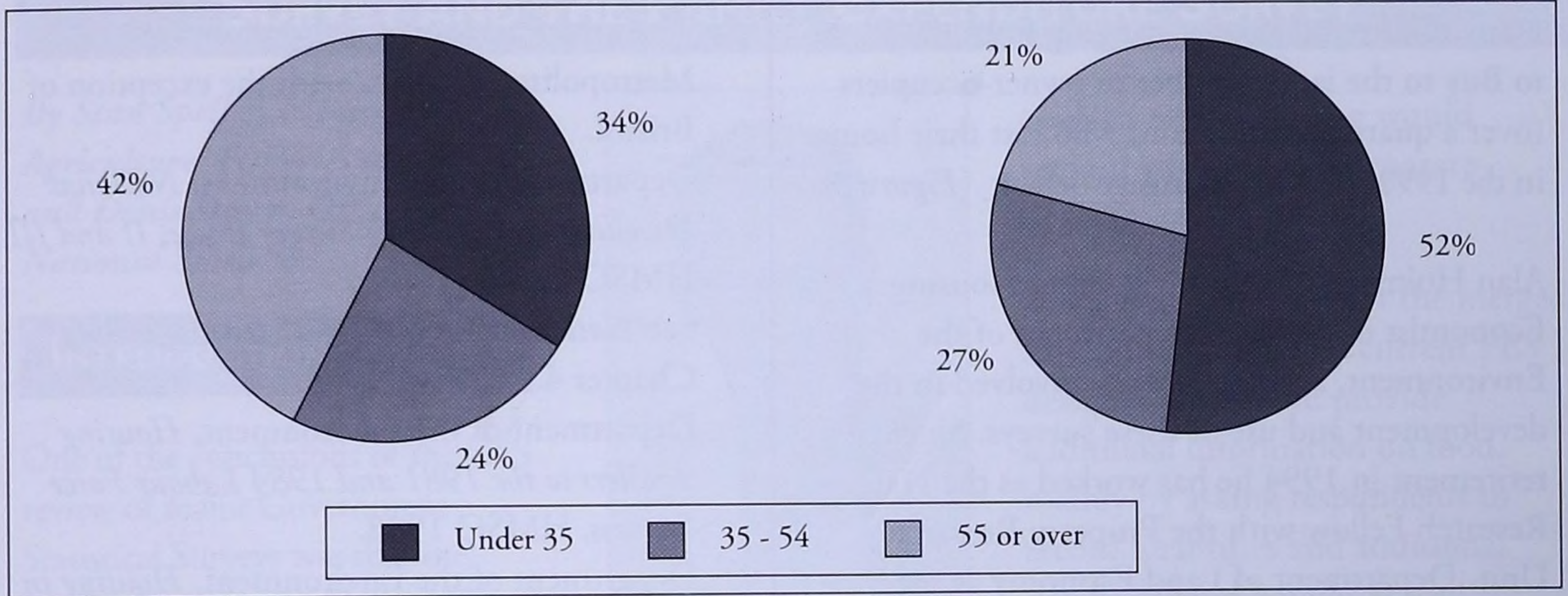
*England*





**Figure 2 Age of privately renting household heads: 1977/78 and 1997/98**

England



households in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, there were not enough middle aged tenants to take their place (*Figure 2*).

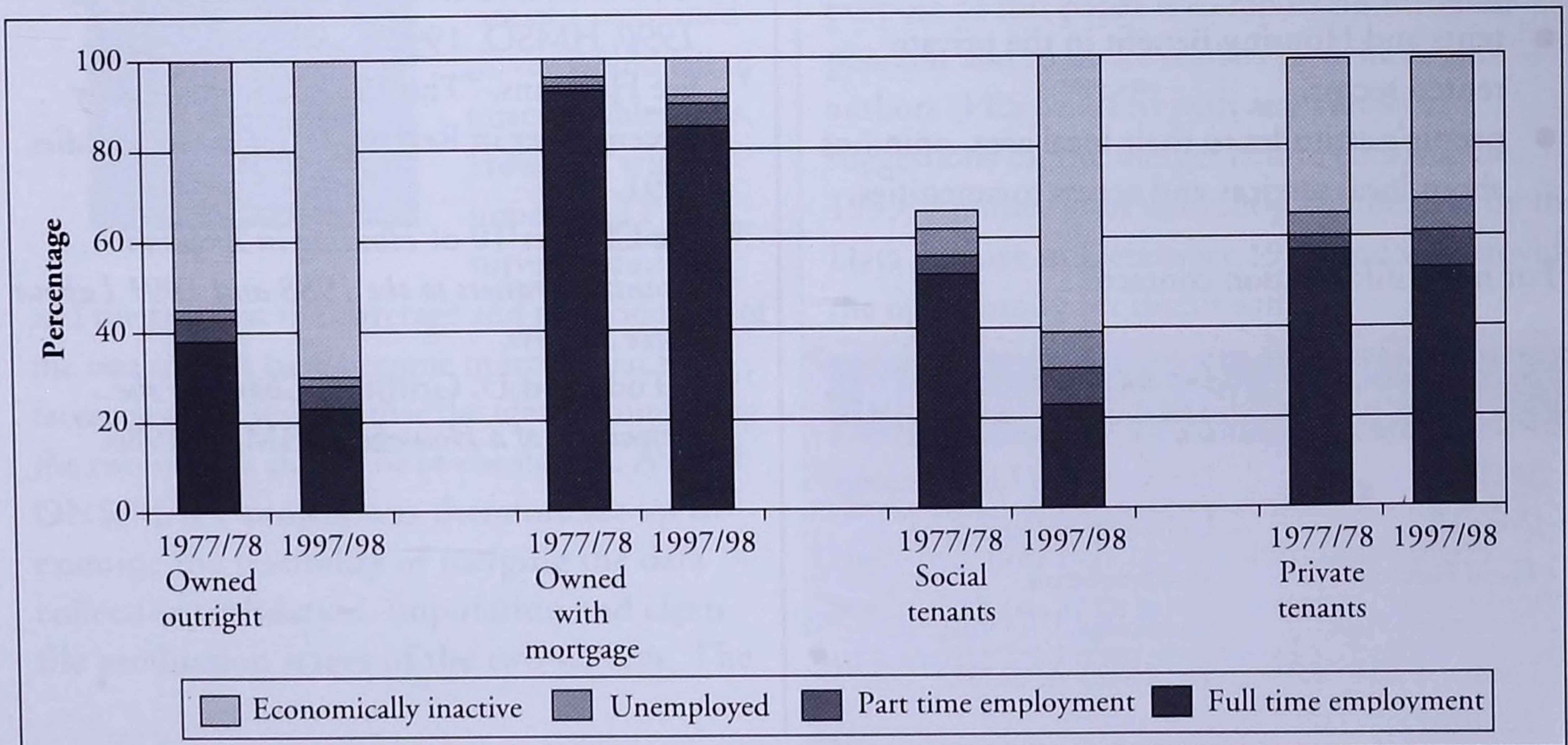
very similar in 1997/98 (5.1 per cent) to what it was in 1977/78 (5.0 per cent), notwithstanding two very serious recessions in the interim. Between 1977/78 and 1997/98 the difference between tenures in unemployment rates widened. Among owner-occupiers (outright owners and mortgagors together), the rate was 2.6 per cent in 1977/78 but 1.9 per cent in 1997/98, whereas for social sector tenants the rates were 9.4 per cent and 19.7 per cent and for private sector

### EMPLOYMENT STATUS

By chance, the national unemployment rate among household heads (i.e. unemployment as a proportion of unemployment plus full time employment plus part time employment) was

**Figure 3 Employment status of household head: 1977/78 and 1997/98**

England





tenants 6.8 per cent in 1977/78 and 9.8 per cent in 1997/98. These changes were the outcome of many different elements, ranging from the Right to Buy to the large number of owner-occupiers (over a quarter of a million) who lost their homes in the 1990s through mortgage default (*Figure 3*).

Alan Holmans was formerly Chief Housing Economist in the then Department of the Environment, and was heavily involved in the development and use of these surveys. Since his retirement in 1994 he has worked as the Halifax Research Fellow with the Property Research Unit, Department of Land Economy at the University of Cambridge.

Alan's account of the history of DETR housing surveys also appears in *Housing in England 1997/98*, the report of the 1997/98 Survey of English Housing, published by The Stationery Office on 23rd June 1999, price £39.50 (ISBN 0 11 621234 9). Using a mix of text, charts and tables, this report presents a comprehensive picture of housing in England, including:

- trends in tenure and cross-tenure comparisons,
- patterns of mobility between and within tenures,
- rents and Housing Benefit in the private rented sector,
- people's attitudes to their local area, opinions about local services and access to amenities.

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- <sup>1</sup> Department of the Environment, *National Dwelling and Housing Survey*, HMSO 1979. The urban areas outside London were all Metropolitan districts, with the exception of Bristol.
- <sup>2</sup> Department of the Environment, *National Dwelling and Housing Survey Phases II and III*, HMSO 1980.
- <sup>3</sup> See *National Dwelling and Housing Survey*, Chapter 4.
- <sup>4</sup> Department of the Environment, *Housing Trailers to the 1981 and 1984 Labour Force Surveys*, HMSO 1988.
- <sup>5</sup> Department of the Environment, *Housing in England: Housing Trailers to the 1988 and 1991 Labour Force Surveys*, HMSO 1993.
- <sup>6</sup> See Chapter 3 of *Housing in England: Housing Trailers to the 1988 and 1991 LFS*.
- <sup>7</sup> OPCS, *The Privately Rented Sector in 1978*, HMSO 1982;  
OPCS, *Recently Moving Households*, HMSO 1983;  
OPCS, *Who would prefer separate accommodation?*, HMSO 1986.
- <sup>8</sup> OPCS, *Private Renting in 1988*, HMSO 1990;  
OPCS, *Private Renting in England, 1990*, HMSO 1992;  
OPCS, *Shared accommodation in England, 1990*, HMSO, 1992.
- <sup>9</sup> See Holmans, "The 1977 Housing Policy Green Paper in Retrospect", *Housing Studies*, 1991.
- <sup>10</sup> See Chapter 10 of *Housing in England: Housing Trailers to the 1988 and 1991 Labour Force Surveys*.
- <sup>11</sup> J. Todd and D. Griffiths, *Changing the Definition of a Household*, HMSO 1986.

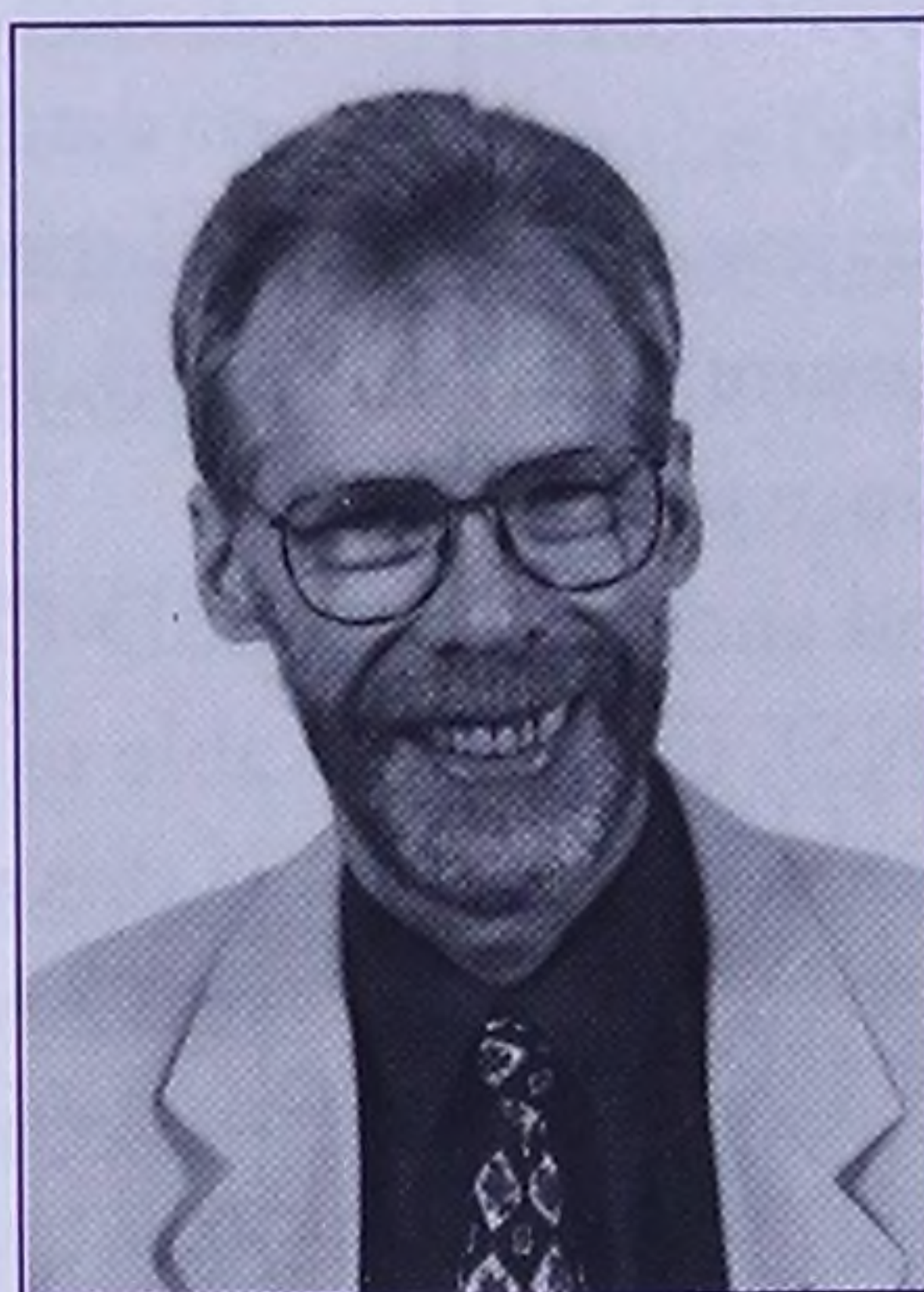


# PROGRESS ON A POSSIBLE MERGER OF THE NATIONAL FOOD SURVEY AND THE FAMILY EXPENDITURE SURVEY

*By Stan Speller, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and Denis Down, Office for National Statistics<sup>1</sup>*

## INTRODUCTION

One of the conclusions of the GSS review of major Government Statistical Surveys was that the overlap between the National Food Survey (NFS) commissioned by MAFF and the Family



**Denis Down (Stan Speller not pictured)**

Expenditure Survey (FES) commissioned by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) should be investigated. A combination of the two

surveys was considered in the early 1980's, but foundered on evidence suggesting that the response rate of a combined survey would fall to unacceptable levels. However, with improved IT and survey techniques

and the fact that the coverage and methodology of the two surveys have become more similar in recent years, it was felt that the idea of combining the two surveys should be re-considered. A joint ONS/MAFF project was therefore set up to examine the feasibility of merging the data collection, validation, imputation and clean file production stages of the two surveys. The

analysis and reporting would remain with the two separate departments.

The design proposed for the merged survey is based on the current FES design, enhanced to provide additional information on food, mainly by asking respondents to record quantities and additional details of food bought as well as expenditure. The survey would consist of household and

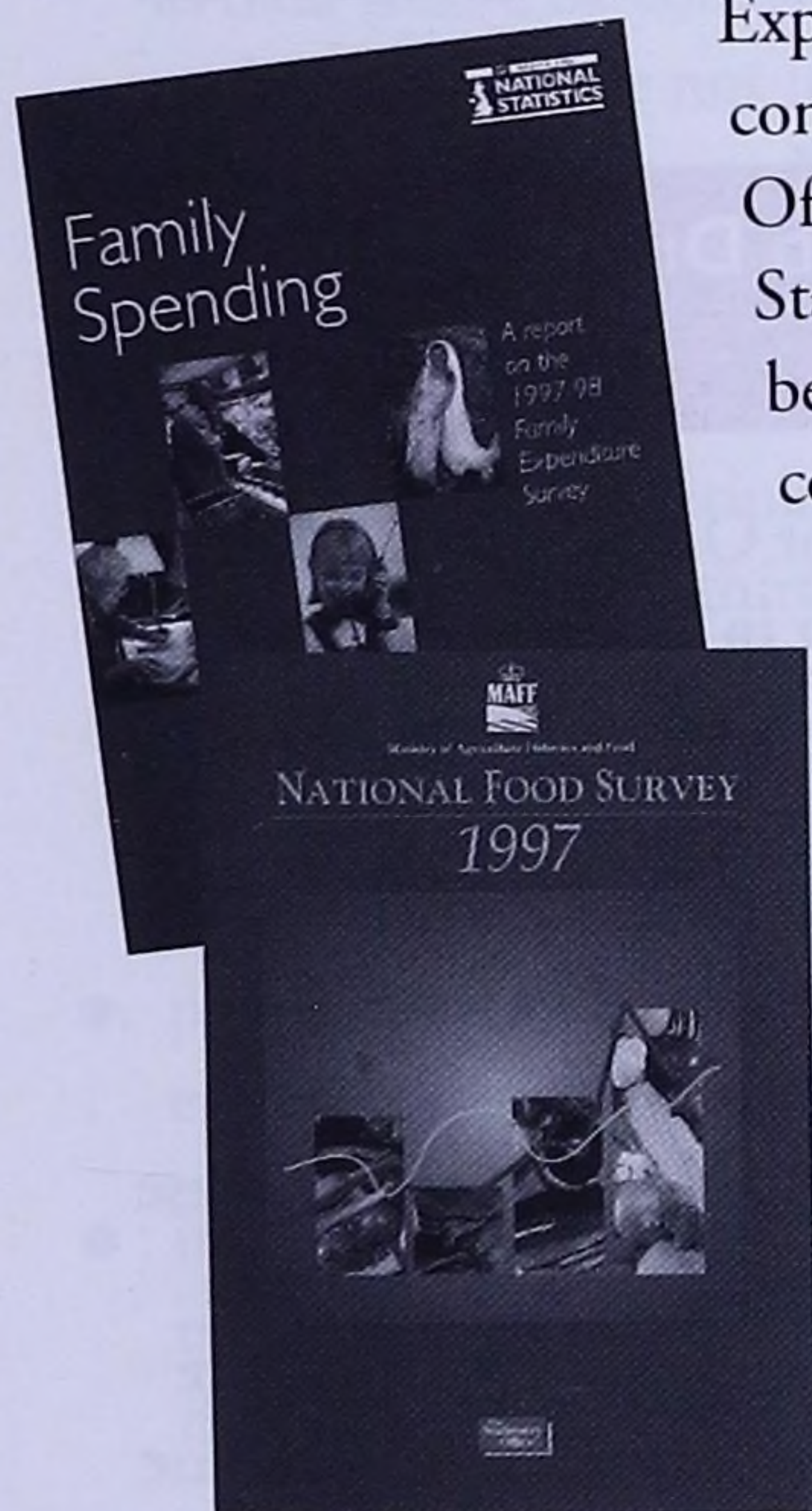
individual interviews, a diary of expenditure and food quantities to be completed by every person aged 16 or over and a simplified diary to be completed by every child aged 7 to 15 years.

