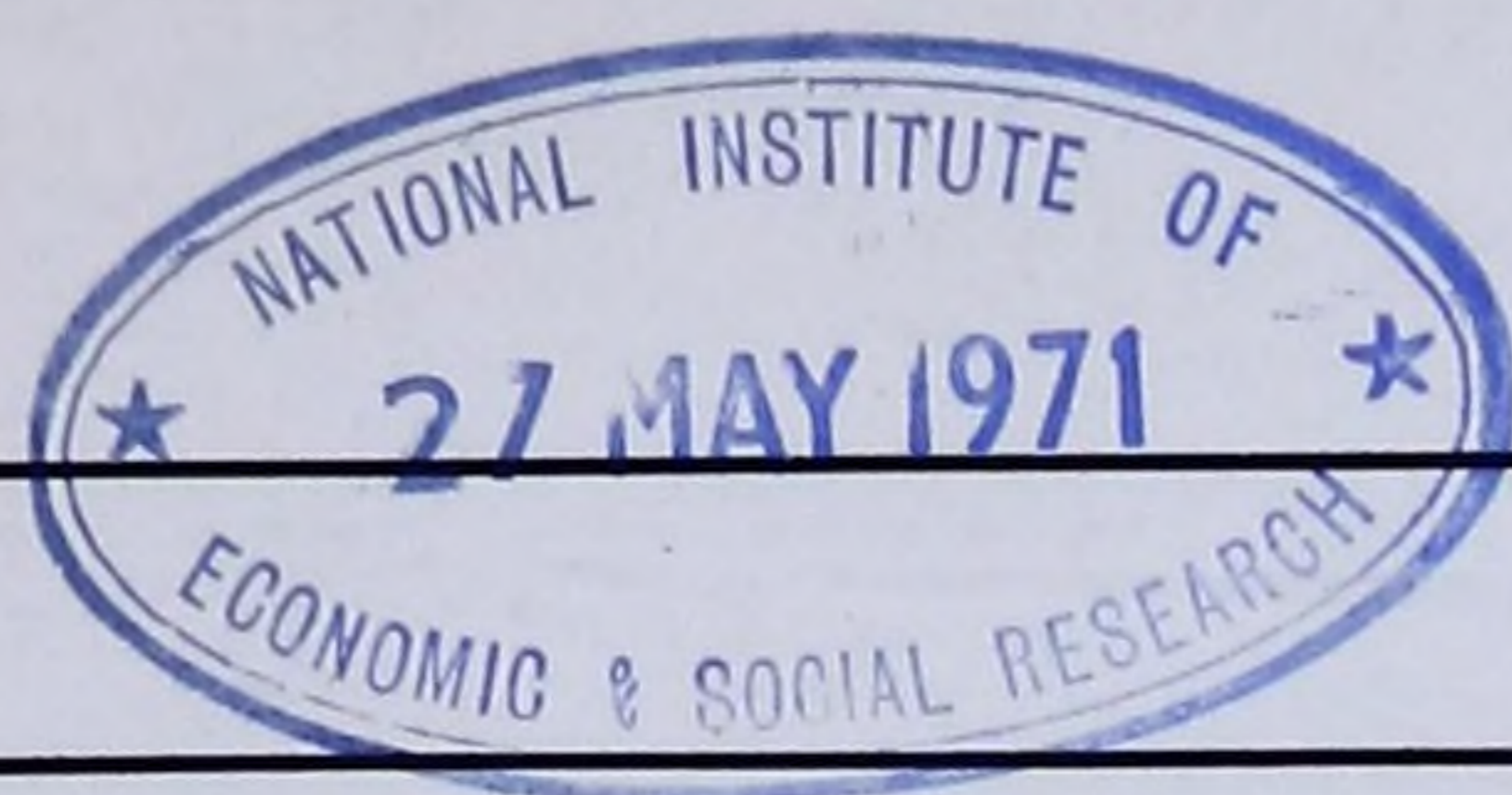


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CSO

FEBRUARY 1971

HMSO 6s 0d [30p] net

STATISTICAL NEWS

**Developments
in British Official
Statistics**

Note by the Editor

R. E. Beales

The aim of *Statistical News* is to provide a comprehensive account of current developments in British official statistics and to help all those who use or would like to use official statistics.

It appears quarterly and every issue contains two or more articles each dealing with a subject in depth. Shorter notes give news of the latest developments in many fields, including international statistics. Some reference is made to other work which, though not carried on by government organisations, is closely related to official statistics. Appointments and other changes in the Government Statistical Service are also given.

A full, cumulative index provides a permanent and comprehensive guide to developments in all areas of official statistics.

It is hoped that *Statistical News* will be of service and interest not only to professional statisticians but to everybody who uses statistics. The Editor would therefore be very glad to receive comments from readers on the adequacy of its scope, coverage or treatment of topics and their suggestions for improvement.

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Further developments in input-output statistics

Lawrence S. Berman, *Assistant Director, Central Statistical Office*

Developments in input-output statistics in the United Kingdom were previously discussed in an article published in the third issue of *Statistical News* (November 1968). It described the work being done by the Central Statistical Office, and looked forward to the completion of the detailed input-output analysis for 1963 and its publication. In the event, the basic input-output tables were completed towards the end of 1969 and the full analysis was published as a Study in Official Statistics early in 1970⁽¹⁾. The analysis extended over 22 tables and distinguished 70 separate industry and commodity groups, and included detailed make, absorption and imports matrices and industry \times industry and commodity \times commodity tables.

Once the tables for 1963 had been completed, work began on producing a set of updated and provisional input-output tables for the year 1968. Summary results of this analysis were published in the January 1971 issue of *Economic Trends*. Details are given of the transactions of 35 separate industry groups, and the figures are consistent with the National Income Blue Book for 1970. However, the tables published in *Economic Trends* represent an aggregation of a rather more detailed analysis for 70 industry and commodity groups, which corresponds very closely to the tables included in the comprehensive and firmly based input-output study for the year 1963. Sets of the 70 \times 70 tables, either in the form of computer printouts, which have been photographed, or in the form of computer readable input, are available from the CSO for a small fee.

The procedure for updating firmly based tables to a more recent year is now reasonably well established, but the particular exercise which has been carried out for 1968 was complicated by changes in the Standard Industrial Classification. Both the National Income Blue Book for 1970 and the Census of Production for 1968 are based on the 1968 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC), whereas the input-output tables for 1963 are based on the previous 1958 Classification. This meant that before the updating exercise could be carried out, the basic

tables for 1963 had to be re-classified, as far as possible, according to the later SIC. This task took about one man-year's effort and resulted in a considerable number of small adjustments being made to the original tables.

The year 1968 was chosen for this updating exercise because it is the only recent year for which estimates of the total values of output and input for manufacturing industry are available. It is also the year for which the next detailed and firmly based input-output table will be compiled. It will be interesting to see how the preliminary updated figures compare with the final figures when they emerge in due course.

In producing the updated tables, we were faced with the usual statistician's problem of deciding how much importance we should attach to reliability, and how much to timeliness and to detail. Input-output tables for the United Kingdom have been criticised because they are out of date and not sufficiently detailed; the production of updated detailed tables relatively soon after the period to which they relate is intended to meet this criticism. But it does mean that the estimates cannot be as reliable as we would like them to be. Errors arise partly because of the mechanical assumptions involved in the updating procedures (these are described in the article in the January 1971 issue of *Economic Trends*), but also because the census of production figures of total output and input for 1968 are provisional estimates and because many of the detailed estimates of final demand and primary inputs for 1968 given in, or derived from, the National Income Blue Book for 1970 are bound to be revised. Because of this, we propose to produce a 'Mark II' set of updated input-output tables later this year and include a 35 \times 35 industry \times industry flow table based on them in the National Income Blue Book for 1971.

The most important single source of information for the next firmly based input-output table is the Census of Production for 1968. The present programme at the Business Statistics Office is to start to publish the reports for each of the 155 industries separately distinguished in the census in the spring or early summer 1971, and

⁽¹⁾ *Input-Output Tables for the United Kingdom, 1963*; Studies in Official Statistics No. 16 (HMSO) March 1970.

complete their publication within about 12 months. Given this timetable, the detailed and firmly based input-output tables for 1968 should be completed about the end of 1972, which would represent a considerable speed up compared with the tables published for 1963.

On present plans, the tables for 1968 will be very similar in form to those published for 1963, but they will be rather more detailed. The proposed classification of industry and commodity groups for the 1968 input-output tables is set out at the end of this article. It is planned to distinguish 92 separate industry and commodity groups, of which 75 are within manufacturing industry, compared with 57 in the 1963 study. The general aim is to distinguish each minimum list heading separately unless there are good reasons for not doing so. For example, when they are small, or of little general interest, or when the great bulk of their output goes direct to final demand, or where there are particularly difficult estimation problems. The industry classification outside manufacturing will be very much the same as for 1963, because of the lack of information about inputs into the services industries. The degree of detail which it is proposed to show, at least for industrial production, is considered to be more than adequate to satisfy the government's own statistical requirements.

In the article on input-output published in *Statistical News* No. 3, reference was made to the need for reclassifying the input-output tables for 1954, so that comparisons might be made with the tables for 1963. (The 1954 tables are based on the original 1948 SIC whereas the 1963 tables follow the 1958 classification.) The Department of Applied Economics, Cambridge, with the aid of finance provided by the Central Statistical Office, has taken on the major task of stretching and reclassifying the input-output tables for 1954 so that they are, as far as possible, comparable with the tables for 1963. In this work they are using only published or aggregated information. The results of their analysis will be available soon. Unfortunately, these tables will not be directly comparable with the 1968 tables, which are on the 1968 SIC. But because we have re-worked the 1963 tables according to the 1968 SIC and have developed a 1958-1968 Standard Industrial Classification converter, it should be possible to devise a scheme for comparing the 1954, 1963 and 1968 tables. However, as the original calculations will have been based on data obtained from establishments originally classified in different ways, any analysis of changes in technical coefficients over the three years will have to be treated with more than the usual caution.

Plans for the future

Our most important and immediate objective, of course,

is to produce the detailed and firmly based 1968 input-output table as quickly as possible. As has been indicated already, revised (Mark II) updated tables will be available later this year on a basis consistent with the National Income Blue Book for 1971, and the final firmly based tables should be available about the end of 1972. In the meanwhile progress will also be made on a number of other fronts.

One interesting project, which has been completed as an integral part of the updating exercise for 1968, is the construction of an investment matrix for 1963. This provides an analysis by commodity group of the capital expenditure of about 30 separate industry groups. In terms of the 1963 study it provides an industrial dimension to column 77 of Table B. The investment matrix, which is necessarily very approximate, is designed to meet the criticism that the input-output flow tables do not provide any guide to the extent to which the capital goods producing industries are dependent on other industries for their sales. The matrix has other uses too. It provided the statistical framework for calculating the column for gross fixed capital formation in the updated input-output tables for 1968. Also, it will provide the basis for relating capital formation and capital goods output in medium term projection exercises. The investment matrices for 1963 and 1968 will be published shortly in an article by Mr. M. J. Green in *Economic Trends*.

An article in the May 1970 issue of *Economic Trends* provided detailed figures showing the extent to which each of 70 industries was directly and indirectly dependent on each form of final demand, and also the direct and indirect import contents of each industry's output. The figures related to the year 1963. Similar figures will be calculated for the year 1968 based on the preliminary but detailed input-output tables for 1968. In addition, it is proposed to describe in an article in *Economic Trends* the results of a special survey carried out for 1968/69 and 1969/70, which provided a detailed analysis of central government current expenditure on goods and services analysed by commodity group.

Looking further ahead, another project is to revalue the 1968 input-output tables at 1963 prices. This is an area of work in which the CSO has had no experience so far, but we can foresee many practical data problems. If these can be overcome, it should enable comparisons to be made of technical coefficients in 1963 and 1968 at 1963 prices. Also, it would permit the calculation of double-deflated estimates of net output, which could then be compared with estimates of changes in output based on the Index of Industrial Production and its components.

From 1970 onwards there is to be an annual census of (industrial) production giving details of total sales, total purchases, wages and salaries, changes in stocks and work in progress and certain other data necessary to compile census net output and gross output. This new annual census, together with the new quarterly production inquiries, which are gradually being introduced, will make it possible to produce updated input-output tables annually for 1970 onwards. They will also facilitate the calculation of constant price tables. On present plans, the next comprehensive inquiry into goods and services purchased by manufacturing industries will take place in respect of the year 1973. It will, therefore, be possible to construct a new set of firmly based input-output tables for that year, which in turn will provide the bench-mark for updated tables for subsequent years.

In the previous article on developments in input-output statistics I noted that 'If people are interested in measuring changes in technical coefficients, there would seem to be little purpose in providing annual updated tables with, say, 30 industries. On the other hand, an annual updating of a more detailed table of the order of 70 industries would require relatively large resources and pose considerable data problems'. Extending the input-output tables to 90 industries makes the data problems more difficult. But in two ways the position today is somewhat easier. Firstly, because much of the input-output operation has now been computerised; and secondly, because a body of expertise has now been built up within the CSO. In due course, we will experiment with updating input-output tables on an annual basis. We have not yet decided on what the optimum number of industries should be; but it will not be less than 35.

Related to this exercise is that of using the new annual censuses of production, and the input-output tables derived from them, as a means of providing an independent check on the estimates of gross domestic product at current prices – that is, by using the 'commodity flow' approach to the national income accounts. But this is looking some years ahead.

The previous article on developments in input-output analysis referred to the possibility of carrying out cross-section (or micro) comparisons of technical coefficients. For example, between groups of establishments of different sizes in a selected number of industries, and over time for groups of establishments making returns in successive censuses of production. So far, no work has been done on this. Discussions with input-output statisticians in a number of the Common Market countries have suggested another related

exercise. This would be to compare the average technical coefficients for groups of establishments, which produce only the principal products of an industry, with the remaining less specialised establishments in the industry. Because of problems related to confidentiality, it might be difficult to arrange for any of these micro research projects to be carried out outside the Government Statistical Service. But because of competing claims for scarce resources there is little prospect of their being carried out within the Service in the foreseeable future.

In conclusion, it may be worth pointing out that although the CSO devotes relatively few of its own resources to input-output research and development work, the CSO, together with HM Treasury and the Social Science Research Council, is giving financial support to research in this field by the Department of Applied Economics, Cambridge. In addition, the Social Science Research Council is supporting input-output research at other academic institutions.

Classification of industry and commodity groups for the input-output tables for 1968

<i>Industry or commodity group</i>	<i>Standard Industrial Classification 1968 Minimum List Heading</i>
1. Agriculture	001
2. Forestry and fishing	002, 003
3. Coal mining	101
4. Stone, slate, chalk, sand, etc. extraction	102, 103
5. Petroleum and natural gas	104
6. Other mining and quarrying	109
7. Grain milling	211
8. Other cereal foodstuffs	212, 213, 219
9. Sugar	216
10. Cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery	217
11. Oils and fats	221
12. Other food	214, 215, 218, 229
13. Soft drinks	232
14. Alcoholic drink	231, 239
15. Tobacco	240
16. Coke ovens and manufactured fuel	261
17. Mineral oil refining, lubricating oils and greases	262, 263
18. General chemicals	271
19. Pharmaceutical chemicals and preparations	272
20. Toilet preparations	273
21. Paint	274
22. Soap and detergents	275
23. Synthetic resins, plastics materials and synthetic rubber	276
24. Dyestuffs and pigments	277
25. Fertilizers	278
26. Other chemical industries	279
27. Iron castings, etc.	313
28. Other iron and steel	311, 312
29. Aluminium and aluminium alloys	321
30. Other non-ferrous metals	322, 323
31. Agricultural machinery	331
32. Machine tools	332
33. Pumps, valves and compressors	333
34. Industrial engines	334
35. Textile machinery	335

<i>Industry or commodity group</i>	<i>Standard Industrial Classification 1968 Minimum List Heading</i>
36. Construction and mechanical handling equipment	336, 337
37. Office machinery	338
38. Other non-electrical machinery	339
39. Industrial plant and steel work	341
40. Other mechanical engineering	342, 349
41. Instrument engineering	351 to 354
42. Electrical machinery	361
43. Insulated wires and cables	362
44. Electronics and telecommunications	363 to 367
45. Domestic electrical appliances	368
46. Other electrical goods	369
47. Shipbuilding and marine engineering	370
48. Wheeled tractors	380
49. Motor vehicles	381
50. Aerospace equipment, etc.	383
51. Other vehicles	382, 384, 385
52. Engineers' small tools	390
53. Cutlery and jewellery	392, 396
54. Bolts, nuts, screws, etc.	393
55. Wire and wire manufactures	394
56. Cans and metal boxes	395
57. Other metal goods	391, 399
58. Production of man-made fibres	411
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60. Woollen and worsted	414
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62. Carpets	419
63. Household textiles and handkerchiefs	422/1
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74. Timber and miscellaneous wood manufactures	471, 474, 475, 479
75. Paper and board	481
76. Packaging products of paper, board, etc.	482
77. Other paper and board products	483, 484
78. Printing and publishing	485, 486, 489
79. Rubber	491
80. Plastics products n.e.s.	496
81. Other manufacturing	492 to 495, 499
82. Construction	500
83. Gas	601
84. Electricity	602
85. Water supply	603
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87. Road transport	702 to 704
88. Other transport	705 to 707, 709
89. Communication	708
90. Distributive trades	
91. Miscellaneous services	
92. Public administration, etc. (i.e. Public administration, defence, health and education; Domestic services, etc. to households; Ownership of dwellings.)	