## CONSULTATIONS

The 1998 FES User Group Workshop organised by the Data Archive was extended to include NFS users. It was held at the Royal Statistical Society in October 1998. ONS and MAFF gave presentations on plans for the merger. The purpose of this paper is to report on the latest position and to invite readers to write to the authors (FES or NFS) with any views or suggestions on the merger before end-August 1999. Another joint workshop will be held by the Data Archive in December 1999 and will provide the opportunity for discussion.

## MAIN STAGES OF THE PROJECT

At the time of the meeting at the Data Archive, there had already been two substantive pieces of work: desk research, which examined the viability of a merger and a small-scale pilot, carried out





during August 1998. The pilot study highlighted the additional burden that would be placed on respondents and the difficulties this might cause. However, it recommended that a merged survey could work providing that the burden on respondents, including the length of interview, was reduced and special steps were taken to ensure that the necessary food detail was recorded. Since then, an outline specification has been produced and the Social Survey Division of ONS (SSD-ONS), the current contractors for both FES and NFS, has produced a development plan.

The main elements of the development plan are:

1. a series of small methodological projects including testing of the diary and investigating the potential for utilising partial responses and weighting of results;
2. a small scale pilot to test the procedures arising out of 1;
3. a main pilot in which the merged survey will be run at the same time as the two existing surveys for two field-work months;
4. evaluation in Autumn 2000 with a view to live running in April 2001;
5. development of a new ONS processing system and some changes to the MAFF system.

There are a number of critical points but there are two main ones:

- if the results from the main pilot appear to suggest that a merger would not be successful, there would still be time for the two surveys to be run separately in 2001. The timetable has been built around it being possible to make this decision by September 2000. There are a number of milestones before then which might also suggest that it

would not be sensible to go onto the next stage. These include whether it becomes apparent at any stage that user needs cannot be met in terms of non-response, data quality or data detail; respondent burden cannot be reduced to a suitable level or the summer pilot work is unsuccessful.

- SSD-ONS can demonstrate that they are able to redevelop the FES processing system. If this were not to be possible, ONS would still have time to amend its existing system to accommodate the merged survey. A decision about this is likely to be made by approximately May/June 2000. Not all the derived variables will be programmed by then but a sample on which a decision can be made will be.

## **ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES FOR THE FES**

The main advantage for ONS, as for MAFF, would be the reduction in cost from replacing two separate surveys by a single survey. Much of the cost of any survey comes from making contact with the household and there is a substantial common element that would no longer have to be duplicated. The effect of merger for FES users would be indirect because the proposed survey design is based on the current FES design. The greatest disadvantage would be the difficulty of maintaining response in a survey that makes increased demands on both respondents and interviewers. The FES has suffered a significant drop in response rates, from 72 per cent in 1992 to 62 per cent in 1997-98. A careful review of the data needs of FES users has been made with the aim of reducing the interview length. An important part of the development work planned for summer 1999 is to find ways of making the merged survey acceptable to respondents.



## ADVANTAGES FOR THE NFS

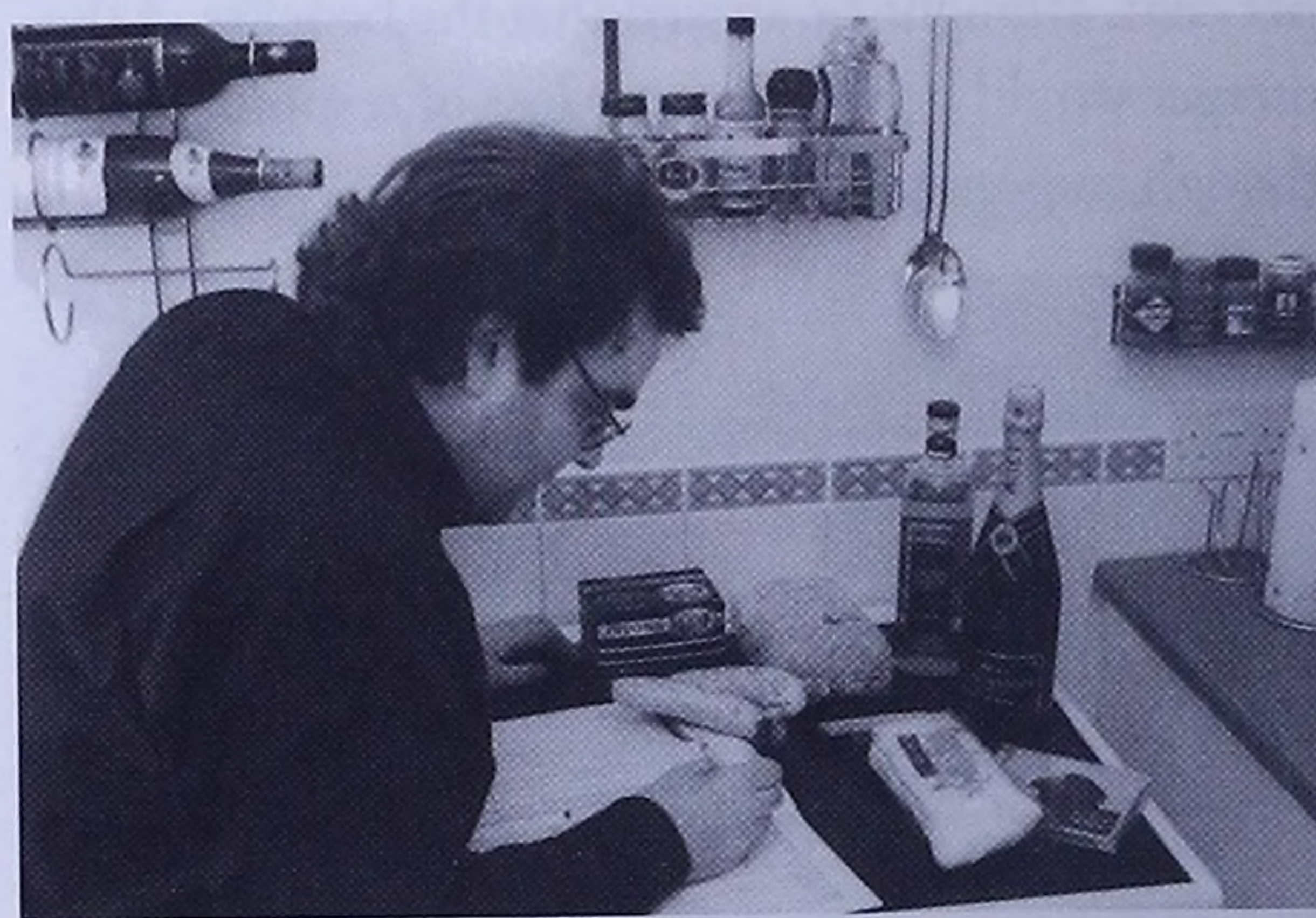
The main benefit of the merger to both MAFF and the ONS would be cost savings. However, there would also be an improvement in the quality of food data by the adoption of FES design features and practices. These include:

- a less clustered sample than in the current NFS;
- a two-week diary in place of a one week diary;
- recording by each member of the household rather than by the main diary keeper only on behalf of the household;
- reduced sampling errors on Eating Out results as data would be collected from all individuals within the sample not just from about half of them as in the current NFS;
- reduced under-recording might also be expected as the current FES estimates of the value of food and drink eaten out are approximately one third higher than those of the current NFS if consumption of alcoholic drinks, which is notoriously difficult to measure, is included;
- possible use of part of the cost savings to enhance some aspects of the merged survey;
- improvements arising from the methodological projects which are part of the merger development process;
- linking of food and nutrient intakes with non-food expenditure from the same data source;
- availability of additional information for cross-classifying food and nutrient intakes, e.g. outlet code for household food, educational attainment;
- closer adherence to GSS harmonisation rules.

## DISADVANTAGES FOR THE NFS

The above benefits are well worth pursuing. However there would be offsetting disadvantages to the NFS if the merger were to take place. These disadvantages would affect not only data quality but also continuity with existing data and the range of data available.

### QUALITY OF DATA



The current FES questionnaire can take up to two hours to complete whilst the NFS one takes around 20 minutes. This is followed in the case of the FES by a diary to be kept for two weeks instead of one as in the NFS. A simple merger of the two surveys, without any associated simplification, would increase the level of burden on respondents and might lead to lower response rates.

A merger did not go ahead in the early 1980s because of some concerns about the effect of a lower response rate on the RPI. However it was reported at the time<sup>2</sup> that there were grounds for optimism that, if the study had been allowed to continue, response could have improved. In particular, it was felt that improvements in response would have been forthcoming by



eliminating the so-called housewife diary, including questions about meals, and from increased interviewer confidence.

A concern about response rates remains. However, every effort is being made to reduce the burden on respondents and to optimise the design of the survey to minimise the problem. The annual response rate for NFS has been over 60 per cent since 1992 and in 1998 it was 65 per cent. Before 1992, it was frequently no higher than 55 per cent. It might be argued that the benefits of the merger would be worth some loss of response, even though response bias might increase.



There is also concern that the quality of NFS data will suffer with central coding replacing coding by the interviewers. Even though the NFS was centrally coded to an acceptable level of quality before 1996, the much heavier coding burden under a merged survey covering food and non-food items may make centralised coding less reliable.

In addition, the consequent loss of contact with the respondent at the coding stage is also of concern because it is vital for estimating nutrient intakes that food descriptions give as much detail as possible about each of the different foods and drinks purchased during the diary period. SSD-ONS has been asked to propose ways of ensuring that food detail is recorded and coding errors are minimised.

Suggestions on this include instructions to respondents to provide the full descriptions given on food packets; interviewer checking-lists to prompt for details and an early visit by interviewers to check that full descriptions and weights/volumes are being recorded.

The current NFS meal menus on page 2 of each day's diary will be dropped. The decision not to continue with the merger in the 1980s was partly due to the continued inclusion of this in the merged survey (as part of the so-called housewife diary). This information is currently used to check that purchases and meals actually served are in broad correspondence. Specifically this helps to pick up items omitted from the shopping page. A similar cross check on the eating out diary will also be lost.

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## DISCONTINUITIES IN THE NFS

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With all the changes to data collection mentioned above, it is inevitable that the NFS data series will suffer from discontinuities with existing data. There will also be discontinuities arising at the analysis stage and from the loss of details. These are now discussed.

### Household Definition

The basic unit of data collection and analysis is to be the household as currently defined for the FES. This differs from the definition of household used in the NFS in that the FES definition takes no account of regular and occasional visitors to the household during the diary period, nor of temporarily absent members of the household. The effect on estimates of food expenditure and consumption of moving from the NFS to the FES definition should not be significant because estimates of food consumption per capita from the NFS even now do not fully take account of visitors. Visitors who take meals in the household for less than four days (occasional visitors) are



ignored in the calculation of household food consumption (and hence nutrient intakes) per person. Visitors who take meals in the household for more than four days (regular visitors) are counted as if they were present for the whole time (similarly for “occasional” and “regularly” absentee household members).

Consumption is also imprecisely estimated in that it is assumed that food acquired during the diary week represents the weekly level of consumption for the household.

The imprecision in the NFS treatment of visitors, the use of acquisitions as a proxy for consumption and the fact that, averaged over a large enough group, visitors and absentee households will tend to cancel out, suggest that the loss of visitor information will not significantly affect the NFS results.

However, for the comparisons of estimated actual nutrient intakes with Reference Nutrient Intakes (RNI), the number of occasional (and regular) visitors and absentee members of the household are taken into account. This is done by, in effect, converting them to the equivalent number of whole-persons, by the application of factors known as net balances. The net balance for a person (household member or visitor) is the proportion of his/her weekly food intake that comes from household food and drink as opposed to food eaten outside the home. Looked at another way, this is the same as the proportion that that person represents of a whole-person eating all his/her food at home.

Nevertheless, the other two points for accepting the move to the FES definition (use of acquisitions and the cancelling out of visitors) suggest that, even in the RNI calculations, the error introduced by not taking account of visitors etc. is not significant when other sources of error are taken into account.

Households based on the FES definition to be used for the merged survey are likely to be given a different name, such as “household consumption unit”, to avoid confusion with the GSS harmonised household definition. The large majority of households, on the harmonised definition, consist of one household consumption unit, though some consist of more than one. SSD-ONS is to make proposals for allowing additional analyses to be carried out for harmonised households where all the consumption units in the household have provided data. This will improve comparability with other government surveys such as the FRS.

### **Other Discontinuities**

The concept of the Main Diary Keeper (MDK) will be replaced by a household reference person and the latest GSS occupation and socio-economic coding will replace the current classifications.

### **Financial/Calendar Year Results**

If it proceeds, the merged survey will be introduced in April 2001. MAFF will need to consider how to bridge the gap on the NFS between December 2000 and April 2001. Views are sought from readers on the desirability of presenting NFS data on a financial year basis from that time to bring it into line with the FES. Quarterly NFS data will still be published and calendar year results could also be made available, though they may not feature in the annual NFS report issued each November.

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## **LOSS OF DETAIL FROM NFS**

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### **Household Food Codes**

The First Report of the Study team suggested that about two-thirds of NFS household food codes could be coded from the details already included on many of the FES diaries. An increase to around 90 per cent could be achieved by the interviewers probing of three other particular



foods (milk, bread and soft drinks). The remainder would require probing across a number of codes.

One of the main uses of the information within MAFF is for estimating the intakes of nearly 50 nutrients based on household acquisition of foods of different nutrient make-up. It is this variation in nutrient make-up among food products that leads to the requirement for detailed food coding including brands where possible.

MAFF is therefore asking for the great majority of the 240 household food codes to be retained. Currently the splits to be given-up are limited to:

- Chocolate (solid/coated);
- Sugar confectionery (no breakdown);
- Bacon (pre-packed/not pre-packed);
- Chicken (under 4 lb or parts/over 4 lb);
- Fish (filleted/not filleted; herrings/other fat fish);
- Beer and wine (low alcohol/ not low alcohol).

For household food, the coding frame will be based on the EU Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose system of codes (COICOP). As far as possible these will be subdivided to meet the NFS requirements but there nevertheless may be some loss of continuity.

### **Eating Out**

Although there will be an improvement in the reliability of data on food and drink eaten out because of the larger number of people in the sample and better coverage, it will not be possible to maintain the present number of NFS Eating Out food codes (1,600). One effect of this will be the loss of codes indicating portion sizes (small, medium or large). This means that consumption estimates and estimates of total nutrient intakes will have to be based on the assumption that they are of some average

portion size. It is proposed that the Eating Out codes be reduced to about 60 to match those used in publishing consumption estimates in the Annual NFS Report (Appendix Table C1).

These points mean that for consumption there will be no loss of published detail but the estimates may be less precise. Estimates of expenditure on the different types of food eaten out already suffer from the problem that the costs of individual parts of a meal are not known. Therefore the reduced coding will have no significant impact and may even lead to an improved breakdown of expenditure as the broader (60) categories will require less of a split of costs than the 1,600 codes currently used.

The main reason for the detailed coding currently used is to allow identification of foods with different nutrient profiles and portion sizes so that appropriate nutrient intakes can be assigned to these estimates of consumption. The much-compacted coding frame will be too coarse to allow nutrient intakes to be assigned to each recorded food eaten out. However, it will still be possible to “gross up” nutrient intakes from household food by making an allowance for foods eaten out, thereby retaining the ability to compare total estimated nutrient intakes to Reference Nutrient Intakes (RNI).

Currently this is done by constructing a measure of the proportion that household food represents of all food consumed by each individual (the net balance). This measure is estimated using the daily “presence-at-meals” data recorded on page 2 of the NFS diary. These data show the distribution of household members and visitors according to whether they ate at each of the household’s three main meals a day during the diary week or took packed lunch, ate out or did not eat at all on that occasion. Factors are applied for each main meal eaten outside the home - three per cent for breakfast, four per cent for a mid-day



meal, and seven per cent for an evening meal. Therefore, if an individual eats two lunches and one dinner out in the survey week, this is assumed to account for 15 per cent of their total food consumed (net balance = 85 per cent) and their nutrient intakes from household food are 'grossed up' accordingly. The underlying assumption is that food eaten out of the home has the same nutrient density as the household food supply.

It is recognised that the current net balance approach does have its limitations. In particular, the factors applied for breakfast, mid-day meal and evening meal remain constant irrespective of the nature of the meal (e.g. a lunchtime sandwich and a three course lunch have the same factor applied) and no allowance is made for snacks and other food consumed between meals.

Under the merged survey, it should be possible to estimate net balances more accurately by applying separate factors to each of the 60 eating out food codes instead of using just the three factors (relating to breakfast, mid-day meal, evening meal) that are currently applied to the "presence-at-meals" data. It should therefore be possible to drop the "persons-present-at-meal" data from page 2 of the diary.

### **Other Losses of NFS Data**

The following information will also be lost:

- number of children having school milk;
- breakdown of mid-day meals for school children (school meal, other meal out, packed lunch or at home);
- number of people having meals on wheels;
- total meals out;
- mid-day meals out.

The food and drink involved in all of these will continue to be covered in terms of expenditure and consumption, though they will not be separately identifiable (except possibly free school milk).

There will be no record of food and drink eaten

out by children under seven years, e.g. school meals and sweets. In theory, this is captured in the NFS but only if the Main Diary Keeper remembers to record it.

## **TIMING**

Currently, clean quarterly NFS data are available to MAFF six weeks after the end of the quarter to which they relate. This is just in time to be used for estimating consumers' expenditure on household food for the National Accounts. NFS results are then published 10 weeks after the end of the quarter. The plan for the merged survey is that final NFS data for first two months of a quarter would be delivered within eight weeks of the end of each month, and as much data as available for the third month within six weeks of the end of the month. Estimates of consumers' expenditure for the latest quarter would therefore be provisional. Publication of the NFS results might be delayed by up to two weeks, though consideration could be given to the earlier publication of provisional results.

## **SUMMARY**

A merger of the Family Expenditure Survey and the National Food Survey is being planned for April 2001. A final decision on whether or not it goes ahead will be taken in the Autumn of 2000. However much work is now being done and readers are invited to send comments to the authors of this paper<sup>3</sup>.

1. This article was originally written for The Data Archive Bulletin, May 1999.
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# PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN OFFICIAL STATISTICS

*By Eileen Goddard, Social Survey Division, Office for National Statistics*

## SUMMARY

Since 1997, Social Survey Division has been monitoring public confidence in official statistics and public recognition of ONS through questions included on the ONS Omnibus Survey each March. In spite of frequent reference to ONS in the media in the last year, and extensive coverage of the problems with the Average Earnings Index, public awareness of ONS as the body mainly responsible for government statistics was, at five per cent, the same in March 1999 as in the two previous years. There was also little change between 1998 and 1999 in public perceptions of the accuracy of the RPI or of the unemployment figures.