Some pitfalls in the use of net output statistics

A. A. Sorrell, *Chief Statistician, Department of Trade and Industry*

Introduction

Use is increasingly being made of figures of net output in economic studies. The concept of net output originated in the Census of Production and being, within the census limits, free of duplication in the way that total sales (gross output) is not, is often used as a measure of the size of an industry or as a broad measure of its contribution to national output. Net output a head is widely used as a measure of the performance, or comparative performance, of an industry, or a group of firms – e.g. a particular size-stratum within an industry – in terms of labour ‘productivity’ or labour intensiveness. It is important to be clear that net output is not the same as the economists’ concept of ‘value added’, that is, the value added to materials by the application of the factors of production – land, labour and capital. ‘Value added’ represents the contribution of an establishment or an industry to national output, it is completely free of duplication and its sum represents total national output. Figures of value added are, however, normally available only for broad categories of activities and figures of net output are a valuable proxy for them, particularly when industrial activity is being examined in detail.

As part of the reorganisation of government industrial statistics figures of net output and net output a head will be available over the whole range of manufacturing industry annually from 1970 onwards. So far figures have been available only quinquennially from the detailed censuses of production. This greater frequency will add appreciably to the value of net output statistics and the uses to which they can be put. It is all the more important, therefore, that there should be a clear understanding of the meaning of net output and of the factors that need to be taken into account in using the figures. That is the purpose of this article.

Definition and concept

A precise description of how net output is derived from the data collected in censuses of production is given at the end of this article. It is sufficient here to define it in simple terms as the difference between the total value of sales and other receipts of an establishment or

industry and the total value of materials and fuel purchased, both adjusted for any changes in the value of stocks. This difference represents the surplus available to meet the following:

1. Labour costs (wages, salaries, National Insurance contributions, pension fund contributions)
2. Other current expenses (selling costs, rent, postage, insurance, etc.)
3. Depreciation
4. Profits.

Net output is greater than value added because purchases from other businesses and institutions (item 2 above) are not subtracted from gross output⁽¹⁾. The difference between the two concepts is important as the relative extent to which manufacturing establishments and industries purchase these services varies very considerably.

Censuses of production in this country do not collect comprehensively payments by manufacturing establishments for these services – apart from anything else, to do so would enable gross profits to be arrived at; this is not permitted by the Statistics of Trade Act, 1947, under which censuses are taken – but in most quinquennial censuses in the past figures have been collected of expenditure on a wide range of these expenses. The items collected in the 1963 and 1968 censuses are listed at the end of the article. Although not comprehensive this information enables the derivation of figures that are closer to value added and they are used, for example, in deriving, at detailed industry level, the weights for the index of industrial production.

The proportion of net output accounted for by the items of business expenses for which information is collected (part of item 2 above) varies substantially between industries and ranged in 1963 from under 4 per cent in the miscellaneous group of locomotive and railway track equipment, carriages and perambulator group of industries, to 40 per cent in soap and detergents. Over-all, they accounted for about 8 per cent of

⁽¹⁾ Interest payments are treated in the national accounts as transfer payments out of factor income and are not deducted from gross output in arriving at the contribution of an industry to national output.

net output. It is estimated that the payments not identified in the Census for 1963 accounted for approximately a further 6 per cent of net output. This proportion will vary from industry to industry but is likely to be fairly constant over time. As some of the expenses that are collected, e.g. advertising, market research, insurance premiums, are often available for businesses as a whole, and not in respect of each unit reporting separately to the censuses, figures can in a number of cases be given only for broader groups of industry than those separately distinguished in the censuses.

The table below (from the 1963 Census) shows the ten manufacturing industries where these expenses represent the lowest proportion of net output and the ten where they represent the highest proportion⁽²⁾.

It will not be practicable to collect figures of these expenses every year; however, it is proposed to do so from time to time.

Factors affecting figures of net output

Two factors particularly need to be borne in mind when using and interpreting figures of net output. First, aggregated totals are frequently made up of figures for individual units that are far from homogeneous.

(2) For the full range of figures see Tables 8 and 10 of Part 131 of the *Report on the Census of Production, 1963*.

Secondly, the range of activities carried on within the units which make separate returns to the censuses is frequently diverse and this affects net output and, particularly, net output a head.

The first factor is one which commonly besets comparisons in the field of economic statistics. Even at an apparently fine level of disaggregation, say at Minimum List Heading (MLH) level in the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC), an industry frequently encompasses fairly diverse types of activity. For example, the paper and board industry (MLH 481) includes establishments manufacturing newsprint, printing and writing papers, tissues, building board, etc. Each of these activities might well, for technical reasons, have different net/gross output relationships and different net outputs a head, irrespective of their 'efficiency'. Comparisons of net output a head between different size groupings of firms within an industry at this level at a point in time could well be affected by differences in the product mix between different size groups. Similarly, comparisons over time, for an industry as a whole, can be affected by changes in the commodity mix. For example, within the carpet industry (MLH 419) net output of woven carpets (with a low and slow-growing net output a head) increased by only 22 per cent between 1958 and 1963, while that of tufted carpets (high and fast growing net output a head) expanded nearly six fold in the same period.

TABLE 1

Industry	SIC 1958 MLH	Net output £ million	Payments for certain services	
			£ million	Per cent of net output
Industries with high proportionate payments				
Soap, detergents, etc.	275/2	56.4	22.9	40.7
Toilet preparations	272/2	50.1	16.8	33.6
Milk, margarine, starch, etc.	215,229/1 229/2	98.9	26.5	26.8
Polishes, gelatine, etc.	277/1, 277/2	22.4	5.3	23.7
Mineral oil refining	262	63.9	13.7	21.4
Soft drinks, etc.	239/2, 239/3	55.8	11.9	21.3
Tobacco	240	109.7	22.9	20.9
Pharmaceutical preparations	272	124.1	24.9	20.1
Cocoa, chocolate, etc.	217	116.5	17.9	15.4
Domestic electrical appliances	365	94.5	14.5	15.4
Industries with low proportionate payments				
Locomotives and railway track equipment, ... carriages, perambulators, etc.	384,385, 389	73.7	2.6	3.5
Shipbuilding, etc.	370	214.6	9.2	4.3
Sugar	216	37.4	1.6	4.3
Insulated wires and cables	362	80.1	4.1	5.1
Men's and boys' tailored outerwear	442	76.2	4.1	5.4
Vegetable and animal oils and fats	275/1	25.6	1.4	5.6
Hosiery, etc.	417	117.5	6.8	5.8
Dresses, lingerie, etc.	445	65.0	3.8	5.8
Plastic mouldings, linoleum, etc.	496,492	119.0	6.9	5.8
Telegraph and telephone equipment, radio	363,364	416.8	24.5	5.9

The trades for which reports of the censuses of production are published separately are on the whole at about MLH level, but in most reports a range of summary information, including net output and employment is given for finer sub-divisions of an industry. For example, in the two trades mentioned in the previous paragraph separate figures are given for the different types of paper quoted and for woven and tufted carpets. While there were 119 separate trade reports within manufacturing industry in the final results of the 1963 census, within these there were in addition 409 sub-divisions distinguished. They were so defined that they were, mostly, to a high degree homogeneous. Separate sub-division information will be available annually in respect of 1970 onwards. Analysis by employment size groups of firms for each census trade is included in census reports. Similar analyses within sub-divisions are not given and in many cases would not be possible or would have to be for a few very broad groups, because of the small number of firms involved, and thus of the danger of disclosing the activities of individual businesses.

There are two aspects of the second factor – the diversity of activities covered by firms' returns. Both stem from the fact that net output can only be calculated in respect of the *total* sales, purchases, etc. of the units for which separate returns are made and not in respect of a particular product or group of products.

First, not only can there be diversity in the products characteristic of an industry and made at the units for which separate returns are made, but they can include sales of products characteristic of other industries. Thus, the paper and board industry in 1963 sold £25 million of the products of other industries in addition to £349 million of paper and board. The degree of specialisation – the extent to which the total sales of an industry is made up of the products characteristic of the industry – is normally high, but to the extent that it is not, it is a factor which can affect comparisons of net output and net output a head between industries and between size groups, and over time.

Secondly, and generally more important, the activities encompassed by a return are not necessarily confined simply to the process of manufacturing the products that are sold. Because of the constraints imposed by firms' accounting arrangements returns frequently cover activities ancillary to the manufacturing process. A return can include any or all of such activities as, for example, a transport organisation, selling organisation, building and maintenance department, power gener-

ation, and research and development⁽³⁾. By definition, separate figures are not available of the net output (and the net output a head) contributed by these activities but they are likely in many cases to be substantially different from that of the manufacturing process itself. Comparisons between industries, and between different size-strata within an industry, can be affected – in extreme cases to a quite marked extent – by the different coverages of returns in this respect. The inclusion, for example, of a building and maintenance department in the return of a particular firm might well substantially affect net output a head compared with the figure for another firm engaged in similar activities but which either purchased its maintenance from an independent contractor or had it done by its own department for which separate accounts were kept and which was consequently excluded from the census return. This factor particularly affects, for example, the chemicals industry where there is a considerable diversity of practice in this respect which results in substantial differences between firms in the figures of net output a head.