The difficulties with the AEI appear to have had little impact on the general public: only 41 per cent said that they thought the AEI was generally or sometimes misleading, compared with 53 per cent in relation to the RPI and as many as 66 per cent in relation to the unemployment figures.

## INTRODUCTION

One of the underlying aims of ONS and, indeed, of the whole government statistical service, is to improve public confidence in official statistics. The ONS Business Plan for 1996/97–1998/99 included an objective that public confidence in official statistics and public recognition of the



Eileen Goddard

office should be measured by a survey, and that the data should provide a baseline against which future progress could be monitored. In addition to obtaining information about the views of the general public, ONS also routinely monitors coverage in the media, and consults a wide range of user groups on different aspects of ONS work.

## EXPLORATORY RESEARCH

Initially, we needed to find out what the general public understands by the term 'official statistics': without knowing something of that, we could not be certain that any questions we devised for a quantitative survey would be understood in the same way by all respondents. We used four focus groups in different parts of the country, two of mainly broadsheet newspaper readers and two of mainly tabloid readers, with a mix of men and women of different ages in each.

## MAIN FINDINGS OF THE QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

On the whole, people were not at all interested in statistical information. As a consequence, they were unfamiliar with the everyday language that we use in the course of our work: it was clear from what they said that people meant different things by, for example, fact, opinion, research, probability, survey, attitude.

There was no commonly agreed understanding of what official statistics are, and people did not distinguish between statistics and other types of



information. Their views were determined by their own experiences, so they tended to think of local data, such as school league tables (if they had children of school age), crime figures, or statistics about the NHS. But some people defined official statistics in a much wider way, including, for example, opinion polls and market research.

When asked what they thought official statistics were used for, most people had no idea, and tended to think they were information collected without a particular purpose. There was little awareness of the government's need for information for planning and monitoring policy, and nobody at all mentioned the value of information that gives a picture of what is happening in society.

The focus groups confirmed that people's views were likely to be formed by their perception of the ways in which statistics are used by politicians and reported by the media. These factors are outside ONS's control, so levels of confidence are likely to fluctuate, whether or not there is any underlying change of public perception.

## RESEARCH USING THE ONS OMNIBUS SURVEY

Because of the findings of the qualitative research, we decided that it would not be possible to devise good questions about official statistics *per se* and that a better approach would be to ask about particular statistical series.

A trial set of questions was included in the ONS Omnibus survey in November 1996. As a result of that work, a modified set of questions about public recognition and awareness of ONS and views on the RPI was developed for inclusion in the March 1997 Omnibus survey. This was repeated in the March 1998 survey, with the

addition of questions about public confidence in unemployment statistics.

During 1998, ONS received extensive media coverage, mainly adverse, in relation to the problems with the Average Earnings Index, which came to light in October. The March 1999 Omnibus module included for the first time questions about awareness of and views about the AEI, in an attempt to gauge the effect of the publicity on people's views of ONS. These new questions were identical in format to those on the RPI and the unemployment figures, which were repeated from the 1998 survey.

The table shows which rounds of the Omnibus included questions which are considered to be reliable, and usable for comparative purposes.

Topic	Nov 1996	Mar 1997	Mar 1998	Mar 1999
Public recognition of ONS		✓	✓	✓
Views about the RPI	(✓)*	✓	✓	✓
Views about unemployment statistics			✓	✓
Views about the Average Earnings Index				✓

\* questions similar, but not identical

## PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF ONS

Respondents were asked first if they knew which organisation was mainly responsible for government statistics: those who said they did were asked to name it, and 11 per cent of the whole sample were able to name ONS as that organisation. However, since interviewers talk about various aspects of the work of ONS when introducing the survey, these respondents were further asked whether they would have given this answer had they not taken part in the Omnibus: fewer than one half said that they would. Thus five per cent of all respondents, the same in 1999 as in 1997 and 1998, knew that ONS is the body



mainly responsible for government statistics, and said that they would have done so even if they had not taken part in the survey (*Table 1*).

## PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF THE ACCURACY OF THE COST OF LIVING FIGURES

To help respondents, the questions designed to assess public perceptions of the reliability of the RPI referred to it as the cost of living figures, saying in the first question also 'These cost of living figures are sometimes referred to as the rate of inflation or the retail price index'. Those who had heard of the RPI were asked whether they thought the figures give a correct or misleading picture of what is actually happening to inflation.

The proportion of the whole sample in 1999 who thought the figures were generally correct (22 per cent) was almost the same as in 1997 and 1998.

However there was an increase from 30 per cent to 36 per cent in the proportion who thought they were sometimes correct and sometimes misleading. There was also a decrease of similar magnitude (from 10 per cent to five per cent) in the proportion that had heard of the RPI but could give no view about it. This reversed changes noted in 1998, so in 1999 the proportion, 53 per cent, saying that they thought the cost of living figures were sometimes or generally misleading returned to a level nearer that of 1997.

Those who thought the RPI figures were sometimes or generally misleading were asked why they thought this. There was little difference between their views in 1998 and in 1999: in both years around 30 per cent gave the most common response, which was that the cost of living figures did not reflect reality. In the 1998 survey, a decrease was noted compared with 1997 in the proportion giving responses that could be coded

**Table 1: Awareness of ONS role**

	March 1997	March 1998	March 1999
	%	%	%
Named ONS as responsible for government statistics:			
would have mentioned ONS even if they had not taken part in the Omnibus survey	5	5	5
would not have mentioned ONS if they had not taken part in the Omnibus survey	10	9	6
Knew there was an organisation responsible for government statistics but could not name ONS	12	7	9
Did <b>not</b> know there was an organisation responsible for government statistics	73	78	79
<i>Base(=100%)</i>	1,768	1,842	1,894



as 'the government lies and massages the statistics'. This lower level, eight per cent was maintained in 1999 (*Tables 2, 3*).

## PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF THE ACCURACY OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES

As in relation to the RPI, respondents were asked first whether they had heard of the

unemployment figures and 11 per cent said that they had not (slightly fewer than in 1998).

Public opinion continued to be much more negative in relation to the unemployment figures than in relation to the RPI: respondents were more than twice as likely to think the unemployment figures misleading as they were the RPI (37 per cent compared with 17 per cent).

**Table 2: Whether respondents thought the RPI generally correct or generally misleading**

Whether thought RPI correct or misleading	November 1996	March 1997	March 1998	March 1999
	%	%	%	%
Generally correct	27	21	20	22
Sometimes correct, sometimes misleading	24   54	34   56	30   49	36   53
Generally misleading	30	22	19	17
Don't know	19	6	10	5
Had not heard of the RPI	*	17	20	20
<i>Base(=100%)</i>	1,853	1,767	1,839	1,894

\* question not asked in 1996

**Table 3: Why respondents thought the RPI figures were not generally correct**

*Respondents who thought the RPI was generally or sometimes misleading*

Reasons for thinking the RPI misleading	November 1996	March 1997	March 1998	March 1999
	%	%	%	%
Doesn't reflect reality	29	32	32	29
Government only publishes what makes it look good	6	11	11	12
Government lies and massages the figures	23	13	8	8
Sceptical about statistics and how they are collected	12	18	20	21
Don't know, don't understand statistics	10	11	10	10
Other answer	21	15	18	20
<i>Base(=100%)</i>	999	989	911	1,013



In spite of the relaunch of labour market statistics during the year since the previous survey, the proportion of respondents who said that they thought the unemployment figures generally or sometimes misleading rose from 61 per cent in 1998 to 66 per cent in 1999.

Whereas in 1998 the most common reason for thinking the unemployment figures sometimes or generally misleading was that the government lies and massages the figures, the balance of

opinion had shifted a little in 1999.

Respondents were most likely to say that they were sceptical about statistics and how they were collected (*Tables 4, 5*).

### PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF THE ACCURACY OF THE AVERAGE EARNINGS INDEX

Perhaps surprisingly, given the adverse publicity in the autumn of 1998, as many as

**Table 4: Whether respondents thought the unemployment figures generally correct or generally misleading**

Whether thought unemployment figures correct or misleading	March 1998	March 1999
	%	%
Generally correct	17	18
Sometimes correct, sometimes misleading	22	29
Generally misleading	39	37
Don't know	7	5
Had not heard of the unemployment figures	14	11
<i>Base(=100%)</i>	1,840	1,894

**Table 5: Why respondents thought the unemployment figures weren't generally correct**

*Respondents who thought the unemployment figures generally or sometimes misleading*

Reasons for thinking the unemployment figures misleading	March 1998	March 1999
	%	%
Doesn't reflect reality	11	14
Government only publishes what makes it look good	16	18
Government lies and massages the figures	25	18
Sceptical about statistics and how they are collected	22	25
Don't know, don't understand statistics	4	3
Other answer	22	20
<i>Base(=100%)</i>	1,131	1,242



29 per cent of respondents had not heard of the AEI. Furthermore, only 41 per cent said that they thought the AEI was generally or sometimes misleading, compared with 53 per cent in relation to the RPI and 66 per cent in relation to the unemployment figures. These differences in perceptions of the three series remain, even if those who had not heard of the statistics are excluded.

Reasons for thinking the AEI generally or sometimes misleading were similar to those for the RPI. The most common reason given, by 36 per cent of those who thought the AEI at least sometimes misleading, was that it did not reflect reality as perceived by the respondent. The next most common was scepticism about statistics and how they are collected.

**Table 6: Whether respondents thought the figures generally correct or generally misleading**

Mar 99

Whether thought correct or misleading	Cost of living	Unemployment	Average Earnings Index
	%	%	%
Generally correct	22	18	24
Sometimes correct, sometimes misleading	36	29	16
Generally misleading	17	37	25
Don't know	5	5	6
Had not heard of the series	20	11	29
<i>Base(=100%)</i>	1,894	1,894	1,894

**Table 7: Why respondents thought the figures were not generally correct**

*Respondents who thought the figures were generally or sometimes misleading*

Mar 99

Reason for thinking the figures misleading	Cost of living	Unemployment	Average Earnings Index
	%	%	%
Doesn't reflect reality	29	14	36
Government only publishes what makes it look good	12	18	9
Government lies and massages the figures	8	18	7
Sceptical about statistics and how they are collected	21	25	24
Don't know, don't understand statistics	10	3	8
Other answer	20	20	16
<i>Base(=100%)</i>	1,013	1,242	779



In relation to the unemployment figures, people were comparatively less likely to say that the figures did not reflect reality, and more likely to be critical of the government's intentions (*Tables 6, 7*).

## VIEWS OF ONS AS A WHOLE

Finally, the five per cent of respondents who knew that ONS is responsible for government statistics (and would have done so even had they not been interviewed on this survey) were asked whether, on the whole, they thought that ONS does a good job of collecting and publishing

official statistics. Three quarters of them said that they did, and only two per cent that they did not (the remainder were unable to give an opinion). It should be noted, however, that inspection of the reasons they gave for answering as they did suggests that many may have been thinking only about statistics collected by social surveys, which would of course be at the forefront of their minds at the time (*no table shown*).



## GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL SERVICE

### HEAD OF GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL SERVICE TO STEP DOWN

Tim Holt, Director of the Office for National Statistics, announced on 7th June that he will be stepping down, probably with effect from the end of the year. Dr Holt, 55, also serves as Head of the Government Statistical Service and as Registrar General for England and Wales. His departure from all three posts is likely to coincide with the appointment of his successor, who will oversee the Government's plans for the creation of a more independent national statistics service.



**Tim Holt**

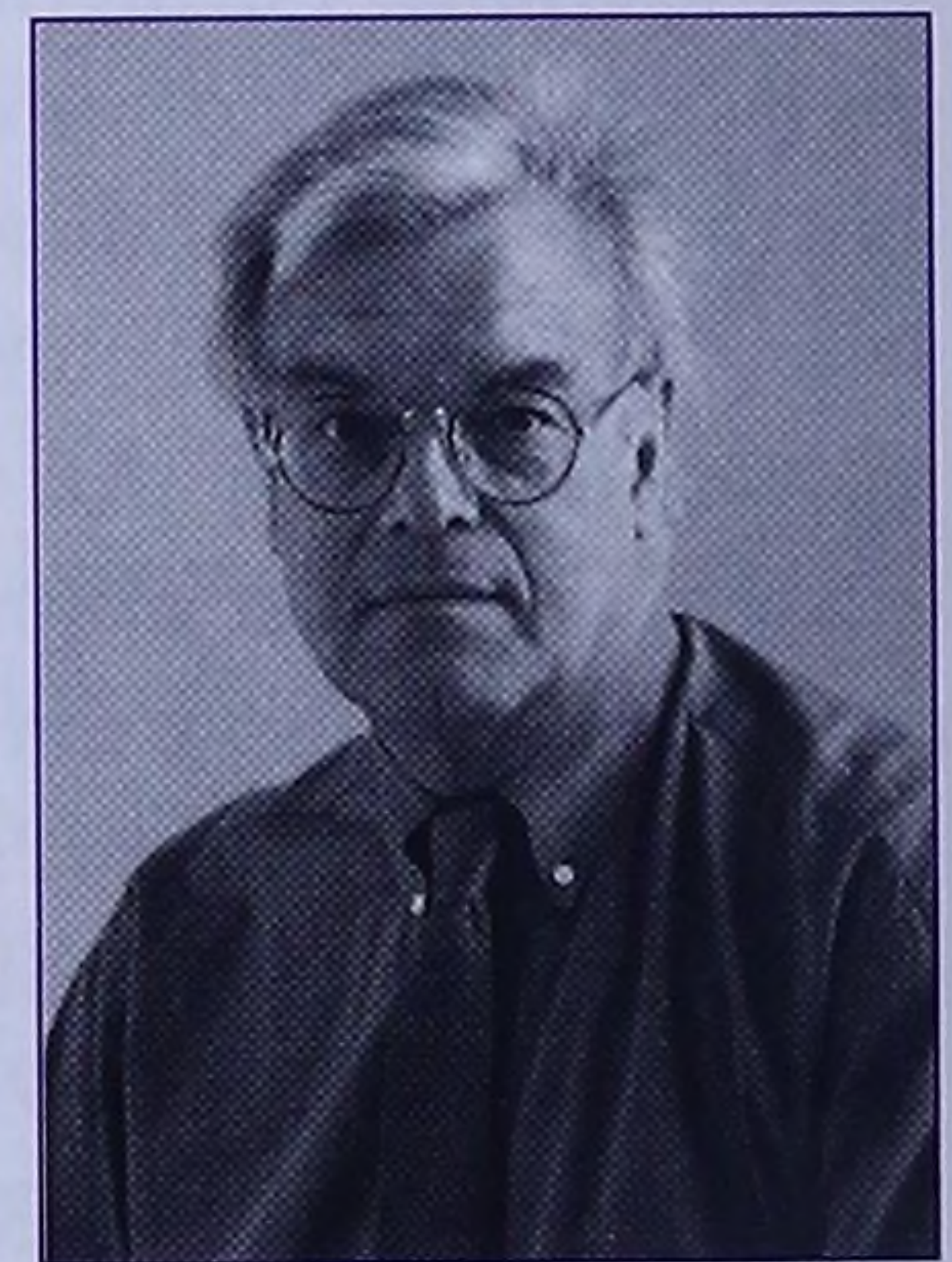
"My standing down," Dr Holt said, "will coincide with the end of a phase of creating ONS and preparing the ground for what I hope will be the most significant development for UK national statistics since the Central Statistical Office was formed during the Second World War."

Patricia Hewitt, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury and the Minister responsible for the ONS, said: "I am very grateful to Tim Holt for the contribution he has made over the past four years in creating the ONS and improving the quality and standing of official statistics. I am also very grateful to him for announcing his intentions in good time, so that we can ensure a smooth transition to the new governance arrangements and appointment of the new Director of National Statistics."

The news of Dr Holt's departure received coverage in all the broadsheet press. Many newspapers linked Dr Holt's resignation to other matters, such as the Average Earnings Index suspension last year, even though Dr Holt said that he had decided not to extend his contract for "personal reasons".

### NEW DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS DIRECTORATE AT THE HOME OFFICE

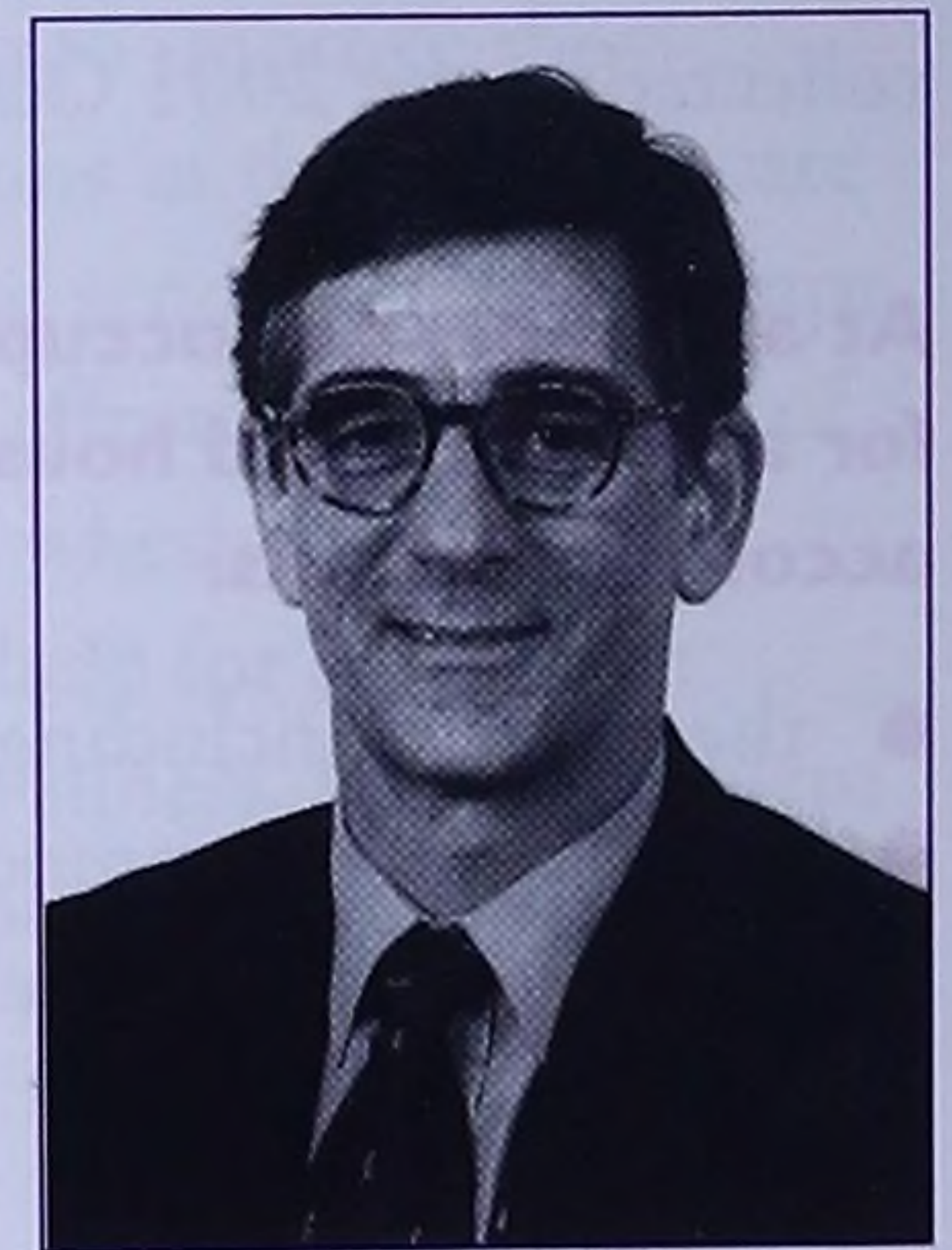
Chris Nuttall, Director of Research, Development and Statistics at the Home Office retired at the end of June. He has been succeeded by Paul Wiles, previously Professor of Criminology at the University of Sheffield.



**Chris Nuttall**

### NEW DIRECTOR OF STATISTICS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Dr John Fox has been appointed the new Director of Statistics at the Department of Health, starting in August. He is currently Acting Director of Social Statistics at ONS and Chief Medical Statistician, and has been a Board Member of first OPCS and then ONS for over ten years. The move will allow him to apply his medical statistics and epidemiological expertise to the development and monitoring of health policy.



**Dr John Fox**



## THREE QUESTIONS ON HEALTH PROPOSED FOR THE 2001 CENSUS

The Government plans for the 2001 Census were published in a White Paper on 4th March 1999. The White Paper makes it clear that the selection of the proposed topics are those shown to be most needed by central and local government, the health service, academics, business and professional organisations. Furthermore, consideration was given to the lack of other comparable sources, the public acceptability of the topics and whether or not the questions could be answered in a way that would elicit reliable answers. The cost of processing the answers to questions has also been assessed in relation to the usefulness of the results. Finally, the overall length and layout of the Census form has been considered so that the burden on the public is kept to an acceptable level within the overall objective of achieving optimum value from the Census.

In summary, the Government proposes that information on the following topics should be collected in the 2001 Census:

### **At all properties occupied by households and for all unoccupied household accommodations:**

- the address, including the postcode; and
- the type of accommodation, including whether or not it is self-contained.

### **For households:**

- names of all residents (whether present or temporarily absent on Census night);
- names and usual addresses of visitors on Census night;

- tenure of accommodation;
- whether rented accommodation is furnished or unfurnished (in Scotland only);
- type of landlord (for households in rented accommodation);
- number of rooms;
- availability of bath and toilet;
- lowest floor level of accommodation\*;
- number of floor levels in the accommodation (in Northern Ireland only)\*;
- availability of central heating; and
- number of cars and vans owned or available.

### **For residents:**

- names, sex, and date of birth;
- marital status;
- relationship to others in household;
- student status;
- whether or not students live at enumerated address during term time;
- usual address one year ago;
- country of birth;
- knowledge of Gaelic (in Scotland only), Welsh (in Wales only) and Irish (in Northern Ireland only);
- ethnic group;
- religion\* (not in Scotland);
- general health\*;
- long-term illness;
- provision of unpaid personal care\*;
- educational and vocational qualifications;
- economic activity in the week before the Census;
- time since last employment\*;
- employment status;
- supervisor status\*;
- job title and description of occupation;
- size of workforce of employing organisation at place of work\*;
- nature of employer's business at place of work (industry);



- hours usually worked weekly in main job;
- name of employer;
- address of place of work; and
- means of travel to work.

Some of these topics (those marked with an asterix) are proposed for general inclusion in a census for the first time. However, the proposed question on floor level of accommodation has previously been included only in the census in Scotland. Furthermore, a question on religion has previously been included in the censuses in Northern Ireland, but the wording of the new question proposed for England and Wales for 2001 would be different; the question will not be asked in Scotland.

Questions on all the topics listed above will be included on the Census form to be used in the Census Rehearsal in April 1999. Additionally, a question on income will also be included in the Census Rehearsal before the Government makes a final decision on whether or not to propose to include the question in the Census itself.

Subsequently, the topics to be included in the Census will be set out in subordinate legislation to be laid before the appropriate legislatures towards the end of this year. Three questions on health-related topics are included among those being proposed.

### **Limiting long-term illness**

This question, which was included for the first time in the 1991 Census, will ask whether each person has any long-term illness, health problems or disability which limits his or her daily activities or the work he or she can do. Problems, which arise from old age, will be included. The information will be used as a measure of the need for health and personal social services for the long-term sick at national level, health and local authority level, and around particular local facilities, either existing or planned. The Census

is the only nationally consistent source for statistics at the local level.

The question will provide information on the circumstances in which the long-term sick live, for example, whether they live alone. It will also provide analysis by age, which will be important as the number of elderly people increases. The information will be of value both to the public and private sectors for marketing services to the sick and disabled.

### **General health**

In addition to the question on long-term illness, the Government proposes to include a general health question which will ask the respondents to assess their own health over the preceding 12 months as either 'Good', 'Fairly good', or 'Not good'. This information has been demonstrated in surveys to have a good predictive power for health policy and the provision of services, particularly for the elderly. Its inclusion in the Census in 2001 for the first time will enable such information to be applied at the local area level.

### **Provision of care**

The Government recognises the increasing amount of unpaid help given to people with ill health. They are proposing the inclusion of a new question, which will help to improve the understanding of variations in the need for care and the pressure on social services in an attempt to target resources more effectively. The aim of the question is to record whether or not the person provides unpaid help for a friend or relative with a long-term illness, health problem or disability, and the time spent each week in providing such care.

More detailed information on topics and plans generally for the 2001 Census are given in the White Paper:



## The 2001 Census of Population (Cm 4253)

The Stationery Office

Price £7.55, ISBN 0 10 142532 5

Available from:

The Stationery Office Publications Centre

Tel: 0870 600 5522

Fax: 0870 600 5533

Or on the ONS web site at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk>

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## CANCER SURVIVAL TRENDS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1971-1995: DEPRIVATION AND NHS REGION

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The survival of cancer patients is a key indicator of the effectiveness of cancer control. Surveillance of the overall efficacy of cancer treatment programmes and the equity of access to care requires information on cancer survival in the whole population. *Cancer Survival Trends in England and Wales, 1971-1995: Deprivation and NHS Region* is the most comprehensive population-based analysis of cancer survival trends and patterns ever carried out in Britain. It explores survival trends among almost three million cancer patients diagnosed in England and Wales since the early 1970s, and survival patterns by age, sex, geographic region and socio-economic status for 58 different cancers in adults and children. This collaborative project was carried out by researchers at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the Office for National Statistics, with the support of the Cancer Research Campaign.

Cancer survival rates up to ten years after diagnosis are provided for 47 different types of

cancer in adults and 11 different types of cancer in boys and girls. Cancer survival in adults has been examined with respect to age at diagnosis.

Changes in population cancer survival with the passage of time are an important measure of progress in cancer control at regional and national levels, and in sub-groups of the population defined by age, sex or socio-economic status. Time trends in survival in England and Wales have been examined for each sex and for all cancers.

Inequalities in cancer survival have been examined for each cancer between groups of cancer patients defined as belonging to one of five categories of material deprivation. These range from affluent to deprived, on the basis of the characteristics at census of the small area (enumeration districts) in which they were living when diagnosed. The extent to which any inequalities in survival between affluent and deprived patients diagnosed during the late 1980s were more, or less pronounced than those seen for patients diagnosed in the early 1980s have also been explored.

Geographical trends in cancer survival up to ten years after diagnosis have also been examined for the eight current NHS Regions of England, and in Wales.

Results and anonymised data are also published on CD-ROM to enable further analyses and provide electronic access to the tables and graphics. Over 250 new life tables prepared in order to compute relative survival rates are also included, together with code dictionaries for cancer site and morphology.

This volume and the accompanying CD-ROM will be an essential resource for oncology, for clinical and public health research, and for health planners, as well as for the wider public.



## Cancer Survival Trends in England and Wales 1971-1995

The Stationery Office

Price £130, ISBN 0 11 621031 1

Available from:

The Stationery Office Publications Centre

Tel: 0870 600 5522

Fax: 0870 600 5533

## Cancer Survival Trends in England and Wales 1971-1995 CD-ROM

Office for National Statistics

Price £100 plus VAT, ISBN 1 85774 324 5

Available from:

ONS Direct

Tel: 01633 812078

Fax: 01633 812762

E-mail: sales.ons@gtnet.gov.uk

## STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION TO BE UPDATED

The UK Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities 1992, SIC (92), will be updated in 2002.

SIC (92) is the main classification system in use in the UK for identifying the type of economic activity in which a business operates. It has several levels; the most detailed of which is the 5-digit Subclass. Here's an example:

Division 15	Manufacture of food products and beverages
Group 15.5	Manufacture of dairy products
Class 15.51	Operation of dairies and cheese making

Subclass 15.51/2 Butter and cheese production

The first four digits are common to all European Union Member States and are embodied in a European Union classification, while the fifth digit is used to provide further detail at national level. As time goes by, economic activities and structures change and new industries, products and processes emerge. Therefore it is essential to update the classification to ensure that it remains relevant.

The minor update, known as 'Operation 2002' but involving minimum change is planned at the European level (i.e. the first four digits) and is expected to be introduced in January 2002. In the UK, revisions are being considered, where necessary, to the UK 5th digit Subclasses. This will enable changes to be made that are important for the UK, but that are outside the scope of the European revision.

Anyone with an interest in the classification can make a proposal for changes or for new Subclasses, but typically they come from, or are supported by, trade associations, professional bodies or experts working in the relevant economic activity area within government. Finalised proposals need to reach the ONS Classifications Unit by 1st October 1999.

Changes to classifications systems have wide-ranging effects and each proposal will be carefully considered. Guidance is available setting out various conditions. Some of the things taken into account are:

- whether the need could be met without having to change the classification system;
- whether someone is actually prepared to collect data for any newly created headings;



- whether there are any consequences in terms of burdens on businesses;
- The impact upon the business register and on time-series.

The idea is to create new Subclasses only where it makes good sense to do so and where the benefits are judged to outweigh the costs.

For help with any aspect of the update of SIC (92) Subclasses or for more information about the related revision at the European level, contact the ONS Classifications Unit:

Tel: 01633 812999  
 Fax: 01633 812555  
 E-mail: [classifications.helpdesk@ons.gov.uk](mailto:classifications.helpdesk@ons.gov.uk)

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## **ANNUAL BUSINESS INQUIRY 1997**

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Updated results of the Annual Business Inquiry, production and construction, are now available in the latest edition of the PACSTAT CD-ROM, available from ONS Direct.

PACSTAT contains a range of industry-specific statistics including, employment, wages and salaries and capital expenditure. Data on PACSTAT can be selected in a variety of ways such as employment sizeband, region and predefined sets or combinations of variables chosen by the user. Users can then view the information in tables, charts or maps, offering greater access and flexibility to the data.

In addition to the 1997 data this latest version of PACSTAT contains data for 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1996, together with figures for selected main variables for 1986 - 1992.

To compliment this publication, individual industry results are available at a fee of £20 per

industry by phoning 01633 812435 or faxing 01633 812575.

Copies of the PACSTAT CD-ROM, price £350, are available from:

ONS Direct  
 Tel: 01633 812078  
 Fax: 01633 812762  
 E-mail: [sales.ons@gtnet.gov.uk](mailto:sales.ons@gtnet.gov.uk)

Further information on the Annual Business Inquiry and individual industry tables can be obtained from:

Julian Dowsell  
 Room 1.301  
 Office for National Statistics  
 Government Buildings  
 Cardiff Road  
 Newport, NP10 8XG  
 Tel: 01633 812435

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## **STATISTICS FOR STUDENTS**

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The new edition of the ONS *Statistics for Students* booklet is now available.

This 28-page booklet contains essential advice and contacts for students embarking on statistical and census research for school projects. A high street spending survey with task timetable and a research planner has been added to this new edition to assist secondary school students.

*Statistics for Students* also gives advice on sources of free information and data available from the ONS website and associated links and recommends discounted publications and compendia CD-ROMs suitable for academia.



To obtain copies of *Statistics for Students*, please contact:

ONS Library and Information Services  
Tel: 01633 812973  
Fax: 01633 812599  
E-mail: [info@ons.gov.uk](mailto:info@ons.gov.uk)

## DEPARTMENT FOR CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### FILM STATISTICS REVIEWED

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has reviewed the official statistics on the UK film industry and on cinema going. An article 'Statistics on film: what the official statistics show' has been published in the journal *Cultural Trends*. This concludes that UK film and video activities form a relatively small industry, with annual turnover of £3 billion and contributing 0.25 per cent of UK gross value added. However, there is more to life than GDP: film and video bring entertainment, information and educational material to millions of people every week.

#### Statistics on film: what the official statistics show

Paul Allin, *Cultural Trends*  
Issue no. 30, 1998

DCMS has also undertaken a study into the feasibility of extending the statistics. The aim is to provide more detailed information to meet the needs of the industry, trade associations, public sector organisations and government. The study was in response to a call for better statistics made by the Film Policy Review Group in their 1998 report *A Bigger Picture*. The feasibility study is available

on the DCMS web site at:

<http://www.culture.gov.uk/BETTERFILM.HTML>

## HM CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

### LINK TO

The Customer Services and Data Analysis team of HM Customs and Excise has launched a twice-yearly free newsletter called *Link To*.

The purpose of the newsletter is to:

- introduce the teams, who they are, what they do and how to contact them;
- inform about the products and services available, improvements being developed and events being organised and attended;
- inform about work carried out in other parts of the organisation;
- advise on service standards and provide practical information about helpdesk services;
- seek customer views and encourage customers to contribute their own articles.

Copies of *Link To* will be sent to a wide range of customers and can also be obtained from the Customer Services helpline:

Tel: 01702 367485



**THE HEALTH OF YOUNG PEOPLE 1995-1997**

The annual Health Survey for England is carried out on behalf of the Department of Health by the Joint Health Surveys Unit of Social and Community Planning Research (SCPR) and the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at University College, London (UCL). Since 1995, the surveys have included children aged 2-15, as well as adults. For 1997 the sampling procedure was adjusted so that for some of the households only children were surveyed, giving a larger number of young people overall. *The Health of Young People 1995-97* combines data from the 1995, 1996 and 1997 surveys to provide an overview of the health of children and young adults aged 2-24.

**Survey Procedures**

Children aged 13-15 were interviewed in person, while for those aged 2-12, a parent or guardian was interviewed in the child's presence. Interviews covered general health including respiratory problems, height and weight, dietary information, accidents, and physical activity. Self-completion questionnaires were provided for those aged eight and over for topics such as drinking and smoking. Young people of 16 and over were asked about their educational attainment and, for girls, use of the contraceptive pill.

In addition there was a visit from a nurse, who collected information on current medication and took various body measurements, and a sample of saliva. There was also a telephone survey of a subset of the 1997 sample to ask about use of, and attitudes towards, sun protection.

**Some of the Findings**

Around a quarter of young people reported a long-standing illness or disability, 10 per cent of all young people reported a long-standing illness or disability that limited their activities in some way. The most common condition was respiratory, followed by skin problems for those under 16 and musculoskeletal problems for those aged 16-24. However, over 90 per cent of children aged under 16 were considered by themselves (or by their parents) to be in good health. This fell to around 85 per cent for 16-24 year olds. Around one-third of the young people had experienced wheezing, and asthma had been diagnosed by doctors for around 20 per cent of males and 18 per cent of females.

The most common prescribed drugs were respiratory medicines. Contraceptive pills, injections or implants were used by just under half of young women aged 16-24, the use increasing with age.

Using the body mass index (BMI) to define desirable weight, 23 per cent of males and 19 per cent of females aged 16-24 were overweight. Six per cent of males and eight per cent of females were obese. Nearly half of women with a desirable weight were trying to lose weight. In general, children with overweight parents, or who had been heavy babies, were more likely to have a higher BMI.

Less than one-fifth of young people ate fruit or vegetables more than once a day. For children under 16 eating habits were related to social class and household income.

Smoking is generally under estimated by young people, so the self-reporting was supplemented by measuring the cotinine levels in blood or saliva. By the age of 15, about 13 per cent of



## ELECTRONIC FIRE STATISTICS

children were smoking at least one cigarette a week. At age 16, 20 per cent of men and 25 per cent of women were smoking, and by age 20-24 around 40 per cent of young people were smoking. Smoking was more prevalent in Social Class V than Social Class I.

Of those aged 16-24, a third of men drank more than 21 units per week, and a quarter of women drank more than 14 units. Drinking levels peaked at age 19-23 for men and age 19-21 for women, and by the age of 24 they had started to decrease. At age 21, around half of men and one-third of women drank on at least three days per week.

Of those who drank, around one-third of men and one-fifth of women reported being drunk at least once a week, and 17 per cent of young male and 11 per cent of young female drinkers were classified as potential 'problem drinkers'.

Non-fatal accidents were associated with higher levels of physical activity. Males aged 12-24 had twice as many accidents as boys aged 2-11. The accident rate for girls peaked at age 11-15.

### Health Survey for England, The Health of Young People 1995-1997

The Stationery Office

Price £70, ISBN 0 11 322266 1

Available from:

The Stationery Office Publications Centre

Tel: 0870 600 5522

Fax: 0870 600 5533

The revised and upgraded release of the *FireStat* CD-ROM took place in May 1999. The new release contains UK primary fire data collected by local authority fire brigades for the years 1994-1997. The 1997 data are provisional but 1994-1996 data have all been revised since the previous release.

The *FireStat* software was first launched by the Research, Development and Statistics Directorate of the Home Office in 1998 and provided to fire brigades free of charge. *FireStat* is an interactive runtime software package that can produce customised statistical tables based on Home Office fire and casualty data. The *FireStat* CD utilises many of the table formats that appear in the *Fire Statistics United Kingdom* publication.

*FireStat* will run on a modern desktop PC with a Windows 95 (or higher) interface. It is user-friendly, relying on a menu-driven system to select the variables that make up a table. *FireStat* is flexible about both the geographical areas and time periods required by the user. A table can be based on a countrywide, rural, urban, shire or brigade area selection. It is possible to select time periods on the basis of a financial year or on individual quarters.

The user is able to select a range of variables that originate from the questions on the Fire Damage Report form (FDR1). All the variables can be viewed in an easy-to-use pulldown menu. The tabulation process is very quick - tables are created in seconds. The output can be exported into a standard spreadsheet package for further analysis.



*FireStat* does not require significant training; the CD contains on-line help and comes with a User Guide. The CD also contains a number of ready-made historical tables that contain fire data back to 1983. There is also a record-listing facility which enables the user to output a complete list of individual fire reports for a particular brigade (users *must* be registered with the Data Protection Registrar).

The upgrade of the *FireStat* CD is a timely development in the electronic dissemination of statistical data by the Home Office. It is hoped that fire brigades will find it to be a useful tool in helping to inform local Community Fire Safety plans with relevant statistics. *FireStat* could also help brigades to compare current performance against years gone by. Over forty fire brigades have already taken up the offer of the CD-ROM from the Home Office.