A particular case of the heterogeneous nature of the basic figures occurs when, for accounting reasons, firms can only make a single return in respect of a number of establishments at different geographical locations, and not separate returns for each⁽³⁾. Where the establishments so combined fall in different geographical regions it is necessary, for the purpose of regional analysis of the census results, to apportion the net output of the combined return to different regions on the basis of the employment at each location. (Separate figures of employment at each location are always collected). This apportionment will not always be very reliable.

Conclusion

Because of the nature of net output itself and of the data from which it is built up, some care has to be taken in using and interpreting figures of net output and net output a head. Providing, however, that the presence of these factors is borne in mind, and particularly if it is recognised that small differences between figures are unlikely to be of much real significance, they are a very valuable tool in economic analysis.

See also Appendix on page 12.8.

⁽³⁾ For a definition of reporting units to censuses, see the introduction to the SIC 1968.

Appendix

CALCULATION OF NET OUTPUT

The following example shows how net output is derived from figures collected in the censuses of production. The figures relate to the paper and board trade in 1963.

SALES AND OTHER RECEIPTS:

	£ thousand
Goods produced and work done	378,037
Merchanted goods and canteen takings	4,982
Total	383,019
<i>PLUS</i> stock change (goods on hand for sale and work in progress)	+262
Gross output	383,281

PAYMENTS

Purchases of:

Materials for processing and packaging, and fuel	224,041
Goods for merchandising and canteen takings	4,228
Total purchases	228,269

<i>LESS</i> stock change (materials, stores and fuel)	+244
	228,025

Payments for:

Work done on materials given out	885
Transport	9,916
Total deductions from gross output	238,826
Net output	144,455

PAYMENTS FOR CERTAIN SERVICES

The following information about payments for certain services in 1963 was collected from establishments as part of the census operation. Repairs and maintenance to buildings, plant, machinery and road goods vehicles (£196 million); Hire of plant and machinery (£30 million); Licensing of road goods vehicles (£8 million); Rates (excluding water rates) (£140 million); Postage, telephones, telegrams and cables (£78 million).

In addition, the following items were collected in a supplementary sample enquiry into business expenses and receipts, which was conducted among head offices. (The figures in brackets are grossed-up estimates). Advertising (£325 million); Market Research (£7 million); Royalties, etc. (£56 million); Commercial insurance premiums (£75 million).

The total of these items amounted to £914 million, and represented 8.4 per cent of net output of all manufacturing industries.

The supplementary sample enquiry conducted in respect of 1968 will collect, in addition to the items given in the previous paragraph, figures of payments for professional services – e.g. to architects and accountants.

Statistics for Politicians

G. F. Lock, *Statistical Section, House of Commons Library*

In early 1966 the writer submitted two memoranda on government statistics to the Sub-Committee of the Select Committee on the Estimates which was investigating government statistical services. The Committee's Report included certain of the suggestions made in the memoranda, and this article comments on the evolution of official statistical publications, as seen from outside the government statistical service, in the context of the suggestions made five years ago.

The publicity material for *Statistical News* lists various groups of users of official statistics – industry, commerce and the universities; but a group of users not mentioned at all is politicians. Now this is curious, as it was a report from politicians – members of the Estimates Committee of the House of Commons – which helped to trigger off much of the recent expansion of government statistics. It might be thought that Members of Parliament and Peers were adequately catered for by answers to parliamentary questions, but this is not so. For various reasons many enquiries from M.P.s would be out of order as questions to Ministers, or are unsuitable for being pursued in this form. Many such enquiries are brought to the House of Commons Library, along with parliamentary answers which confine themselves to giving references. The Library set up a special section to handle statistical enquiries in 1946, and it now sends out annually over 600 written answers to enquiries, ranging in length from half a page to several pages, in addition to giving much oral information and advice. The staff of the section naturally has a keen interest in the content of government statistical publications, and although some of this article may seem critical in tone, we are very appreciative of the new series that have recently been developed – for example the digests of statistics on education, housing, overseas aid and health. In this article no distinction is made between the needs of Members using statistical publications themselves and those of staff using them on behalf of Members. They jointly form a section of the statistical 'consuming public' and their needs are similar.

The requirements of Members for statistical publications may be considered, apart from the question of content, under the headings of speed of publication, accessibility and continuity. One's general impression

is that speed of publication has much improved in recent years, with a few rather blatant exceptions. Thus we are unable to mourn the impending decease of the old-style Censuses of Production since the reports on them appeared too late to be of much use. It was the summary tables on Wales and Scotland and the size of firms that we tended to consult and these appeared last of all. The last batch of tables for the 1963 Census though promised in 1967 for the end of 1968, appeared only in July 1970, and Members would have been distinctly restive if offered 1958 figures in early 1970.

Statistical publications were once more accessible to M.P.s than they are now, because at one time most major statistical publications were parliamentary papers and available immediately on demand to Members at the Vote Office in the House of Commons. Now very few statistics appear as parliamentary papers (though the Home Office is faithful to this form), but appear instead as non-parliamentary publications. The reason is that in 1921 the Treasury made a rule prescribing one size and one size only for Command papers and this has remained unchanged ever since. Departments may not realise, when adopting a larger page size in the interests of clarity and better layout, that they are thereby reducing the circulation of their publications among Members. Recent examples of a change of this type are Inland Revenue Statistics and Statistics of Universities.

Reasonable continuity of publication is also desirable; nobody expects the pattern of publications to be permanently frozen, but certain series do appear to have been dropped before their usefulness had been exhausted. Though the later issues of the *Economic Report* were rather slight, in its earlier guise, as the *Economic Survey*, it had been a valuable member of the pre-Budget batch of White Papers⁽¹⁾. The disappearance of

⁽¹⁾ The last issue appeared in 1968. From 1969 onwards a few pages of economic comment and related statistics have been included in the *Financial Statement and Budget Report*. (The *Economic Surveys* of the late 1950s and early 1960s were documents of 60 pages or more. However there was at that time no monthly article on the economic situation in *Economic Trends*.) In 1968 the *Financial Statement* included for the first time the valuable feature of forecasts of the gross domestic product. The previous year Members had plainly shown their dissatisfaction at not being given forecasts other than the generalised ones in the Chancellor's Budget speech – see for example a barrage of questions to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 14 March 1967, written answers cols. 45–6.

the Public Investment White Paper was another major loss: during its short run, from 1960 to 1963, it provided much information not available elsewhere. Statistical publishing may reflect changes in policies; thus the dropping of the *Statistical Abstract for the British Commonwealth* after a run of 88 issues registers the declining importance attributed to the Commonwealth. (The *Digest of Colonial Statistics* and the *Annual Report on Colonial Territories* preceded it into limbo some years earlier.) The rise and fall of incomes policy may also be seen in publications. The 1962 White Paper (Cmnd. 1626, para 13) stated that 'the Government propose to collect together and to publish in convenient form factual information on wage rates, earnings . . . and other relevant subjects so that due weight can be given by all concerned to the considerations set out in this paper at all stages of negotiation and at arbitration. Publication will take place at regular intervals to ensure that up-to-date information will be available at all times.' The result was *Statistics on Incomes, Prices, Employment and Production*. We found this a very useful publication, but the authorities have presumably lost their faith in the efficacy of statistics in moderating wage demands, as it has now been dropped. (The annual publication to replace it will no doubt be very useful but will not fulfil the aim of the White Paper of providing 'up-to-date information at all times.')(2)

Sometimes the scale of publishing seems to bear an inverse relationship to the topicality of subjects. Thus the period when proposals for changes in national superannuation were most in the air was the time chosen for the dropping of the annual *Interim Review of the National Insurance Scheme*, and for the taking of special legal powers to dispense with the statutory *Quinquennial Review* of the same scheme for 1964/5 to 1968/9, compiled by the Government Actuary. This is a major source for people researching into the operation of the social security scheme. Administrative changes may also affect the flow of information; thus one perhaps unexpected consequence of the devolution of some functions to the Welsh Office is that in certain fields fewer statistics are now published for Wales than hitherto. (In other directions there has been an expansion of Welsh statistics. Difficulties over coverage can be

surmounted by statistical publications for the whole UK like those on agriculture or the new one on education.) It remains to be seen what effect the amalgamation of departments will have on the scale of their publishing. One precedent is not encouraging: throughout the inter-war and immediately post-war years the Air Ministry and Ministry of Civil Aviation produced a very useful *Annual Report on Civil Aviation*, which vanished as soon as responsibility passed to the Ministry of Transport.