*FireStat* is available to other Government Departments and bona fide researchers free of charge upon request from:

Jon Gamble  
Output Manager of the Fire Statistics Section  
Home Office Research Development and  
Statistics Directorate  
Tel: 01923 892900

## GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE FOR SCOTLAND

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND 1998

The Annual Report of the Registrar General for Scotland presents statistical information arising from the registration of 'vital events' - births, deaths and marriages, together with divorces and adoptions and related statistical information on

the population of Scotland. In addition to material for the year in question, time series of data are included. The whole of this and the 1998 Report will be available by the end of July via the General Register Office for Scotland's Internet site:

<http://www.open.gov.uk/gros/groshome.htm>

## OTHER ORGANISATIONS

### POLICY STUDIES INSTITUTE

#### Cultural Trends

The Policy Studies Institute has relaunched its quarterly journal *Cultural Trends*. Each issue contains three substantive chapters analysing aspects of the arts and the cultural sector, with a strong emphasis on providing a firm statistical underpinning to each analysis. Issue 29, the first in the new series, contains chapters on publishing and book selling, on the art trade and on books and art on the Internet. Issue 30 contains two chapters on media topics, the film industry and radio and a chapter considering the state of local authorities' provision of cultural services. Issue 31 focuses on the performing arts, with a chapter on the music industry and a comparison between performing arts activities in Britain, Germany and the US. There is also a chapter examining how poverty affects people's access to the arts. *Cultural Trends* is edited by Sara Selwood, Quintin Hogg Research Fellow in the Department of Communication, Design and Media at the University of Westminster. For further information contact:

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Policy Studies Institute  
100 Park Village East,  
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**Welsh Office**  
Room 2-002  
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CARDIFF CF1 3NQ



New Surveys &  
Departmental  
Listings

Supplement



# NEW SURVEYS NOTIFIED TO SURVEY CONTROL UNIT

## JANUARY 1999 TO MARCH 1999

*For further information about the survey listed, the appropriate contact may be obtained from Julie Pollard, Survey Control Unit, Office for National Statistics, Room 1.072, Government Buildings, Newport, Gwent NP10 8XG. E-mail [julie.pollard@ons.gov.uk](mailto:julie.pollard@ons.gov.uk)*

### New Surveys Assessed

SCU No.	Title	Dept.	Ass. dept.	Activity of respondents	Number of respondents	Location	Freq.
13400128	Educational Qualification of Care Leavers Year Ending 31 March 2000	DH		Education	161	E	A
13400129	Care Leavers on their 19th Birthday Year Ending 21 March 2002	DH		Admin	161	E	A
13400131	Referrals, Assessments and Packages of Care.	DH		Admin	150	E	A
13900317	Energy Consumption Guides Either Confectionery or Animal Feeds	DETR	EEO	Business	360	UK	N/K
13900388	Postal Survey to Assess Extent of Low Demand for Housing	DETR		Admin	654	E	AH
13900389	Study of Local Authority Rent Setting Policy	DETR		Research	250	E	AH
13900392	Use of Recycled Dredged and Other Material to the Construction Industry	DETR		Research	29	GB	AH
13900393	Rural Bus Grant	DETR		Research	73	NK	HY
13900394	Energy Efficiency and Environmental Management Systems (EMS) - A Survey	DETR		Business serv.	650	UK	AH
13900397	Contaminated Land: Financial Control Of Risk	DETR		Business serv.	320	UK	AH
13900398	Planning For Tourism - Survey of Private Operators	DETR		Business	80	E	AH
13900399	Planning For Tourism - English Local Planning Authorities	DETR		Business	250	E	AH
13900400	Before And After (Trial of Learner Driver Logbook) Survey of ADIs	DETR		Business	75	GB	AH
13900402	Building Services Consultants - Market Data	DETR		Business serv.	600	UK	AH
14400207	* Company Survey for an Evaluation of Inward Missions	DTI		Research	240	N/K	AH
14400210	Sector Sponsorship Evaluation	DTI		Business	2,500	GB	AH
14400212	Impact Assessment of Business Support Activity Funded Through Europe	DTI		Admin	3,000	WM	A
14400214	National Minimum Wage Quantitative Research	DTI		Admin	5,200	GB	AH
14400215	* A Study of the Impact of the E.U Framework Programmes in the UK	DTI		Admin	105	UK	AH
14400216	* Overseas Projects Fund: Customer Satisfaction Survey	DTI		Admin	155	NK	AH
14400217	* To Determine UK Requirements for Traceable Measurement	DTI		Business serv.	50	UK	AH
14400218	* Evaluation Of IBB Inward Investment Promotion Activities	DTI		Business serv.	235	NK	AH
14400219	* Refurbishment of White Goods	DTI		Research	50	UK	AH
14400220	* DTI Overseas Trade Services: Language Study 1999	DTI		Admin	550	UK	AH
14400221	Pilot Survey into the Collection of Regional Exports of Services	DTI		Admin	250	UK	AH
14400222	* Demand for Radio Spectrum for Programme Making and Special Events	DTI		Business serv.	90	N/K	AH



SCU No.	Title	Dept.	Ass. dept.	Activity of respondents	Number of respondents	Location	Freq.
14400223	New Earnings Survey - Additional Questions	DTI		Finance	3,500	UK	AH
15100053	Employers as Customers of ES Services	ES		Research	1,937	GB	AH
15100058	An Evaluation of the Call Centre Pilot in the Northern Region	ES		Research	3,100	UK	AH
16800084	Evaluation of Employers' Arrangements for Employee Consultation on H&S	HSE		Employer	3,538	GB	AH
16800097	*Risk Assessment and Control of Workplace Stress	HSE		Admin	4	S	AH
16800098	Asbestos Management Baseline Project	HSE		Admin	5,000	GB	AH
16800100	Perceiving and Enacting the Risks of Stress: A Socio-Cognitive Approach	HSE		Health	28	GB	AH
16800105	Research on Employment Agencies and Evaluation of the Sector's Health	HSE		Admin	1,325	GB	AH
17900247	*Multivariate Analysis of Risk Factors Effecting Incidence of TB Infections	MAFF		Farming	600	UK	AH
17900248	*Multivariate Analysis of Risk Factors Affecting Tuberculosis Incidence	MAFF		Business serv.	540	EW	AH
17900249	Farm Resource Use on Countryside Maintenance and Management	MAFF		Farming	10,700	EW	AH
17900250	*Pilot Survey of Hardy Nursery Stock (HNS)	MAFF		Business serv.	300	NK	AH
17900251	British Cattle Movement Service Awareness Check	MAFF		Business serv.	740	GB	AH
17900252	*Attitudes of Farmers and Land Managers Towards Features of Landscape	MAFF		Farming	100	NK	AH
17900254	*Dioxins and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in Cow's Milk from India	MAFF		Business serv.	64	UK	AH
17900255	* Assessment of Farmer Knowledge of Foot Rot Control	MAFF		Admin	400	EW	AH
20400026	Year 2000 Compliance in Grant Maintained Schools	NGOV		Admin	1,200	E	AH
20400028	Development of the Investors In People Standard	NGOV		Admin	3,180	UK	AH
22500006	Scottish Enterprise Network Customer Survey	SE		Research	2,048	S	Y2
23200067	The Role of IT in Road Safety Education	SO		Business serv.	2,500	S	AH
23200069	Impact of ICT Initiatives on Pupil Attainment	SO		Admin	200	S	AH
23200071	Social Work Services Group-Offender Services Aggregate Return	SO		Admin	32	S	A
23200072	Council Tax Collection in Scotland and England & Wales	SO		Admin	91	UK	AH
24600012	SME Telephone Survey (Banking Review)	TSY		Research	4,000	NK	AH
26000196	Evaluation of the Code of Good Practice on Employment and Age Discrimination	DFEE		Business	2,000	GB	AH
26000197	The Extent, Causes and Implications of Skill Deficiencies	DFEE		Business serv.	426	GB	AH



**Abbreviation**

DETR – Department of the Environment, Transport & the Regions  
 DFEE – Department for Education and Employment  
 DH – Department of Health  
 DTI – Department of Trade and Industry  
 ES – Employment Service  
 HSE – Health and Safety Executive  
 MAFF – Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
 NGOV – Non Government (IiP)  
 SE – Scottish Enterprise  
 SO – Scottish Office  
 TSY - Treasury

**Fr - Frequency**

A – Annual  
 AH – Ad Hoc  
 C -Continuous  
 Q – Quarterly  
 Y2 – Every 2 Years  
 HY – Half Yearly

**Loc - Location**

E – England  
 EA – East Anglia  
 ES – England & Scotland  
 EW – England & Wales  
 GB – Great Britain  
 S-Scotland  
 SE- South East  
 UK- United Kingdom  
 W – Wales  
 WM - West Midlands  
 YH – Yorkshire & Humberside

\* - Assessed by Survey Control Liaison Officer

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## HOUSEHOLD AND INDIVIDUAL SURVEYS

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This data is unavailable at the present, however, information can be obtained from the contact below.

### SURVEY CONTROL UNIT

In accordance with survey control procedures, most regular surveys of business or local authorities are subject to thorough review at least every five years. Surveys conducted more frequently than annually are reviewed every three years. Information on these reviews can be obtained from the contact below.

Julie Pollard  
 Survey Control Unit  
 Office for National Statistics  
 Tel: 01633 813271  
 E-mail [julie.pollard@ons.gov.uk](mailto:julie.pollard@ons.gov.uk)



## OFFICE FOR NATIONAL STATISTICS

### RECENTLY AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS

#### ■ Published by The Stationery Office

#### **Health Statistics Quarterly No. 2 – Summer 1999**

Price £20, ISBN 0 11 621120 2

Includes articles on:

- Father's occupation and childhood mortality: analysis of routinely collected data;
- Trends in life expectancy by social class – an update;
- Prevalence of treated chronic diseases in general practice in England and Wales – trends over time and variations by the ONS area classification;
- Examining adult mortality rates using the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification;
- Mortality in children aged under four;
- Deaths from hypothermia in England and Wales.

Also Reports on legal abortions in England and Wales 1998 and death registrations 1998 by cause in England and Wales.

#### **Health Statistics Quarterly No. 3 – Autumn 1999**

Price £20, ISBN 0 11 621121 0

Includes articles on:

- Trends in road traffic death in England and Wales 1982-1997;
- Multiple congenital anomalies in England and Wales;
- Longitudinal study of socio-economic differences in the incidence of and survival from main cancers among women;
- Trends in homicide in England and Wales.

Also Annual Update on 1997 mortality statistics injury and poisoning (England and Wales) and Reports on death registration 1998 by area; infant and perinatal mortality 1998 by health authority and regional offices and sudden infant deaths 1994-1998.

#### **Key Population and Vital Statistics 1997, VS no. 24/PPI no. 20**

Price £35, ISBN 0 11 621167 9

Key statistics for local and health authorities in the United Kingdom about population, births, deaths and migration.

#### **Mortality Statistics: injury and poisoning 1997, DH4 no. 22**

Price £35, ISBN 0 11 621259 4

Annual statistics on deaths attributed to accidents, poisoning and violence analysed by age, sex, cause and place of occurrence in England and Wales during 1997.



### **Mid-1996 National Population Projections, PP2 no. 21**

Price £30, ISBN 0 11 621160 1

Detailed population projections for the United Kingdom and constituent counties, based on the estimated population in mid-1996, produced in conjunction with the Government Actuary's Department.

### **1996-based Subnational Population Projections, PP3 no. 10**

Price £30, ISBN 0 11 621267 5

Long-term population projections by age and sex for Government Office Regions, unitary authorities, counties, London boroughs metropolitan and shire districts and regional and district health authorities of England for the base year and 25 years ahead.

### **Population Trends No. 96 – Summer 1999**

Price £20, ISBN 0 11 621116 4

Includes articles on:

- The demography of centenarians in England and Wales;
- Co-habitational and marital histories of adults in Great Britain;
- Co-habitation in Western Europe;
- The ethnic minority populations of Great Britain - latest estimates;
- Can patient registers give an improved measure of internal migration in England and Wales?

Also Reports on live births in England and Wales 1998 by local and health authority areas and deaths registrations 1998 by cause and area in England and Wales.

### **Social Focus on Older People**

Price £30, ISBN 0 11 621168 7

Latest in the Social Focus series examining the social characteristics and lifestyles of older people in Britain today.

### **Survey of English Housing 1997/98**

Price £39.50, ISBN 0 11 621234 9

Information on the size and composition of the different housing tenures in England with information on the personal characteristics, income, employment and housing histories of the householders. Compiled by ONS on behalf of DETR.

All of the above publications are available from:

The Stationery Office Publications Centre  
P.O. Box 276  
London, SW8 5DT  
Tel: 0870 600 5522  
Fax: 0870 600 5533

### **■ Published by the Office for National Statistics**

### **Electoral Statistics 1999**

Price £12.50, ISBN 1 85774 325 3

Parliamentary, local government electors and European Parliamentary electors in constituencies and local government areas of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.



## National Travel Survey Technical Report 1998

Price £10, ISBN 1 85774 323 7

Methodological description of the National Travel Survey.

## Social Trends Pocketbook 1999

Price £3, or £12.50 for a pack of ten (*academic users only*), ISBN 1 85774 316 4

Core information on key economic and social topics affecting the United Kingdom today, taken from the main *Social Trends* publication and tailored to meet the needs of students.

All of the above publications are available from:

ONS Direct  
Room D.140  
Government Buildings  
Cardiff Road  
Newport, NP10 8XG  
Tel: 01633 812078  
Fax: 01633 812762  
E-mail: sales.ons@gtnet.gov.uk

## DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND THE REGIONS

### NEW PUBLICATION

## Housing in England 1997/98: Survey of English Housing

The Stationery Office  
Price £39.50, ISBN 0 11 621234 9

Published in June 1999, this is the report of the 1997/98 Survey of English Housing, carried out by the Social Survey Division of ONS on behalf of DETR. This report presents a comprehensive picture of housing in England, including:

- trends in tenure and cross-tenure comparisons;
- patterns of mobility between and within tenures;
- rents and Housing Benefit in the private rented sector;
- people's attitudes to their local area, opinions about local services and access to amenities.

*(See the article on page 3 of this edition of Statistical News for an account of the development of the Survey of English Housing and its predecessors.)*

Available from:

The Stationery Office Publications Centre  
Tel: 0870 600 5522  
Fax: 0870 600 5533



**Forest Visitor Surveys 1998**

A set of reports, written by Sheila Ward, giving results of visitor surveys carried out at Forestry Commission sites during 1998. One summary report and 21 reports for individual locations. Price £2 for each report. Published in June-July 1999.

Available from:

HQ Statistics  
Forestry Commission  
231 Corstorphine Road  
Edinburgh, EH12 7AT

Many statistics and reports can also be viewed on the Forestry Commission Internet web site:

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk>

For further information contact:

Simon Gillam  
Tel: 0131 314 6280  
Alister Henderson  
Tel: 0131 314 6337  
E-mail: [statistics@forestry.gov.uk](mailto:statistics@forestry.gov.uk)



STATISTICAL BULLETINS

*All free, annual and relating to England only, unless otherwise stated.*

**Public Health**

- Sun Exposure: Adults' Behaviour and Knowledge 1998/3
- Statistics from the Regional Drugs Misuse Databases for the six months ending 31st March 1998 (formerly Drugs Misuse Statistics) (six monthly) 1999/7
- Statistics on smoking (occasional) 1998/25

**Health Care**

- Statistics of prescriptions dispensed in the community 1998/24
- General pharmaceutical services 1998/30
- Community pharmacies England and Wales (six monthly) 1999/1
- Ophthalmic statistics for England 1998/32
- Cervical screening programme 1999/2
- Breast screening programme 1999/9
- NHS Immunisation statistics 1998/38
- NHS maternity statistics, England 1997/28
- NHS Contraceptive services 1999/5
- NHS hospital activity statistics: England 1987-88 to 1997-98 1998/31
- Elective admissions and patients waiting: England at 31st March 1998 1998/20
- Waiting times for first outpatient appointments in England (quarterly) 1999/14
- Ambulance services, England 1998/26
- Private hospitals, homes and clinics registered under the Registered Homes Act 1984, England, 1997 1998/14
- Inpatients formally detained in hospital under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation, England: 1992-93 to 1997-98 1998/34

**Social Care**

- Community care statistics: day and domiciliary personal social services for adults 1999/10
- Community care statistics: residential personal social services for adults 1998/37
- Children looked after in England 1998/33
- Supervision orders year ending 31st March 1999/3
- Children accommodated in secure units year ending 31st March 1998 1999/6

**Workforce**

- Statistics for general medical practitioners in England 1988-98 1999/13
- Hospital, public health medicine and community health services medical and dental staff 1987-97 1998/35



- NHS hospital and community health services non-medical staff 1988-98 1999/12
  - Personal social services staff of Social Services Departments at 30 September 1998: England 1999/8
- Expenditure**
- Personal social services: current and capital expenditure in England: 1997-1998 1999/11

Copies of the above are available from:

Department of Health  
PO Box 777  
London, SE1 6XH

## **OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

*All annual and relating to England unless otherwise stated.*

### **Compendium Publication**

#### **Health and Personal Social Service Statistics for England: 1998 edition**

The Stationery Office  
Price £16.95, ISBN 0 11 322261 0

### **Public Health**

#### **The NHS Performance Guide**

#### **Indicators of the Nation's Health**

#### **Health Survey for England 1991**

The Stationery Office  
Price £27.50, ISBN 0 11 691532 3

#### **Health Survey for England 1992**

The Stationery Office  
Price £27.50, ISBN 0 11 691569 2

#### **Health Survey for England 1993**

The Stationery Office  
Price £38, ISBN 0 11 691614

#### **Health Survey for England 1994**

The Stationery Office  
Price £40, ISBN 0 11 321895

#### **Health Survey for England 1995**

The Stationery Office  
Price £60, ISBN 0 11 322021 9

#### **Health Survey for England 1996**

The Stationery Office  
Price £60, ISBN 0 11 322091

#### **Health Survey for England 1997: The Health of Young People**

The Stationery Office  
Price £70 (two volumes), ISBN 0 11 322266 1



In addition a Summary of Key Findings booklet is available for the surveys from 1994 onwards.