The amount of detail published can depend largely on accidents of administrative history. Examples may be taken from the field of taxation; the traditional taxation departments (Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise) publish admirably detailed material on the taxes within their purview, whereas taxes administered elsewhere are almost undocumented. Thus on Estate Duty (yield £371 million), one finds 24 tables; on vehicle licences (yield £431 million) one finds merely the grand total – now not even analysed, in an official publication, by type of vehicle, though such figures were once published. Similarly on Protective Duties (yield £230 million), there are 7 tables and there was once even a whole annual book, whereas on Selective Employment Tax (yield £588 million) there is only scattered and scrappy information. There is also very little on National Health Service contributions (yield £223 million).

Departmental annual reports are very valuable summaries of significant developments and most useful starting-points for many enquiries, but the making of annual reports seems to depend partly on chance. Thus the Scottish Agricultural Department makes an annual report, the English one does not. (Other fields where Scotland has more figures are council house rents, on which there is an annual White Paper, and liquor licensing. Figures on Scottish licensing appear in *Civil Judicial Statistics, Scotland* whereas the last edition of *Licensing Statistics for England and Wales* was for 1938.) The prisons and children's departments of the Home Office report, but the immigration department does not. Except where annual reports are prescribed by statute, departments are free to discontinue them at will; thus the reports of the Ministries of Works and Labour were dropped 'as an economy measure', and the same reason probably applied to *Industry and Employment in Scotland* and the White Papers on the *Numbers of Civil Servants*. The *Annual Report of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government*, which was once one of the most useful of all, was first drastically cut and then made less frequent. Several of the nationalised industries have also reduced the scale of their annual reports over the past few years, as well as

²) In May 1966 the statistical part of the *Ministry of Labour Gazette* (now *Employment & Productivity Gazette*) was expanded and this covered much of the same ground as *Statistics on Incomes, Prices, Employment and Production*. The purpose of the latter, as expressed in the preface, was to provide 'factual information which will assist those engaged in negotiation or arbitration to examine the particular cases before them in relation to the wider implication of the decisions to be made.' The same philosophy had inspired the foundation in August 1957 of the Council on Prices, Productivity and Incomes – namely, that if enough information is published, people's economic behaviour will be modified.

discontinuing some statistical publications⁽³⁾. Not all of them are under an obligation to report: thus there is no statutory requirement for an annual report from the Bank of England. Of the one that it does publish, the Radcliffe Committee said that 'its meagreness . . . has become a by-word.' It has since somewhat improved.

In the field of government expenditure there have been both losses and gains over the past decade. The *Civil Estimates* were lopped to a third of their former size some eight years ago, with the loss of much valuable detail, and the *Defence Estimates* have suffered this treatment twice (they are now about one seventh of their size in 1962), so that for example it is no longer possible to find in them a separate figure for the pay of the women's services. The *Public Expenditure White Papers* are proving useful, though changes in classification and in the pricing basis make comparisons difficult. Members tend to like long series of annual figures on the same basis, preferably spanning periods when different parties were in power. With economic planning documents, there is sometimes a request for comparisons between the forecasts and the outcome. This type of operation has never been straightforward, from the NEDC Green Books onwards, because of the differences in definition, in unstated ways, between the figures included in the documents and regular series published elsewhere.

A brief report may now be made on certain of the suggestions I made to the Estimates Sub-Committee which it was kind enough to put into its Report. The figures of retail prices of foodstuffs (para. 90 of the Report), formerly published only by the International Labour Office, now appear in the *Employment and Productivity Gazette* and at monthly intervals not annually. The position on statistics of salaries (para. 91) is unchanged. On the Census of Population (para. 85), my memorandum included representations about the difficulty of aggregating certain figures for Great Britain and the United Kingdom from the separate population censuses for the individual countries. The 1966 Census is certainly enormously improved in this respect; it does however seem that full comparability has not yet been established with Northern Ireland. For example, there are fourteen tables in the *Parliamentary Constituencies Tables*; in four of these none of the information available for Great Britain was available for Northern Ireland, for one table most was available and

⁽³⁾ There is also little uniformity among the annual reports. For example some of the area gas and electricity boards give their retail tariffs in their reports and some do not.

for three tables part was. Thus for only six out of the fourteen tables were the figures uniform throughout the UK. (It may well be that expense prevents the Census authorities in Northern Ireland from collecting the full range of information collected in Great Britain. Two further points on the Census of Population – first, we are still awaiting the promised Commentaries on Fertility and Migration for the 1961 Census of England and Wales. Secondly, it is a pity that the 1961 General Report was much less full than that for 1951. With an expensive operation like a Census, it seems false economy to skimp the final stage of presentation of the results to the public, which can determine how useful they will be to them.)

The proposal for reviving the *Guide to Official Statistics* (para. 37) seems to have sunk without trace, though the departmental observations on the Report stated that the problems involved would be re-examined. This still seems to me the greatest single outstanding need for research workers. One needs a document which tells the user, for example, that for figures on bankruptcies he should consult the *Annual Report on Bankruptcies*, the *London Gazette*, *Trade and Industry* and *Civil Judicial Statistics*. It would also help greatly if such a guide gave references to relevant methodological material, which is widely scattered throughout various series of publications. The only publication currently available that at all resembles the pre-war *Guide to Official Statistics* is the *List of Principal Statistical Series Available*. This contained one or two errors when it was published in 1965, and was recently reprinted in unchanged form even though it is now rather out of date. It is confined to economic, financial and regional statistics.

One point not carried over into the Committee's Report concerned election statistics. I have never been able to understand why the *Annual Abstract* does not include figures of votes at General Elections by party, like the Statistical Abstracts of most other countries. It is to be hoped that now the party designation of candidates is included on ballot forms, the Home Office will improve the *Return of Election Expenses* by producing official aggregated figures of votes cast, by party.

Conclusion

The Statistical Section of the House of Commons Library meets a growing need on the part of Members (and to some extent Peers) for statistics more extensive than can be obtained by a parliamentary question, without the publicity involved and without the need for a wait of some days. (We have no set rules about notice and can often reply quickly; naturally we prefer to be given a reasonable time to reply as rushed work can

lead to mistakes.)⁽⁴⁾ Enquiries can only rarely be answered by the straightforward extraction of figures from a single source. We usually have to bring together figures from a wide range of different sources, do calculations on them, annotate them on conceptual points, and generally adapt them to the Member's specific needs. Only very rarely can we give to one Member material prepared for another; the enquiries all differ, so the replies are individually tailored. We work largely from printed material⁽⁵⁾, of which we maintain a large collection, and for recent figures Hansard answers and press notices form an important source (and the recently instituted monthly timetable for statistical press notices is proving most helpful.) The clientèle consists mainly of backbenchers and some front-benchers of the Opposition of the day, though it is not unknown for Ministers to consult us, even on matters connected with their own Departments. The work can vary from the supply of figures to a front-bench spokesman for a winding up speech in a major debate, through such things as assistance with a note of dissent to a Report of a Royal Commission, to (as it turned out) provision of material for a filibuster in Committee. As far as possible we have somebody present to assist Members with figures as long as the House sits, even when it sits very late.

The Section was set up with two statisticians in 1946 and another was added in 1963. (There is also a supporting staff of two.) Since 1963 the size of the Section has remained unchanged though it has become distinctly overloaded at peak periods. As a result whole classes of work have been abandoned (such as the dissemination of statistics to Members as a whole in advance of selected major debates), and we have never been able to contemplate the possibility of doing much for the new specialist committees. It may be a matter of some surprise that the general expansion of statistical staffs has had no parallel here; however it can perhaps hardly be expected that any government should be too eager to reinforce its critics. I hope I have said enough to establish that the statistical needs of politicians are as worthy of consideration as those of academics or businessmen. In the USA, there is a Federal Statistics Users Conference. If anything similar were to be set up here, the House of Commons Library would hope to be among the founder members.

(4) A fuller discussion of the respective roles of parliamentary questions and the Library's research service is contained in *The Commons in Transition*, edited by H. Hanson and B. Crick, 1970, p.138 ff. On Members' sources of information generally, see A. Barker and M. Rush - *The Member of Parliament and his Information* (1970).

(5) We are however grateful to civil servants and others for giving us unpublished information when publications do not contain what Members have asked for.

1971 Population Census

G. F. P. Boston and A. A. Cushion, *Office of Population Censuses and Surveys*

The next census of population will be taken on 25 April 1971. It will follow the traditional method of census-taking in Great Britain with householder completion of a form delivered and collected by enumerators, but there will be some important changes in organisation and procedure. The underlying reason for the changes is the greater demand for more detailed analyses of Census results and for statistics for small areas, and this had led us to look critically at our data collection and processing methods.