### **Public Health Common Data Set**

*(Only available to the NHS, individual academic users and academic institutes of Public Health)*

### **Morbidity**

#### **Asthma**

The Stationery Office  
Price £11, ISBN 0 11 321667 X

#### **Coronary Heart Disease**

The Stationery Office  
Price £11, ISBN 0 11 321667 X

### **Health Care**

#### **Primary and Community Care**

- Sight tests volume and workforce survey 1996-97 (*annual report*)
- General ophthalmic services activity statistics - April to September 1998
- NHS Spectacle Voucher Scheme - results of 1997 survey
- Prescription Cost Analysis - England 1998 (*price £12, ISBN 1 84182 045 8*)
- Maternity services - midwife clinics and domiciliary visits
- District nurses activity
- Psychiatric nurses activity
- Learning disability nurses activity (*formerly mental handicap nurses' activity*)
- Specialist care nurses activity 1997-98
- Chiropody services 1997-98
- Clinical psychology services 1997-98
- Occupational therapy services 1997-98
- Physiotherapy services 1997-98
- Speech and language therapy services 1997-98
- Professional Advice and Support Programmes (*formerly health visitor activity*) 1997-98

### **Stroke**

The Stationery Office  
Price £11, ISBN 0 11 321668 8

### **Health of Elderly People**

The Stationery Office  
Price £10.30, ISBN 0 11 321485

### **Elderly people companion papers**

The Stationery Office  
Price £6, ISBN 0 11 321486 3

### **Health Related Behaviour: an epidemiological overview**

The Stationery Office  
Price £13.99, ISBN 0 11 321976 8



## Hospitals

- NHS Quarterly Review - insert to the NHS magazine
- Hospital Episode statistics:
  - Vol. 1: Finished Consultant episodes by diagnosis and operative procedure; injury/poisoning by external causes;
  - Vol. 2: Finished Consultant episodes: administrative tables;
  - Vol. 3: Finished Consultant episodes: waiting times;
  - CD-ROM: Hospital episode statistics, England.
- Hospital Waiting List statistics: England (*quarterly, price £10, ISBN 1 84182 036 9*)
- Ordinary and day case admissions, England: 1997-98 (*price £7, ISBN 1 85839 958 0*)
- Bed availability and occupancy, England 1997-1998 (*price £9, ISBN 1 85839 956 4*)
- Imaging and radio diagnostics, 1997-1998 (*ISBN 1 85839 966 1*)
- Waiting times for first outpatient appointments in England: Detailed statistics (*quarterly, price £11, ISBN 1 84182 035 0*)
- Outpatients and ward attenders 1997-98 (*price £9*)
- NHS day care facilities 1997-1998 (*ISBN 1 85839 957 2*)
- Handling complaints: monitoring the NHS complaints procedures, 1997-1998 (*price £6, ISBN 85839 976 9*)
- Inpatients formally detained in hospitals under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation: NHS trusts, high security hospitals and private facilities: 1997-1998 (*ISBN 1 85839 995 5*)

## Social Care

- Key indicators of Local Authority Social Services – graphical presentation package on CD-ROM only (*updated at least twice a year*) (*price £20*)
- Key statistics of Personal Social Services for year ending March 1998 and budgets for 1998-99
- Children looked after by Local Authorities
- Children and Young People on Child Protection Registers (*price £8, ISBN 1 85839 967 X*)
- Children's homes (*Triennial*)
- Annual Report under Section 83 (6) of the Children Act 1989 (*formerly section 79 (3) of the Child Care Act 1980*) on children in care in England and Wales. (For periods following the implementation of the Children Act 1989, this publication will cover a wide range of children's services.) (*price £6.80, ISBN 0 10 128782 8, The Stationery Office*)
- Community care statistics: residential personal social services for adults; detailed statistics on residential and nursing care homes and Local Authority supported residents
- Community care statistics: day and domiciliary personal social services for adults; detailed statistics



- Registered blind and partially sighted people (*Triennial*)
- People registered as deaf or hard of hearing (*Triennial*)
- Guardianship under the Mental Health Act 1983, England 1998
- Annual statement under Section 18 (3) of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970, on handicapped persons in residential care in England and Wales (*The Stationery Office*)
- Annual statement under section 17(2) of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970: Separation of younger patients from older patients in hospitals (*The Stationery Office*)
- Report under section 11 of the Disabled Persons (Services, Consultation and Representation) Act 1986 on the development of services for people with learning disabilities (mental handicap) or mental illness in England (*The Stationery Office*)

### Workforce

- NHS hospital and community health services non-medical workforce census, England: September 1997 (*price £15, ISBN 1 85839 926 2*)
- NHS hospital, public health medicine and community health services medical and dental workforce census, England: 30 September 1997 (*price £15, ISBN 1 85839 993 9*)
- General and Personal Medical Services Statistics - England and Wales: 1 October 1998 (*price £15, ISBN 1 84182 046 6*)

### Expenditure

- Personal Social Services: A Historical Profile of Reported Current and Capital expenditure 1983-1984 to 1993-1994

Most of the above publications are available from:

Department of Health  
P.O. Box 777  
London, SE1 6XH  
Tel: 0541 555 455

The Stationery Office publications are available from:

The Stationery Office Publications Centre  
P.O. Box 276  
London, SW8 5DT  
Tel: 0870 600 5522  
Fax: 0870 600 5533  
[www.official-documents.co.uk](http://www.official-documents.co.uk)



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH STATISTICAL CONTACTS

If you can't find what you need in a publication, please telephone:

**Skipton House, 80 London Road, London SE1 6LH**

**0207 97**

**(followed by ext. number)**

### **Family Health Services (Branch SD1)**

General dental and community dental services	ext. 25392
General pharmacy services	ext. 25504
General ophthalmic services	ext. 25507
Prescription analysis	ext. 25515

### **Hospital and Community Health Services (Branch SD2)**

Mental illness/handicap	ext. 25546
Community and cross-sector services	ext. 25524
Demographic statistics	ext. 25562
Drug misuse	ext. 25550
Legal status	ext. 25546
Smoking and alcohol	ext. 25551
Hospital inpatient activity	ext. 25529

### **Personal Social Services and Surveys (Branch SD3)**

Children's services	ext. 25581
Adults' services	ext. 25585
Staffing	ext. 25595
Financial (revenue out-turn expenditure) data	ext. 25595
Key indicators	ext. 25599
Health Survey for England and other surveys	ext. 25560/92

**Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds LS2 7UE**

**0113 25**

**(followed by ext. number)**

### **Workforce (Branch STATS(W))**

NHS medical staff	ext. 45892
NHS non-medical staff	ext. 45744
General medical services	ext. 45911



## NHS Performance Indicators (Branch FPA-PA)

Performance indicators	ext. 46452
Waiting lists	ext. 45555
Hospital activity	ext. 45522

NHS Expenditure (FPA-PX1) ext. 45356

Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS 0207 210  
(followed by ext. number)

Personal Social Services financial statistics (RMF-DPSS5)  
PSS budget data ext. 5140

Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG 0207 97  
(followed by ext. number)

Central Health Monitoring Unit  
Our Healthier Nation target monitoring ext. 24648

The Health Literature Line 0800 555777

## HOME OFFICE

### NEW STATISTICAL BULLETINS

#### Persons Granted British Citizenship, United Kingdom, 1998

Statistical Bulletin Issue 06/99  
The Home Office  
Free, ISSN 0143 6384

The regular annual Home Office Statistical Bulletin on British citizenship was published on 20th April 1999. It contains summary information on applications for British citizenship, grants, refusals and renunciations for

1998 and earlier years together with detailed tables of grants of citizenship by basis of application and previous nationality.

The main points for 1998 were:

- a small decrease to 65,000 in applications for British citizenship in the United Kingdom;
- a large increase to 60,000 in persons granted British citizenship;
- a small decrease to 4,000 in unsuccessful applications;
- in addition, 2,700 persons were granted British citizenship in Hong Kong.



## **Asylum Statistics United Kingdom 1998**

Statistical Bulletin Issue 10/99

The Home Office

Free, ISSN 0143 6384

The regular annual Home Office Statistical Bulletin on applications for asylum in the United Kingdom was published on 27th May 1999. It contains detailed information on applications for asylum; grants of refugee status and of exceptional leave to remain, refusals, appeals and enforcement action for 1998 and earlier years.

The main points for 1998 were:

- an increase to 46,000 in applications for asylum in the United Kingdom;
- a decrease to 31,600 asylum decisions;
- an increase to 5,300 in persons recognised as refugees and granted asylum;
- an increase of over 20 per cent of asylum appeals heard;
- a decrease to over 6,800 in unsuccessful applicants leaving the United Kingdom as a result of enforcement action.

## **Control of Immigration: Statistics, United Kingdom, Second Half and Year 1998**

Statistical Bulletin Issue 11/99

The Home Office

Free, ISSN 0143 6384

The regular half-yearly Home Office Statistical Bulletin on the control of immigration was published on 27th May 1999. It contains summary information for the whole of 1998 and earlier years on: grants of entry clearance; admissions to the UK; applications for asylum; extensions of stay including settlement; and enforcement action.

The main points from the annual figures for 1998 were:

- an increase to 28,500 in spouses admitted for a probationary year prior to settlement, mainly reflecting the abolition of the primary purpose rule in June 1997;
- an increase to 46,000 in applications for asylum;
- an increase to 69,800 in persons accepted for settlement (i.e. allowed to stay indefinitely);
- an increase to 21,000 in enforcement action initiated against immigration offenders and an increase (to 7,200) in persons leaving the UK as a result of such action.

For further information on all of the above, contact:

Andrew Prout

Tel: 0207 273 2084

## **PRISON STATISTICS**

Prison Research and Statistics, Offenders and Corrections Unit:

Statistics for the end of March 1999

Prison Statistics prepared by RDS are now available on the Internet. The RDS Internet address is at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.htm>

The statistics for the end of March 1999 show:

- The prison population in England and Wales was 64,200;
- The number of female prisoners was 3,180;
- Young offenders made up 18 per cent or 11,300 of the prison population;



- At the end of March 1999 the number of sentenced prisoners was 51,400, the number of remand prisoners was 12,300 and the number of civil prisoners was 570;
- Home Detention Curfew (HDC) was introduced at the end of January 1999. This allows some prisoners to spend up to the last two months of the custodial sentence on a curfew enforced by electric monitoring (subject to risk assessment). About 2,200 prisoners were on HDC at the end of March 1999, which accounts for the reduction in the prison population since January (down from 64,800).

These statistics and other related material such as the latest projection of the prison population will continue to be posted at this or linked sites.

For further information contact:

Offenders and Corrections Unit  
Tel: 0207 217 5654

## MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

#### Agriculture in the United Kingdom: 1998

The Stationery Office  
Price £15, ISBN 0 11 243049 X

*Agriculture in the United Kingdom 1998* is the eleventh in a series, which succeeds the *Annual Review of Agriculture* White Paper. It provides, in an accessible format, information on the economic conditions of the United Kingdom agriculture industry. The Government will draw

on this information when considering policy issues including proposals by the European Commission for agricultural support in 1999/2000.

Also available free of charge on the MAFF web site

#### The Digest of Agricultural Census Statistics - UK 1997

The Stationery Office  
Price £24, ISBN 0 11 243046 5

Compendium of statistics from the June 1997 Agricultural and Horticultural Census at UK, country, region and county level. Also available free of charge on the MAFF web site.

#### Farm Incomes in the United Kingdom 1997/98

*Farm Incomes in the United Kingdom 1997/98* provides an authoritative and detailed source of information on the incomes and financial structure of the agricultural industry in each of the four countries of the United Kingdom.

The fourteenth volume, in an annual series, gives detailed analyses of farm incomes (including some information on off-farm incomes), assets and liabilities and aggregate incomes for the agricultural industry for each of the four countries of the United Kingdom. Detailed farm accounts data, based on the Farm Business Survey (Farm Accounts Scheme in Scotland) are shown by farm type, business size and tenure. In addition, it contains estimates of the gross margins for a range of crop and livestock enterprises in England and Wales. In most tables the years covered are 1997 and 1998. Available only on the Internet [[www.maff.gov.uk/esg/pubs](http://www.maff.gov.uk/esg/pubs)] on 16th March 1999. Other enquiries



about this Internet publication should be directed to:

Mr R D S Price  
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
Economics (Farm Business) Division  
Whitehall Place West (Room 702)  
Whitehall  
London, SW1A 2HH  
Tel: 0207 270 8620

### **National Food Survey 1997 (November 1998)**

The Stationery Office  
Price £28, ISBN 0 11 243044 9

The National Food Survey is a long-established source of detailed statistical information on household and eating out food purchasing in Great Britain.

The results of the 1997 survey, expressed as averages of expenditure and consumption per person per week and intakes of nutrients per person per day, are presented in this annual report. For household food, comparisons are made with expenditure and consumption one year and ten years ago and a breakdown of 1997 consumption results by quarter is provided. The usual breakdowns of NFS results by household composition, income group of head of household and age of the main diary keeper are also included. Results by region are based on Government Office Regions in place of Standard Statistical Regions.

This year's special analysis looks at the effect of income on household expenditure, consumption and nutrient intakes. Net weekly family income per head is used as a measure of income. Results are averaged over the two periods 1995-97 and 1985-87. A multivariate analysis of the data shows the effect of income on the percentage of

income spent on food and on intakes of nutrients after allowing for effects of other household characteristics.

This year's special analysis (Chapter 5 of the 1997 report) and a summary of annual data from 1974 are also available free of charge on the MAFF web site. Other enquiries about this publication and the survey should be directed to:

Miss F Amos  
Tel: 0207 270 8563  
E-mail: f.amos@esg.maff.gov.uk.

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## **REGULAR REPORTS**

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### **Monthly Crop Reports on Fruit and Vegetables**

Provide up to date statistics on production and marketing of fruit and vegetables for the current crop year. These are available free of charge on paper and on the MAFF web site.

### **Basic Horticultural Statistics (Annual)**

Annual area, yield, production and supplies statistics for all the main fruit and vegetables covering the last ten years. This is available free of charge on paper and on the MAFF web site.

Enquiries to:

Christine Jeannette  
Tel: 01904 455069

### **Agricultural Market Report: England and Wales (Weekly)**

The report, which is available on subscription, is published in two parts and contains price, quantity and quality information on selected cereals, livestock, home-grown horticultural produce and other agricultural products.



Enquiries to:

Jenny Higgins  
Tel: 01904 455250

*transmit the information will depend on your fax machine, but four pages of information should take about 2 minutes. If you have problems using this service you can call the Helpline on 0870 440100 (standard rate).*

*Details of what is currently available and a list of publication dates for the coming year are available on the MAFF web site and via faxback on 0870 444 0200 for commodity statistics and 0870 444 0201 for farming statistics (calls charged at standard rate). If you do not have access to the Internet or a fax machine contact the address listed under the relevant heading.*

## STATISTICAL NOTICES

*The following Statistical Notices are available free of charge on the Internet at [www.maff.gov.uk](http://www.maff.gov.uk). Where a telephone number is shown this Statistical Notice is available through Faxback. Other Statistical Notices will be put on Faxback at the time of the next release. To obtain a faxback copy, dial the number next to the required item (calls charged at 50p/minute). The time taken to*

### Farm Surveys

Statistical Notice	Faxback Number
● June Census - England ( <i>Annual</i> ) - Complete Statistical News Release	0906 711 0300
● June Census - England – Summary 1 - Land use and Crops	0906 711 0301
● June Census - England – Summary 2 - Livestock	0906 711 0302
● June Census - England – Summary 3 - Horticulture and Glasshouse	0906 711 0303
● June Census - England and UK – Summary 4 - Labour	0906 711 0304
● June Census - UK ( <i>Annual</i> ) - Complete Statistical News Release	0906 711 0305
● June Census - UK – Summary 1 - Land use and Crops	0906 711 0306
● June Census - UK – Summary 2 - Livestock	0906 711 0307
● June Census - UK – Summary 3 - Horticulture and Glasshouse	0906 711 0308
● Cereals Production Survey ( <i>Biannual</i> )	0906 711 0311
● December Survey of Agriculture - England ( <i>Annual</i> )	0906 711 0313
● December Survey of Agriculture - UK ( <i>Annual</i> )	0906 711 0314
● December Survey of Agriculture - UK Pigs ( <i>Provisional</i> ) ( <i>Annual</i> )	0906 711 0315
● Cereals Stocks Survey ( <i>Quarterly</i> )	0906 711 0318
● Dried Pea & Bean Survey ( <i>Annual</i> )	0906 711 0328
● Earnings and Hours Survey ( <i>Annual</i> )	0906 711 0310
● Farmed Deer Survey ( <i>Irregular</i> )	
● Glasshouse Crops Survey ( <i>Annual</i> )	0906 711 0323
● Grain Fed to Livestock Survey ( <i>Monthly</i> )	0906 711 0320
● Irrigation of Outdoor Crops ( <i>Irregular</i> )	
● Minor Crops Survey ( <i>Annual</i> )	0906 711 0325
● Oilseed Rape Production Survey ( <i>Biannual</i> )	0906 711 0327
● Orchard Fruit Survey ( <i>Annual</i> )	
● Pigs Survey ( <i>March</i> )	0906 711 0330
● Tenanted Land Survey ( <i>Annual</i> )	0906 711 0317
● Vegetables and Flowers Survey ( <i>Annual</i> )	0906 711 0324



For further information contact:

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
Publications and Output Section  
Statistics (Censuses and Surveys) A  
Room 133a  
Foss House  
Kings Pool  
1-2 Peasholme Green  
York, YO1 7PX  
Tel: 01904 455332 or GTN: 5137 5332  
Fax: 01904 455315 or GTN: 5137 5315

### Farm Incomes and Agricultural Commodities

#### Statistical Notice

#### Faxback Number

- June Census - England (*Annual*) - Complete Statistical News Release 0906 711 0300
- Provisional estimates of UK farm incomes and output in 1998 0906 711 0397
- Forecast of total income from farming (*end of November*)
- Autumn review of hill farms in the UK: Farm income forecasts for 1998/99
- Summary of returns made by bacon factories in Great Britain 0906 711 0351
- Quarterly supplies and total for domestic usage of meat in the UK 0906 711 0352
- Quarterly pig statistics 0906 711 0356
- UK poultry and poultrymeat (*monthly*) 0906 711 0357
- UK slaughter statistics 0906 711 0360
- Utilisation of milk by dairies in England and Wales 0906 711 0366
- Production of processed milk in the UK 0906 711 0363
- Summary of UK milk prices 0906 711 0364
- UK egg market (*monthly*) 0906 711 0370
- Wheat milled and flour production – UK 0906 711 0374
- Wheat milled and flour production – Regional summary 0906 711 0375
- Stocks of cereals held at ports and by agricultural co-operatives 0906 711 0376
- Brewers, distillers and maltsters usage and stocks - UK 0906 711 0377
- Home grown apples and pears used in cider production (*annual*)
- Mushrooms, production and sales (*annual*)
- Oilseed crushed and the production of crude vegetable oil, oilcake and meal in the UK 0906 711 0380
- Output of refined vegetable and marine oils and animal fats by UK processors
- Production of margarine, other table spreads and solid cooking fats in the UK
- Animal Feedingstuffs 0906 711 0384
- Animal Feedingstuffs – summary statistics 0906 711 0385
- Stocks of selected products, in public cold stores 0906 711 0393
- National Food Survey News Release 0906 711 0395



For further information contact:

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
Statistics (Commodities and Food)  
Foss House  
Kings Pool  
1-2 Peasholme Green  
York, YO1 7PX  
Tel: 01904 455055 or GTN 5137 5055

## Prices

**Agricultural Price Indices** - a monthly Statistical Notice is available free of charge on the MAFF web site or from the address below:

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
Statistics (Censuses and Surveys) A  
Room 145  
Foss House  
Kings Pool  
1-2 Peasholme Green  
York, YO1 7PX  
Tel: 01904 455253 or GTN 5137 5253

**Agricultural Land Prices** - from Summer 1999 quarterly Statistical Notices will be available free of charge on the MAFF web site or by Faxback on 0906 711 0340.

Enquiries to:

Mr P Holmes  
Tel: 0207 270 8371  
E-mail: p.holmes@esg.maff.gov.uk

## National Food Survey

Household food consumption and expenditure; nutritional value of household food - the latest Quarterly Statistical News Release is available on

the MAFF web site. More detailed data (on subscription) are available from:

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
Statistics (Commodities & Food) E  
Room 513  
Whitehall Place (West Block)  
London, SW1A 2HH  
Tel: 0207 270 8562/3 or GTN 270 8562/3  
E-mail: f.amos@esg.maff.gov.uk

## OTHER INFORMATION

### Analyses of June Census Data

**Region and County Results:** Detailed results of the June 1997 Agricultural and Horticultural Census for England and Wales showing crops, labour, livestock and horticulture. Also available free of charge on the MAFF web site.

**Frequency Distributions:** Results of the June 1997 Agricultural and Horticultural Census for England and Wales showing frequency distributions of holdings and items by item size groups. Also available free of charge on the MAFF web site.

**Small Area Statistics:** Results of the June 1997 Agricultural and Horticultural Census 1988 to 1997, by Parish Groups, Agricultural Districts and Local Government Districts. Charges will be made for Small Area Statistics where the order exceeds £40.00 in total.

Additional data from the *June Agricultural and Horticultural Census* are available on an ad-hoc basis to suit individual requirements. There will be a charge for this service based on staff time. Enquiries to the address below or tel: 01904 455312.



The above are available from:

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
Publications and Output Section  
Statistics (C&S) A  
Room 133a  
Foss House  
Kings Pool  
1-2 Peasholme Green  
York, YO1 7PX  
Tel: 01904 455332 or GTN: 5137 5332  
Fax: 01904 455315 or GTN: 5137 5315

MAFF web site: [www.maff.gov.uk](http://www.maff.gov.uk)

## NORTHERN IRELAND DEPARTMENTS

### CENTRAL SURVEY UNIT

#### New Publication

#### Community Attitudes Survey Sixth Report (NISRA Occasional Paper No. 10)

Price £6, ISBN 1 899203 28 1

A continuous survey of public attitudes and views on crime, law and order and policing issues.

Available from:

Central Survey Unit  
Londonderry House  
21-27 Chichester Street  
Belfast, BT1 4SX  
Tel: 02890 252517  
Fax: 02890 252534

## DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Northern Ireland Self-employment in the 1990s

An analysis of the changes in self-employment in the 1990s from the Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey.

Available free of charge from:

Owen Johnston  
Statistics Research Branch  
DED  
Massey Avenue  
Belfast, BT4 2JP  
Tel: 02890 529585  
E-mail: [owen.johnston@dedni.gov.uk](mailto:owen.johnston@dedni.gov.uk)

### Northern Ireland facts and figures from the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR)

Information on Northern Ireland businesses whose details are held on the register; for example, how many there are, what they do and how many people they employ.

Available free of charge from:

Ian Gallagher  
Statistics Research Branch  
DED  
Massey Avenue  
Belfast, BT4 2JP  
Tel: 02890 529430  
E-mail: [ian.gallagher@dedni.gov.uk](mailto:ian.gallagher@dedni.gov.uk)



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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION NORTHERN IRELAND

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### Press Releases

- Enrolments at Schools in Northern Ireland 1998/99;
- Pupil:Teacher Ratios in Grant Aided Schools in Northern Ireland 1998/99.

Available free of charge from:

Statistics and Research Branch  
Department of Education Northern Ireland  
Rathgael House  
Balloo Road  
Bangor, BT19 7PR

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

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### New Bulletins

#### **Northern Ireland Housing and Construction Bulletin (1st October – 31st December 1998)**

Price: Free

#### **Compilation of Northern Ireland Housing and Construction Statistics**

Contains data on new house sales and prices, housing starts and construction activity.

#### **Northern Ireland Road and Rail Transport Statistics Bulletin (1st October – 31st December 1998)**

Price: Free

#### **Compilation of Northern Ireland Road and Rail Transport Statistics**

Contains data on: new vehicle and car registrations, vehicle and driver testing, road traffic injury accidents, use of public transport and deliveries of petroleum for use in Northern Ireland.

Available from:

Central Statistics and Research Branch  
Department of the Environment (NI)  
Room 609, Clarence Court  
10 -18 Adelaide Street  
Belfast, BT2 8GB.  
Tel: 02890 540800/1  
Fax: 02890 540782  
E-mail: csrb.doe@nics.gov.uk

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## DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

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### New Publication

#### **Ecstasy Use in Northern Ireland: A Qualitative Study**

The Stationery Office  
Price £15, ISBN 0 11 497255 9

This report, by Karen McElrath and Kieran McEvoy from the Queen's University of Belfast, summarises the findings of a qualitative study of Ecstasy and other drug users in Northern Ireland. The study, which took a year and a half to complete, involved face-to-face in-depth interviews with approximately 100 current and former Ecstasy users. Supplementary data were collected through observations in dance and club venues across Northern Ireland. This is the first time such methods have been used to undertake research into Ecstasy, or other drug use, in Northern Ireland.



The report also contains a series of challenging recommendations for policy and practice relating to areas such as: health promotion, the workplace, safer dancing practices and driving.

The research was funded by the Central Co-ordinating Group on Action Against Drugs (CCGAAD). This is a multi-agency drugs policy group - headed by the Minister of State, Mr Adam Ingram - whose role is to secure a co-ordinated approach (by Government Departments, and statutory and voluntary organisations) to tackling drug misuse. The findings of the research and the recommendations are those of the authors.

Available from:

The Stationery Office Bookshop  
16 Arthur Street  
Belfast, BT1 4GD  
Tel: 02890 238451

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## GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE (NORTHERN IRELAND)

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### New Publications

#### **Quarterly Report of the Registrar General for Northern Ireland, July - September 1998**

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#### **Quarterly Report of the Registrar General for Northern Ireland, October - December 1998**

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These reports detail births, stillbirths and selected causes of death for each District Council Area. Deaths by cause, sex and age group for Northern Ireland as a whole are also provided.

Available free of charge from:

General Register Office (Northern Ireland)  
Oxford House  
49-55 Chichester Street  
Belfast, BT1 4HL  
Tel: 02890 252032  
Fax: 02890 252044



# SURVEYS NOTIFIED TO NORTHERN IRELAND SURVEY CONTROL UNIT MARCH TO MAY 1999

*For further information about the surveys listed, contact Máire Rodgers, Survey Control Unit, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, Arches Centre, 11-13 Bloomfield Avenue, Belfast, BT5 5HD. Tel: 02890 526972.*

Title	Department	Those Approached	Approximate number approached	Frequency
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### Surveys to Business

Background Education and Training Needs of the Horticulture Industry	DANI	Businesses who employ people to carry out Horticultural Work	3,000	AH
Policy Evaluation of IDB's Selective Financial Assistance Scheme	DED/IDB	Client companies of IDB	100	AH
NITB Customer Services Survey	DED	NITB Client Companies	1,500	AH
Waste Arisings Database	DoE	District Councils, Industry and Waste Industry	455	R
Careers Guidance	DENI	Secondary level schools with 6th forms	60	AH

### Surveys to Households and Individuals

Selection Project	DENI	Parents of children Y7 - Y12	2,000	AH
Careers Guidance: Survey of Pupils	DENI	Pupils in Y12 and Y14 at school	2,000	AH
Continuous Tenant Omnibus Survey 1999/2000	DoE/NIHE	NIHE Tenants	3,700	R
Survey of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)	DoE/NIHE	Adults living in HMOs	200	AH

### Abbreviations

Departments	DED	Department of Economic Development
	DENI	Department of Education for Northern Ireland
	DoE	Department of the Environment
	IDB	Industrial Development Board
	NIHE	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
	NITB	Northern Ireland Tourist Board

Frequency	AH	Ad Hoc
	R	Regular

Location      All surveys were carried out in Northern Ireland.



**THE SCOTTISH OFFICE EDUCATION  
AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT  
EDUCATION STATISTICS DIVISION**

**News Releases**

**School Meals in Education Authority Schools  
1998-99**

Contains tables on topics such as Number and Percentage of pupils being recorded as being entitled to free meals by sector, Pupils present taking meals by sector, Number and Percentage of pupils recorded as being entitled to free meals by education authority and sector and Pupils present taking meals, by education authority.

The main points contained within this news release include the following:

- At January 1999, 22 per cent of primary pupils and 17 per cent of secondary pupils were recorded as being entitled to free meals in education authority schools, marginally less than in the previous year.
- Over 46 per cent of the 671,300 pupils present on census day took school meals in 1998-99. This compares with just fewer than 47 per cent of pupils present in 1997-98.
- In primary schools, 47 per cent of pupils were taking school meals on census day in 1998-99. Within secondary schools, the percentage of pupils taking meals in 1998-99 was just under 45 per cent, one percentage point more than in 1997-98.
- Actual uptake of free meals amongst pupils present on census day (16 per cent) was lower than the recorded level of entitlement of pupils on the register (21 per cent).

- Glasgow City had the highest percentage (just under 44 per cent) of pupils recorded as being entitled to free meals compared to Aberdeenshire who had the lowest at 6 per cent.

**Placing Requests in Education Authority  
Schools in Scotland, 1987-88 to 1997-98**

Contains tables on topics such as Placing requests received and granted, Placing requests received and granted, by type, Placing requests, by type and outcome, Placing requests received as a percentage of the relevant stage roll and Placing requests refused, by reason for refusal. The main points contained within this news release include the following:

- The total number of placing requests received in 1997-98 was 31,515, a decrease of 2.4 per cent on the 1996-97 figure, but 31 per cent more than in 1987-88. Of these, 20,261 were for primary (including 415 early entry requests), 11,248 were for secondary and 6 were for special schools.
- In 1997-98, 85.7 per cent of all requests were granted. For primary, 23.1 per cent of early entry and 90.4 per cent of other primary requests were granted. In secondary, 79.7 per cent of requests were successful.
- Placing requests received in 1997-98 for stage P1 (excluding early entry) and stage S1 represented 20.7 and 12.6 per cent respectively of the pupil rolls at these stages.
- Accommodation constraints was the reason for refusal reported in almost three-quarters of primary (excluding early entry) and two-thirds of secondary requests which were refused. The continuity of the child's education was cited as a factor in more than half of S2-S6 requests which were refused.



Copies of the above News Releases and further information can be obtained from:

Brenda McClelland  
Education Statistics: Schools  
The Scottish Office Education and Industry  
Department  
Area 1A-West  
Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ  
Tel: 0131 244 0315  
Fax: 0131 244 0354  
E-mail: [brenda.mcclelland@scotland.gov.uk](mailto:brenda.mcclelland@scotland.gov.uk)

The news releases can also be found on the Scottish Office Web site.

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## **THE SCOTTISH OFFICE HOME DEPARTMENT SOCIAL WORK SERVICES GROUP - STATISTICS**

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### **New Information Notes**

#### **Information on Adoption Applications and Freeing Orders: Scotland, 31st December 1996, 1997 and 1998**

Contains tables on topics such as the number of adoption applications by sex and the average age of children for whom applications for adoption were made. The main points contained within this information note include the following:

- In the year to December 1998 there were 469 adoption applications and 89 freeing applications.
- The average age of children for whom adoption applications were made was just under seven years.
- In most years around half of the adoption applications are by a birth parent and a step parent of the child.

For further information contact:

Alan Fleming  
Social Work Services Group - Statistics  
The Scottish Office Home Department  
Room 52  
James Craig Walk  
Edinburgh, EH1 3BA  
Tel: 0131 244 3745  
Fax: 0131 244 5315  
E-mail: [alan.fleming@scotland.gov.uk](mailto:alan.fleming@scotland.gov.uk)

The information note can be found on the Scottish Office Web site.

#### **Social Work Day-care Services for Children in Scotland, November**

Contains tables on topics such as the number of children attending day-care facilities, the number of places available and the number of adults involved in the day-care of children. The main points contained within this information note include the following:

- Around 113,000 children under the age of eight attended day-care facilities in Scotland in the week beginning November 17, 1997.
- There were around 91,000 term-time places available in day-care facilities.
- Over 24,000 adults were involved in the day-care of children under eight years of age, 93 per cent of who were female.

For further information contact Alan Fleming, address above. The information note can be found on the Scottish Office Web site.



## **Non-Residential Community Care, Scotland 1998**

Contains tables on topics such as the number of day centres, number of places and clients attending day centres, staffing of day centres, and the number of home care clients and hours of service received. The main points contained within this information note include the following:

- In 1998 there were 585 day care facilities in Scotland, 543 of which were in use with over 4 places each, providing a total of 19,987 places in the week ending 29 March 1998.
- There were an estimated 79,519 clients who received a home care service provided or purchased by a local authority in the week containing 31 March 1998.
- A total of 734 lunch clubs serving a total of 1,386,000 meals were reported in the year to 31 March 1998.
- An estimated 24 persons per 1,000 aged over 65 were reported to have received a meal through the meals-on wheels service.

For further information contact:

Jeanie Whyte  
Social Work Services Group - Statistics  
The Scottish Office Home Department  
Room 52  
James Craig Walk  
Edinburgh, EH1 3BA  
Tel: 0131 244 5432  
Fax: 0131 244 5315  
E-mail: [jeanie.whyte@scotland.gov.uk](mailto:jeanie.whyte@scotland.gov.uk)

The information note can also be found on the Scottish Office Web site.

## **DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT EAS7: HOUSING STATISTICS UNIT**

### **New Bulletin**

### **Housing Trends in Scotland: Quarters Ended 30 June and 30 September 1998 Statistical Bulletin**

The Stationery Office  
Price £2, ISBN 0 7480 8145 3

Contains tables on topics such as operation of the homeless persons legislation, new housebuilding, dwellings below the tolerable standard, sales of public authority dwellings, improvement of dwellings, quarterly rent officer statistics. The main points contained within this bulletin include the following:

- There were 9,900 new dwellings completed in the second and third quarters of 1998, a decrease of about 1,000 on the total for the same two quarters in 1997.
- There were 6,400 sales to sitting tenants in the second and third quarters of 1998, a decrease of about 2,000 on the total for the same two quarters in 1997.
- Local authority estimates give a total of some 73,600 dwellings below the Tolerable Standard (BTS) at March 1998, almost 4,700 less than the estimated total for 1997. The total of the local authority estimates is significantly higher than the estimate of 27,000 for 1996 provided by the Scottish House Condition Survey.
- During 1997-98, a total of just over 43,100 households applied to local authorities under the homeless persons legislation, an increase of around 2,100 on the number of



applications in 1996-97. Local authorities have reported 11,600 and 11,500 applications during the first and second quarters of 1998-99. In 1996-97 local authorities assessed 75 per cent of applications as homeless or potentially homeless, and determined that 41 per cent of applicant households had a priority need. Information on the assessments made, and action taken, by local authorities with regard to the 1997-98 applications will be available later in the year.

For further information contact:

Deborah Pegg  
EAS7: Housing Statistics Unit  
The Scottish Office Development  
Department  
Area 1-G24  
Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ  
Tel: 0131 244 7235  
Fax: 0131 244 0446  
E-mail: [deborah.pegg@scotland.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.pegg@scotland.gov.uk)

The bulletin may be purchased from The Stationery Office or found on the Scottish Office Web site.

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## **SCOTTISH OFFICE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT EAS 2: TRANSPORT STATISTICS**

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### **New Statistical Bulletin**

#### **Key 1998 Road Accident Statistics**

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The Stationery Office  
Price £2, ISBN 0 7480 8610 2

Contains tables on topics such as the numbers of accidents and casualties by severity, casualties by

type of road, casualties by mode of transport, and child casualties, including trends in recent years. Also includes comments on points shown in the tables, and some notes on the definitions and sources of the statistics, which were compiled from returns made by police forces. The main points contained within this bulletin include the following:

- 385 people were killed on Scotland's roads - eight more than 1997.
- The number of child casualties resulting from road accidents fell by 259 to 3,539.
- 4,067 people were seriously injured - the third lowest figure since 1950 and 51 per cent below the 1981-85 average.
- accidents in non-built-up areas accounted for two-thirds of fatalities but only two-fifths of total casualties, presumably because average speeds are higher on such roads.

For further information contact:

Martin Bolt  
EAS2: Transport Statistics  
Development Department  
Area 1-F  
Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ  
Tel: 0131 244 7255  
Fax: 0131 244 0888  
E-mail: [transtat@scotland.gov.uk](mailto:transtat@scotland.gov.uk)

The bulletin may be purchased from The Stationery Office or found on the Scottish Office Web site.



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**THE SCOTTISH OFFICE HOME  
DEPARTMENT CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
DIVISION**

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**New Statistical Bulletins**

**Recorded Crime In Scotland, 1998**

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The Stationery Office  
Price £2, ISBN 0 7480 7792 8

Contains statistics on topics such as crimes and offences recorded by the police, crimes and offences cleared up by the police, number of crimes recorded by police force area, number of crimes recorded by council area and the Scottish Crime Survey. The main points contained within this bulletin include the following:

- The Scottish police recorded 432,000 crimes and 516,000 offences during 1998; increases of three and six per cent respectively when compared with the 1997 figures.
- This most recent increase in recorded crime reverses the downward trend evident since 1992. However the level of total recorded crime in 1998 was 25 per cent lower than the peak 1991 figure.
- The number of non-sexual crimes of violence recorded by the police increased by 10 per cent in 1998 in contrast to a similar decrease the previous year. Within this group all the categories showed an increase; the largest percentage increase was in the number of crimes of 'handling an offensive weapon' (13 per cent).
- The number of crimes in the indecency group increased by four per cent in 1998 to 7,400, the highest number recorded since 1971. Within this group recorded cases of sexual assault - which includes rape and indecent assault - increased by nine per cent to total

2,200 whilst the number of crimes of lewd and indecent behaviour decreased by 2 per cent to total 3,000 in 1998. The number of crimes recorded in the 'other' sub-group increased by seven per cent (151 cases) to 2,300 and was mainly as a result of an increase in prostitution related offences.

- The overall increase in recorded crime in 1998 was due almost entirely to an increase in the number of *crimes of dishonesty* (up three per cent). In particular, the number of crimes of theft by opening a lockfast place, which increased by 26 per cent (2,500) to total 12,200 and fraud, which increased by 18 per cent (2,900). The housebreaking figure (56,600) increased by two per cent in 1998 but remains at less than half the number recorded in 1991 when the figure stood at 116,100. Crimes involving theft of a motor vehicle continue to fall and numbered 28,400 in 1998.
- Recorded cases of *vandalism* (including malicious mischief) decreased by two per cent (1,600) to total 76,600 in 1998 and the number of crimes of *fire-raising* fell by 10 per cent to total 2,500 in 1998.
- Within the 'other crimes' groups, recorded drugs related crimes increased by 7 per cent from 29,400 in 1997 to 31,500 in 1998 and were more than four times the number recorded in 1989.
- The crime *clear-up rate* rose from 39 per cent in 1997 to 41 per cent in 1998. The number of crimes cleared up by the police increased significantly from 164,000 in 1997 to 178,000 in 1998, an increase of eight per cent. There were increases in the clear-up rate for almost all individual categories of crimes and offences. For each police officer in the eight Scottish forces, 29 crimes were recorded and 12 were cleared up in 1998. The number of crimes cleared up per police officer has remained fairly constant at 11 or 12 during the 1990s.