Field operations

In the 1961 Census the field work was in the charge of some 1,300 Census Officers who each supervised some 50 or more enumerators. For the 1971 Census two new levels of post have been created. At the highest level are 100 Census Supervisors who recruit, train and supervise the work of about 2,000 Census Officers (in charge of local operations). In Scotland a small number of headquarters staff are doing work similar to that of the Supervisors in England and Wales. The second level of new post is provided by about 6,000 Assistant Census Officers who will help the Census Officers and will each supervise the work of some 17 enumerators. The introduction of the two new levels of post will be especially valuable in improving our training of the 102,000 enumerators and in supervising their work in the field.

The Supervisors were appointed and given initial training in September and they have now recruited and briefed their teams of Census Officers. The Supervisors are recently retired people who will work a mixture of full and part-time on the Census until next June. The Census will benefit in numerous ways from having 100 able, knowledgeable and enthusiastic people spread throughout the country. An Assistant Census Officer will, as far as practicable, accompany each enumerator on part of his delivery and collection rounds to ensure that he is working properly, and to give advice and support. They will also relieve Census Officers of much of their paper work and enable them to concentrate on their proper function of management.

Training

We are devoting much more effort than ever before to training. We have co-operated with the BBC in producing two television training programmes for enumerators (BBC1 at 12.30 pm on Sundays 4 and 18 April). The films

deal largely with the normal household so that enumerators will understand and follow the basic procedure; they are entertaining as well as instructional and should be worthwhile viewing for anyone interested in training methods. An evaluation of their effect will be carried out in conjunction with the BBC and the Institute of Education of the University of London.

Each programme will be backed up by a 2-hour classroom session at which Census Officers will take enumerators through a standard training course. A training package containing a verbatim manual, notes to instructors, display charts, practical exercises and mock interviews has been developed. Here again emphasis will be on the normal but with reference to recognising the unusual and knowing how to deal with it. Training sessions will be held in every local area so that the two classroom sessions for each enumerator will require a total of about 13,000 separate training sessions.

Dwellings

Our experience in the census pre-tests was that the application of a definition of structurally separate dwellings was impracticable. For 1971 we are attempting to measure housing accommodation in a new way. Three categories of accommodation will be counted: not sharing at all; sharing access only; and sharing either rooms or the space for movement between rooms. In the last case the numbers of households sharing will also be counted. This will be successful only if enumerators follow the rules set out; they are basically simple rules but their application on the doorstep will not be easy and we have felt it necessary to spell them out in detail in the instruction manuals and in training.

Publicity

Enumerators will deliver a letter to each address, before they begin delivering forms, to tell householders that the Census is being taken and that the enumerator will be calling. Additionally, a coloured and illustrated leaflet explaining the importance of the Census and giving some specific examples of how the results are used will be delivered with each form.

Central Office processing

The completed schedules will be sent by Census Officers

to either Titchfield in Hampshire or to Edinburgh, for processing. Each location will process half of Great Britain with Scotland and the northern part of England processed in Edinburgh and the remainder in Titchfield. The processing in Edinburgh will include the production of magnetic tapes but all subsequent computer processes including all the programming required will be carried out in Titchfield.

The clerical process will take 40 weeks which is only half the period planned for in 1961, the most recent 100% Census. It is this halving of the processing period, with the consequent more than doubling of the peak staff requirements, which has made it necessary to split the processing between two centres. Even so it will be necessary to recruit and train about 500 staff in each office.

All the schedules will be processed on a limited range of topics, the topics omitted at this stage being those which are expensive to code. A sample of 10% of the schedules will be selected for processing on all topics.

The processing of the completed schedules is completed in steps with each operation commencing one week later than the previous operation. The steps in summary are:

100% operations

1. Scrutiny of all schedules and minor coding
2. Card punching
3. Card to tape conversion
4. Computer check on validity and compatibility
5. Clerical correction
6. Selection by computer of the 10% sample followed by manual extraction of the schedules.

10% operations

7. Coding educational qualifications and the composition of households
8. Coding addresses 1 and 5 years ago
9. Coding industry and place of work
10. Coding occupation and employment status
11. Card punching
12. Card to tape conversion
13. Computer checks on validity and compatibility
14. Clerical correction.

As most of these operations have been described in successive 'General Reports' on the census (e.g. *1961 Census Great Britain General Report* (HMSO) 1968), this article will refer mainly to innovations or significant changes which have been made to previous practices.

The 10% sample will be selected from the fully validated 100% tapes. The sample will be selected by means of a computer generated random number within groups of 10 consecutive households for private households and 10 consecutive persons within institutions. Variance checks will be contained in the computer program in order to provide continuous and cumulative monitoring of the quality of the sample.

The schedules selected for the sample will be separated from the remainder and coded for the topics 7 to 10 in the list above. This additional information will be punched onto a new card and added in the computer to the information already existing for that person.

New problems in communication are introduced by the introduction of a second processing centre for the English schedules and this is especially so with the validity checks. The checks on both the validity and compatibility of the data presented to the computer are carried out by the computer itself, the necessary procedures being included in the computer program. The errors identified by the computer are resolved by reference back to the original schedule. These validity checks are carried out on blocks of work containing about 50,000 persons and a block may require to be referred back 2 or 3 times or even more before all errors are eliminated. For this reason it was decided to install an off-line data link with magnetic tape-printer facilities from Titchfield to Edinburgh to transmit the computer queries and punched card-magnetic tape from Edinburgh to Titchfield to transmit the corrections. The data link will also make it possible to centralize the skilled manpower necessary to solve the queries arising from occupation, industry and qualified manpower coding in Titchfield.

Details of the 10% sample selection will also be sent by the data link from Titchfield to Edinburgh as will routine management information. The main 100% and 10% data will however be converted to magnetic tape by the Scottish Office Computer Service and the tapes sent to Titchfield.

The census will be processed on an ICL 1904A with 65K word core store, 14 tape units, 2 exchangeable discs unit, 2 card readers, 2 printers (1300 line per minute), 1 card punch, 1 paper tape reader and 1 paper tape punch. The first published tables of results from the computer will be produced by the method used in 1966 of pasting computer output figures on pre-printed sheets containing heading and stubs. The resulting sheets are suitable for photo-litho reproduction. Later published results may be processed through the HMSO 'Linotron' film setter when the suite of programs for the specification of table formats to the system is complete.

1% sample and voluntary income inquiry

A question on income was not included in the main compulsory schedule but is to be covered later in a voluntary survey. Census Officers will notify the Titchfield Office of the number of schedules in each enumeration district and a 1% sample will be selected from them. The list of those selected will be returned to Census Officers who will extract the completed schedules.

An income enquiry will be sent from the Census

Officers to every household which forms part of the 1% sample and to some persons in institutions. The completed questionnaires will be mailed by respondents to Titchfield for England and Wales and to Edinburgh for Scotland. After 3 weeks reminders will be prepared and despatched. Finally the data for responding persons will be matched into the computer records for the 1% sample for analysis of the results.

The 1% sample selected for the income enquiry will also be used to provide early results for the full Census. After despatch of the income enquiry the selected schedules will be sent to the processing offices where they will be photo-copied. The photo-copies will be used to create a computer input for all topics and the resulting tabulations will be produced in advance of the main analyses of the topics which are hard to code, especially occupation and industry. The 1% sample is independent of the 10% sample for the expensive-to-code topics and some schedules may be selected for both.

Advanced analysis

In an attempt to obtain early results on a few characteristics enumerators in the field are being asked to transfer some of the information on the schedules to machine readable documents. Each document contains spaces for 20 persons and is made up into pads of 30 documents *plus* control documents. Each pad will contain the data for one enumeration district. The marked documents will be read by three ICL Universal Document Readers on line to the 1904A. After checks on the accuracy of the results, statistics of age, sex and economic activity will be produced for local authority areas with 15,000 or more population.

This advanced analysis is quite distinct from the main data processing and the results will be duplicated in later publications. This will enable OPCS to evaluate the potentialities of document reading techniques for speeding up the production of census results.

National Grid referencing

Enumerators will reference buildings to 100 metre squares of the National Grid in areas surveyed on Ordnance Survey maps at 25 inches or 50 inches to the mile, and to kilometre squares elsewhere (but to 100 metre squares throughout Scotland). Although consideration of confidentiality will limit the release of statistics for individual 100 metre squares, the existence of statistics for regular and uniform areas over the whole country will facilitate the production of statistics for areas defined after the census and on a uniform basis from census to census.

SEVENTH CONFERENCE OF COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIANS

The Seventh Conference of Commonwealth Statisticians was held in New Delhi, India, from 16–26 November 1970. Former Conferences of Commonwealth Statisticians have been held in 1920 (London), 1935 (Ottawa), 1951 (Canberra), 1956 (London), 1960 (Wellington) and 1966 (Ottawa). There were 45 delegates, and the countries represented were Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Canada, Cyprus, Fiji, Ghana, Guyana, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Kingdom and Zambia. There were observers from the Commonwealth Secretariat, the United Nations and the University of the West Indies.

The United Kingdom delegation was Professor C. A. Moser, CBE, FBA, (Director, Central Statistical Office), Mr. T. S. Pilling (Central Statistical Office), Mr. A. J. Boreham (Department of Trade and Industry), Mr. A. R. Thatcher (Department of Employment), Mr. K. V. Henderson (Foreign and Commonwealth Office – Overseas Development Administration) and Mr. J. N. C. Hancock (Central Statistical Office).

The Indian delegation was led by Professor P. C. Mahalanobis (Honorary Statistical Adviser to the Cabinet) and in addition to the formal Indian delegation there were a number of advisers and observers from Government Departments (both Central and State) and statistical institutes of India, some of whom took part in the discussions. Mr. V. N. Amble of the Central Statistical Organisation, India, was Secretary of the Conference. The Conference was formally opened by the Prime Minister of India, Mrs. Indira Gandhi. In her inaugural address Mrs. Gandhi observed:

‘The Commonwealth is facing many challenges. India has made a significant contribution to the making of the Commonwealth as we know it today. We are, therefore, interested in its survival and renewal. Experts in search of knowledge can help to see our problems in larger perspective. For, if the Commonwealth is to survive and make itself relevant to each

of its members, we must discover areas of co-operation between us and co-operation can be effective only if consideration is given to the basic ideals and to the interests and feelings of member countries. I hope this meeting of Statisticians will help in the process of seeking and finding new relevance for the Commonwealth.’

Professor P. C. Mahalanobis was Chairman of the Conference, assisted by three Vice-Chairmen namely, Mr. W. E. Duffett (Canada), Mr. D. L. Rose (Jamaica) and Mr. J. E. Tandoh (Ghana).

There was a variety of topics on the agenda which included several organisational questions, such as the analytical and research content of programmes of statistical offices, the role of the statistical agency in national and regional planning, and general questions of confidentiality, especially those involved in the use of computers. There were also interesting discussions on technical matters which included manpower statistics, economic forecasting, commodity classification of inputs and outputs in industrial statistics, measurable concepts in social statistics and plans for dealing with the United Nations Revised System of National Accounts.

Delegates were invited to visit the Indian Statistical Institute in Calcutta after the closing session of the Conference.

A report of the Conference is being prepared and will contain references to the papers discussed which had been prepared by participating countries.

Professor Mahalanobis introduces Professor Moser to Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India; looking on is Mr. V. N. Amble, Secretary of the Conference.

In the lower picture (l. to r.) Mr. A. R. Thatcher, Mr. J. N. C. Hancock, Mr. A. J. Boreham, Mrs. Gandhi, Professor C. A. Moser, Mr. T. S. Pilling and Professor P. C. Mahalanobis.



Notes on current developments

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

Births by birthplace of parents and deaths by birthplace of the deceased

Quarterly Return No. 487 contains figures of births occurring in England and Wales analysed by birthplace of parents, and deaths analysed by birthplace of deceased, for the first twelve-month period for which this information has been collected (April 1969 to March 1970).

The accompanying commentary summarises the main conclusions which can be drawn from these data, and gives estimates of the annual number of births where both the parents were of New Commonwealth ethnic origin and the annual number of births where one parent only was of such origin. A description of the method of deriving the ethnic origin estimates is included.

Reference

The Registrar General's Quarterly Return for England and Wales No. 487, Quarter ended 30th September 1970 (HMSO) February 1971 (Price 22½p)

Classification of occupations, 1970

The 1970 volume of the Classification of Occupations is the latest in a series and is produced primarily for use in the 1971 Population Census analyses. It has been prepared by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys in collaboration with the General Register Office, Scotland.

The latest classification differs only slightly from those used in 1961 and 1966. The revisions which have been made are mainly designed to give more details for the professional and technical occupations. There are now 223 groups, including five additional groups for medical auxiliaries and four for engineers and technologists. The volume contains a description of the various economic classifications used in the Census of Population – occupation, industry, economic position, and employment status, with detailed descriptions of the occupation groups and an alphabetical list of occupation terms showing their classification.

Also included are details of the Social Class and Socio-economic Group classifications which are derived from the Occupation classification; the inter-relationships between all three classifications are set out.

Reference

Classification of Occupations, 1970 (HMSO) February 1971 (Price £2.50)

Scottish statistics

The Registrar General's third quarterly return for 1970 will be published in February. It will contain overseas migration figures from the International Passenger Survey for the first half of 1970, and estimates by sex and age of the population of Scotland at 30th June 1970, in addition to the normal quarterly tables.

The Registrar General's annual report for 1969 will be published this spring. The obsolescence of the department's punched card statistical tabulator has forced an emergency transfer to tabulation on a Scottish Office computer, and some months delay were caused by re-programming. It is hoped to regain the publication schedule for the 1970 annual report.

Economic Activity Sub-regional Tables

The newly-published volume entitled *Economic Activity Sub-regional Tables* is the latest in a series produced jointly by OPCS and GRO (Scotland) containing data derived from the 1966 sample census of population. This volume was preceded by Parts I to IV of the *Economic Activity Tables*, which appeared during 1968 and 1969 and contained statistics of the occupied population based on personal occupation and of the employed population classified according to industry and broken down by age, socio-economic group, etc. The tables in those volumes related to Great Britain, and in some instances to England and Wales, Scotland, the nine standard regions of England and Wales and the conurbations. The *Economic Activity Sub-regional Tables* volume now gives corresponding details for 54 sub-divisions of the standard regions of England and Wales and the eight economic planning sub-regions of Scotland.

Reference

Sample Census 1966, Great Britain: Economic Activity Sub-regional Tables. (Available from HMSO) October 1970 (Price £4.75)

SOCIAL SECURITY

Analysis of certificates of incapacity

A further digest in the series analysing certificates of incapacity has been produced by the Department of Health and Social Security (*Statistical News* 8. 23). The digest covers the period June 1964 to May 1967 and contains many detailed analyses obtained from the recorded incapacity of a sample of men and women of working age in connection with claims to sickness and injury benefits under the National Insurance Acts. After a break of some years, some regional tables are included,

namely days of sickness incapacity analysed by age and region (1965/66) and by cause and region (1966/67). The populations at risk for the two benefits are given and rates calculated where appropriate.

The digest has been distributed free to those persons known to be interested. A limited number of copies are still available and, while stocks last, can be obtained on request to Statistics Branch (SR3C), Department of Health and Social Security, 10 John Adam Street, London, WC 2N 6HD.

The next digest to be produced will cover the single year June 1967 to May 1968.

Statistics on war pensioners

Although the *Annual Report of the Department of Health and Social Security* (Statistical News 10. 18) contains statistics of the numbers receiving war pensions, more detail is given in the *Report on War Pensioners for the year 1969* (Cmnd. 4445 HMSO 9s. 0d.).

The tables in the appendix to this report give details not only of the number of war disabled and widows receiving pensions but also of the numbers disabled classified by percentage assessment, the numbers of pensioners receiving supplementary allowances for various reasons and for different disability groups, the number of war pensioners living abroad, and the invalid vehicle service and the artificial limb and appliance service.

At the end of 1969 the following numbers of pensions were in payment:

Thousands				
	Disable- ment	Widows	Parents orphans and other dependants	Total
1939 war	297.3	67.9	31.5	396.7
1914 war	99.7	41.0	1.5	142.2
Total	397.0	108.9	33.0	538.9

Table 4 of the report shows that numbers have been falling by about 20,000 a year for the past five years; just after the end of the 1939 war the number of war pensioners exceeded 1 million.

Social security research

A substantial part of the Department's research effort in the social security field consists in special analysis and interpretation of statistical data collected for the purpose of administering the various social security schemes. This apart, most of the recent and current activity centres on the problems of one-parent families. (Work was begun on several projects in anticipation of the setting up of the Committee on One-Parent Fam-

ilies in November 1969 under the chairmanship of Mr. Morris Finer QC.) Other studies in progress include:

(1) Chronic unemployment (Oxford University)

This is a study of personal and social factors associated with long-term or frequently recurring unemployment. It is in two parts. The first is a survey of a large sample of unemployed men and their families to find out about each man's employment record, relationships with employers and workmates, domestic background and health record. The second will be an 'action research' study of unemployed men on supplementary benefit: researchers will compare the effectiveness of different ways of helping them to find jobs. Work on the project began in April 1970 and is expected to take 3-4 years. The Director is Miss Olive Stevenson, formerly Social Work Adviser to the Supplementary Benefits Commission.