For further information contact:

Gary Hunter  
Civil and Criminal Justice Statistics Unit -  
Branch 2  
The Scottish Office Home Department  
W1(C) Spur  
Saughton House  
Broomhouse Drive  
Edinburgh, EH11 3XD  
Tel: 0131 244 2225  
Fax: 0131 244 2286  
E-mail: gary.hunter@scotland.gov.uk

### **Motor Vehicle Offences In Scotland, 1997**

The Stationery Office  
Price £2, ISBN 0 7480 7790 1

Contains statistics on topics such as motor vehicle offences recorded by the police, alternatives to prosecution, offences and persons proceeded in court, offences proceeded against in court by result (including fines and disqualifications) and police fixed penalties for stationary vehicle offences. The main points contained within this bulletin include the following:

- The total number of motor vehicle offences recorded by the police in 1997 was 331,000, an increase of eight per cent compared with 1996 and 36 per cent of all crimes and offences recorded by the police.
- In 1997 the number of tachograph etc offences recorded more than doubled to 8,400, while there were also marked increases for speeding in restricted areas (up 20 per cent to 60,600), lighting offences (up 20 per cent to 24,900) and seat belt offences (up 14 per cent to 28,300). Decreases were recorded in

the number of offences of dangerous and careless driving (down six per cent to 16,300), drunk driving (down five per cent to 11,200) and driving while disqualified (down three per cent to 4,200).

- In 1997 the police made 123,600 conditional offers of a fixed penalty, 300 less than in 1996.
- An estimated total of 24,000 offences were dealt with by the vehicle defect rectification scheme in 1997, marginally below the 1996 total of 24,600.
- Of those speeding offences which were subject to a police conditional offer in 1997, the proportion that were automatically detected increased to 36 per cent for offences of speeding in restricted areas and to 45 per cent for other speeding offences.
- The number of motor vehicle offences proceeded against in court in 1997 was 98,900, marginally above the 1996 total of 98,500 but more than 10 per cent below the annual average recorded between 1987 and 1995. The number of persons proceeded against for at least one motor vehicle offence was 64,600, one per cent more than in 1996.
- For 87 per cent of offences proceeded against in 1997, the charge was proved or accepted. A fine was the most common penalty, imposed for 81 per cent of charges proved or accepted. In addition to the main penalty imposed, 27 per cent of convictions for offences resulted in disqualification from driving and a further 37 per cent in an endorsement of the offender's driving licence.
- A total of 438,700 fixed penalty notices were issued for stationary vehicle offences in 1997, 69 per cent of which were for illegal parking and 22 per cent for failing to display a road tax disk.



For further information contact:

Fred Thorne  
Civil and Criminal Justice Statistics Unit -  
Branch 1  
The Scottish Office Home Department  
W1(C) Spur  
Saughton House  
Broomhouse Drive  
Edinburgh, EH11 3XD  
Tel: 0131 244 2227  
Fax: 0131 244 2286  
E-mail: fred.thorne@scotland.gov.uk

Copies of each of the above bulletins may be purchased from The Stationery Office or found on the Scottish Office Web site.

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## **DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT ECONOMIC ADVICE AND STATISTICS 5**

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### **New Bulletin**

#### **Joint Staffing Watch – December 1998 Report**

Contains tables on topics such as the total number of staff employed in Scottish local authorities, broken down by gender, full-time/part-time status, and local authority service. It also provides detailed information on the number of FTE staff, broken down by salary band, local authority service, and local authority area. The survey is conducted on a quarterly basis (March, June, September, and December). The main points contained within this bulletin include the following:

- There were 234,320 full-time Equivalent (FTE) staff employed in Scottish local authorities in December 1998.

- This was a decrease of 1,418 FTEs compared with December 1997.
- This was also 228 FTEs less than in September 1998. This quarterly change includes seasonal effects.
- The new Joint Staffing Watch survey is released jointly by The Scottish Office and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), and began in 1996.

For further information contact:

Fiona Watt  
Economic Advice and Statistics 5  
Development Department  
Room 1-G10  
Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ  
Tel: 0131 244 0445 (GTN 7188 40445)  
Fax: 0131 244 0446 (GTN 7188 40446)  
E-mail: fiona.m.watt@scotland.gov.uk

The bulletin can also be found on the Scottish Office Web site.

Copies of all of the above Scottish Office publications may be purchased from:

The Stationery Office Bookshop  
71 Lothian Road  
Edinburgh, EH3 9AZ  
Tel: 0131 228 4181  
Fax: 0131 622 7017

Or found on the Scottish Office Web site:

[www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)



### BANK OF ENGLAND

#### INFLATION REPORT

The *Inflation Report* reviews developments in the UK economy and assesses the outlook for UK inflation over the next two years in relation to the inflation target. The *Report* starts with a short overview section; the second section investigates money and financial markets, and the following three sections examine demand and output, the labour market and pricing behaviour respectively. The concluding sections present a summary of monetary policy since the February *Report*, an assessment of medium-term inflation prospects and risks, and information about non-Bank forecasts.

#### QUARTERLY BULLETIN

##### Articles

**Monetary policy and the yield curve** (by Andrew Haldane of the Bank's International Finance Division and Vicky Read of the Bank's Foreign Exchange Division). This article examines and interprets movements in the yield curve at the time of changes in monetary policy. These responses provide a measure of the degree of transparency and credibility of a monetary regime. There is evidence of yield-curve responses having been dampened since the introduction of inflation targeting in the United Kingdom in 1992 - consistent with greater transparency and credibility of this monetary regime.

**The Bank's use of survey data** (by Erik Britton of the Bank's Structural Economic Analysis Division,

and Joanne Cutler and Andrew Wardlow of the Bank's Conjunctural Assessment and Projections Division). The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has access to around thirty 'state-of-trade' surveys, containing hundreds of difference pieces of information. This article provides a brief outline of how surveys are used to inform the MPC's economic assessment and policy decisions, describing the techniques employed to compare surveys with official data, and to extract the 'news' from surveys.

**Monetary policy and uncertainty** (by Nicoletta Batini, Ben Martin and Chris Salmon of the Bank's Monetary Assessment and Strategy Division). This article describes various types of uncertainty that policy-makers may face. It summarises analysis, including recent work by Bank staff that shows how different forms of uncertainty could lead to different policy responses.

**An effective exchange rate index for the Euro area** (by Roy Cromb of the Bank's Structural Economic Analysis Division). Since 11th May, the Bank of England has published a daily effective exchange rate index for the Euro area. The index is calculated using close-of-business rates in London and is compiled on the basis developed and used by the International Monetary Fund. This article describes the calculation of the index since the initial value of the Euro was set on 31st December 1998, and also for the preceding period. The index is calculated, using 1990 as a base year, by weighting together the individual exchange rates of the eleven Euro-area countries against non Euro area currencies; so it represents an effective index for the eleven countries as a group, rather than for the Euro as a currency. The article compares the Bank's Euro-area index



with recent movements of the Euro against the US dollar, sterling, the Japanese yen and the Swiss franc; with the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) index provisionally used by the European Central Bank (ECB); and with the IMF's 'broad' Euro-area index, which has a greater country coverage. It also notes how the introduction of the Euro has affected the exchange rate indices for individual countries.

**The financing of small firms in the United Kingdom** *(by Melanie Lund and Jane Wright of the Bank's Domestic Finance Division).*

Economists have often argued that imperfections in the financing of small firms arise because of information asymmetries: the small business owner generally has much better information than the bank on his firm's performance. This is fundamentally different from the situation with large companies. This article examines the developments over the past decade in the financing of small businesses in the United Kingdom. It notes the sector's reduced dependence on external funds and increased use of a range of financing products. The article also assesses the current risks faced by the small firms

sector and its providers of finance. This suggests that this sector is now more resilient to a downturn in the economy than in the early 1990s, thus reducing the likelihood of a recurrence of the high levels of business failures experienced in that recession.

**Structural changes in exchange-traded markets**

*(by Claire Williamson of the Bank's Market Infrastructure Division).* This article outlines the main recent structural changes in exchange-traded markets - mergers between equity and derivatives exchanges, new international links between exchanges, and changes in exchanges' ownership structure. It analyses the factors that have prompted these developments, and reviews the implications that the changes may have for market-users, other types of infrastructure and the authorities.

For more information contact:

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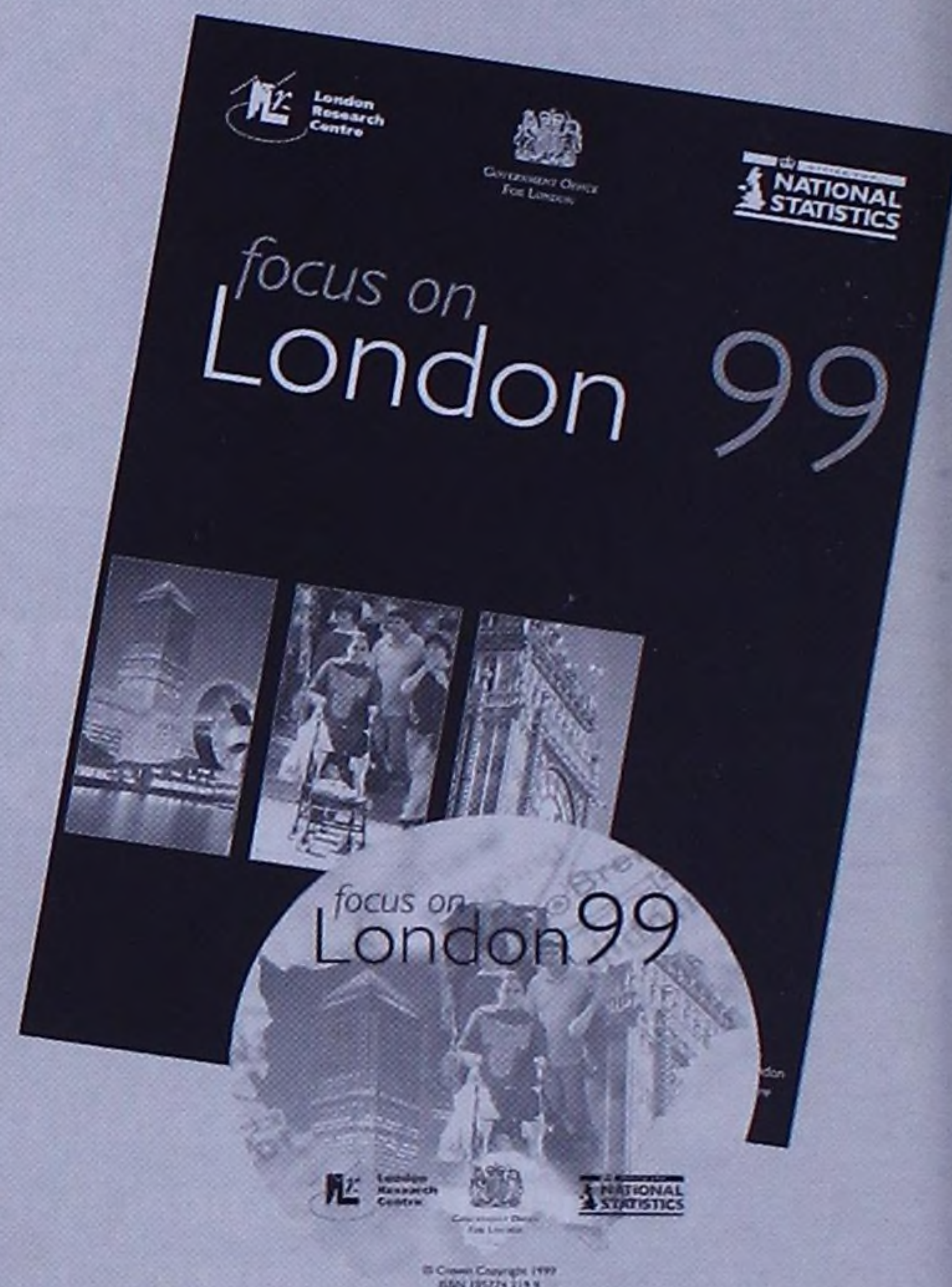
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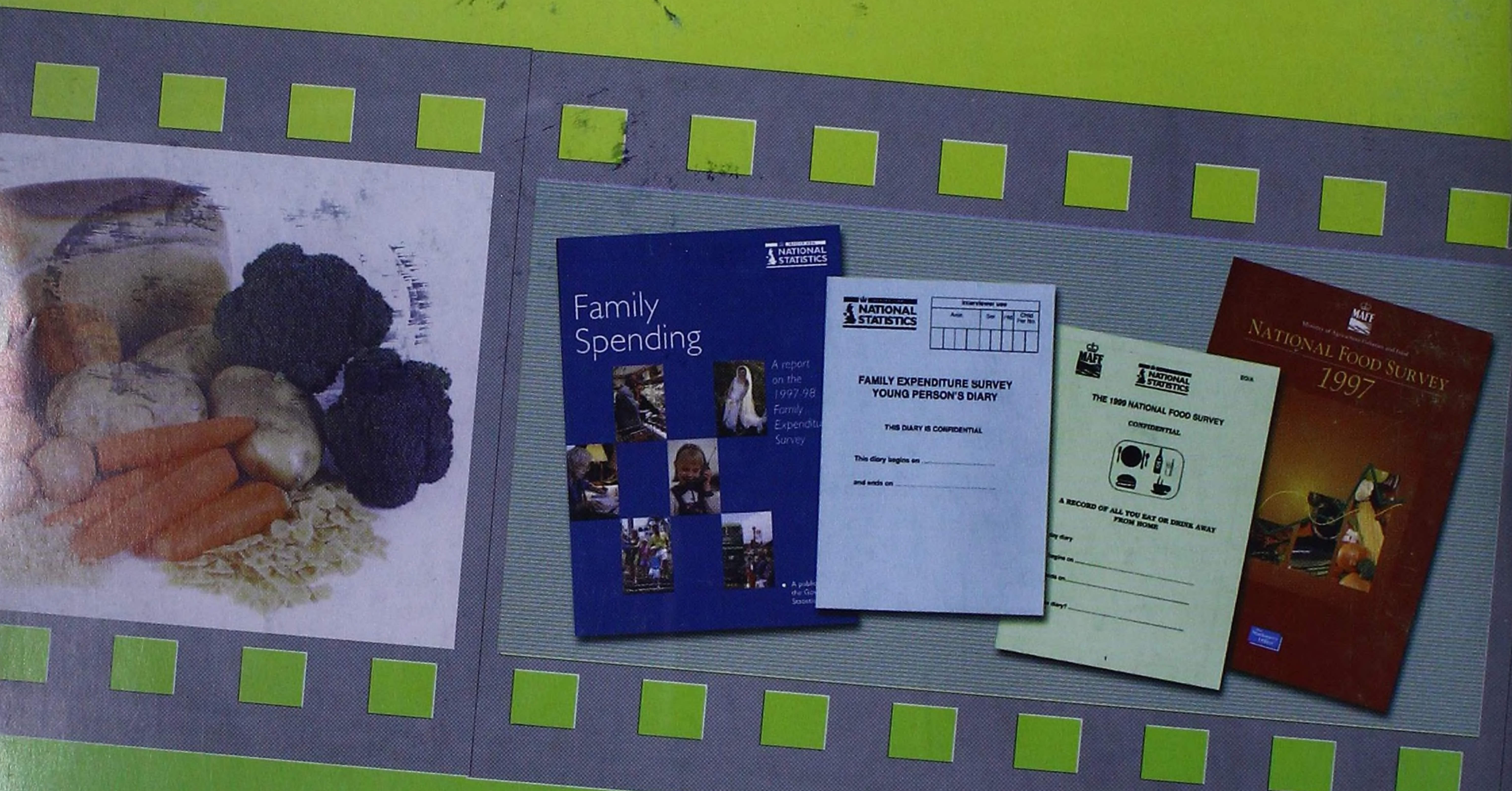
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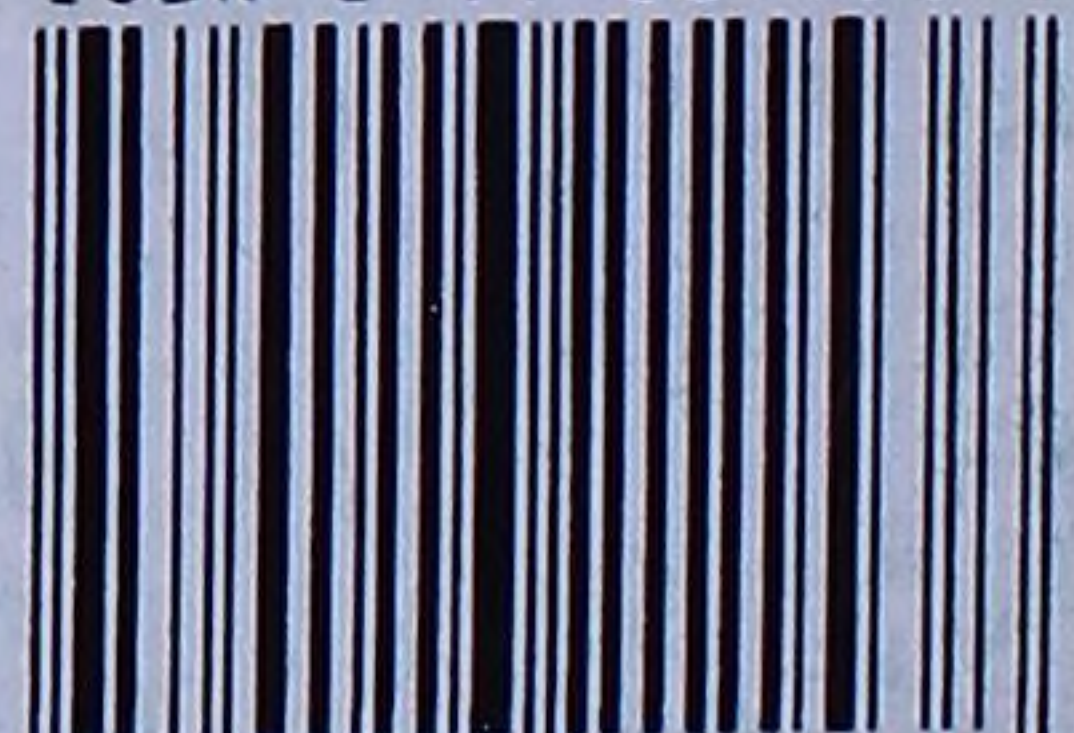
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