(2) Appeal Tribunals (Edinburgh and Newcastle Universities)

This is an exploratory research study of National Insurance Local Tribunals in Scotland and North East England, being undertaken jointly by Edinburgh and Newcastle Universities. The study commenced in October 1970 and is expected to take 2 years. The results are expected to provide information on the views and attitudes of the Chairmen and members of Tribunals and of appellants as well as an increased understanding of the functioning of the Tribunals.

(3) Homeless single persons

A study is being carried out at Camberwell Reception Centre, under the direction of Professor Wing of the Maudsley Institute of Psychiatry, to investigate the psychiatric, physical and social condition of men at the Centre, why they are unsettled and destitute and what can be done to influence them to lead a more settled way of life. Further work in this field is under consideration.

MANPOWER AND EARNINGS

New earnings survey 1970

Results of the New Earnings Survey 1970 have been published in instalments in the *Employment and Productivity Gazette* (now the *Department of Employment Gazette*) from November 1970 onwards. This sample survey was carried out by the Department of Employment along similar lines to the 1968 survey (see *Statistical News* 8.11), with a sample twice as large as in 1968, as recommended by the expert group which appraised that first survey. The results include an extensive range of analyses of earnings of employees in employment in Great Britain in April 1970, based on a sample of about 170,000 in all types of employment in all industries.

The main purpose of these surveys is to provide information which is needed but not available from other surveys; in particular, information about the distributions of earnings, the make-up of earnings in terms of basic, overtime, shift and other pay and about groups of employees either not covered or not separately identified in other surveys. The survey distinguishes males and females, adults and juveniles, full-time and part-time workers, manual and non-manual workers and those whose pay in the survey period was affected by absence and those receiving certain types of additional income in kind from their employers. The principal bases of classification are industry, occupation, the collective wage agreement or statutory wage regulation order (if any) affecting the employee's terms and conditions of employment, region and age. Questions on sick pay and occupational pension schemes were included in the 1970 survey.

The first instalment in November consisted largely of analyses of weekly and hourly earnings of full-time adults classified by industry and by wage agreement. The second instalment in December consisted of analyses of earnings by occupation and of the make-up of weekly earnings. The third instalment in January consisted mainly of regional analyses. In due course a comprehensive report of the survey, including these and other results, will be published, as for the 1968 survey (*Statistical News* 10.24).

New earnings survey 1971

In the third of the series of New Earnings Surveys, the Department of Employment is to collect information from employers about the earnings of a random one per cent sample of all employees in Great Britain in April 1971. However, following a review of the operation of the survey with a view to reducing the amount of form-filling, the questionnaire will be much shorter and simpler than before. It will be confined to those questions which are essential in order to give the Government the minimum information it needs annually about the earnings of employees in the main occupations, the earnings of those affected by wage regulation orders and major national collective agreements and the numbers under training in all industries. This information is not available from any other source.

It is hoped that this streamlining will substantially reduce the burden of form-filling on employers, especially since the reductions in other earnings surveys now being made will be greater in 1971 than in 1970 (see *Statistical News* 10.23).

The forms, when sent out to employers, have to show the names of the employees in the sample; but thereafter this information is not needed by the Department of Employment, because, when returned, the forms are used solely for statistical analysis. In order to allay any

fear that the staff who handle the forms may see personal information about named individuals, provision is being made in the 1971 survey for the names to be entered on a perforated slip which the employer may tear off before returning the form.

As recommended by the expert group which appraised the 1968 survey (see *Statistical News* 8.11), the sample for the 1971 survey will be the same as in 1970. This will increase the reliability of estimates of changes in earnings between the two surveys. After the 1971 survey has been held, the arrangements for all the earnings surveys will be reviewed.

Survey of earnings of qualified manpower in England and Wales 1966-67

The inclusion in the 1966 Census of Population of a question on all educational qualifications obtained over the age of 18 gave the first comprehensive data on the numbers of qualified people in the country. This provided the foundation for a follow-up enquiry on earnings of those in England and Wales initiated by the Department of Education and Science (DES) and carried out by the General Register Office (now Office of Population Censuses and Surveys). The earnings data collected was linked with census data by the GRO which carried out the subsequent computer analyses without respondents being asked again for information on age, qualifications, occupation, etc.

The survey was mounted as part of the DES interest in calculating rates of return to different kinds of education. The main information sought was on gross earned income from all sources whether from full or part-time employment or self-employment. Questionnaires were sent to about 15,000 qualified people and, for comparative purposes, to about 5,000 unqualified people in those occupations containing appreciable numbers of both qualified and unqualified people. A response rate of about 65 per cent was obtained.

It is hoped to publish some of the results of the work on the rate of return in *Economic Trends*. For this purpose, attention is concentrated on the earnings of persons with particular qualifications (HNC, BA, etc.) for which specific costs may be obtained, rather than on broad levels of qualification. Earnings reported by a cross-section of people of various ages with these qualifications are taken as representing lifetime earnings profiles for holders of such qualifications. These are then adjusted for differential mortality and activity rates at each age and discounted at various rates of interest to obtain present values of the earnings streams that might be expected from attainment of a higher education qualification. By comparison with present values of the costs of providing these qualifications, the rate of return upon investment in higher education is

calculated. The rate of return so calculated will be reduced to the extent that earnings differentials arise from natural ability rather than education; differentials may also be increased, however, by economic growth. The article is concerned with social, rather than personal, rates of return.

Income distribution tables by broad levels of qualification which have been obtained as a by-product of this work will appear in *Statistics of Education, Special Series* No. 3 which is to be published by HMSO early in 1971. This volume contains frequency tables of earnings by age and educational level for men and for women.

It also contains tables of average earnings by age and qualification, occupation and industry of employment. The tables show for example that in each age group median earnings of employed men with at least degree or equivalent qualification (median £2,569 at age 45-49) are higher than those for unqualified men in the selected occupations (median £1,602 at age 45-49) or for employed women with at least degree or equivalent qualification (median £1,656 at age 45-49). Patterns of earnings as reported in the questionnaires, however, do not separately distinguish part-time working and this has an important bearing on the median level particularly in the case of women.

Survey of labour costs in Northern Ireland

A separate article on employers' total labour costs in Northern Ireland was published in the October 1970 issue of the *Employment and Productivity Gazette*.

This was the first time that such an enquiry has been carried out in Northern Ireland - the 1964 survey did not extend there. An interesting feature of the article was the comparison of costs with Great Britain. In manufacturing industries and construction Northern Ireland average expenditure per employee was some 25% less than in Great Britain, although the differential reduced to about 17% for the larger manufacturing firms. In insurance and banking there was little difference between the percentages for NI and GB. The lower costs in Northern Ireland in manufacturing industry were due to a lower expenditure on fringe benefits and the greater benefit of selective employment tax. The article also showed for industrial orders in manufacturing and for a few selected orders in non-manufacturing industries a breakdown of labour costs into the principal components.

PRODUCTION

Reorganisation of industrial statistics

The new system of quarterly sales enquiries, fully reported in earlier issues of *Statistical News*, will be extended in the first quarter 1971 by the launching of

new enquiries in the following sixteen industries:

- Bread and Flour Confectionery - MLH 212*
- Biscuits - MLH 213
- Inorganic Chemicals - MLH 271/1
- Organic Chemicals - MLH 271/2
- Miscellaneous Chemicals - MLH 271/3
- Paint - MLH 274 *
- Aerospace Equipment, Manufacturing and Repairing - MLH 383
- Hosiery and Other Knitted Goods - MLH 417
- Separate enquiries for
 1. Hosiery and Other Knitted Goods*
 2. Warp Knitting*
- Lace - MLH 418*
- Leather (Tanning and Dressing) and Fellingmongery - MLH 431
- Leather Goods - MLH 432
- Gloves - MLH 449/2*
- Footwear - MLH 450*
- Pottery - MLH 462
- Glass - MLH 463
- Linoleum, Plastics Floor-covering, Leathercloth, etc. - MLH 492*

*These enquiries replace existing quarterly enquiries into: flour confectionery; paint; hosiery and other knitted goods, warp knitting; lace; gloves; footwear; leathercloth, floor coverings and unsupported plastic sheeting.

In each of the above industries the enquiry will cover all establishments with 25 employees or more, except for Gloves and Lace where the coverage will be 11 employees or more.

The results of these enquiries will, in due course, be published on a regular basis in the Business Monitor series.

Together with the new quarterly enquiries some industries will also be covered by the following short-period enquiries:

- Bread and Flour Confectionery - MLH 212
 - Quarterly enquiry into flour used in bread production
- Biscuits - MLH 213
 - 4-weekly enquiry, sponsored by the Cake and Biscuit Alliance Ltd into biscuit deliveries.
- General Chemicals - MLH 271
 - Monthly enquiry into the production of chemicals (except pharmaceutical chemicals), with modifications.†
 - Monthly enquiry into the production of ceramic frits and vitreous enamel glazes.†
 - Monthly enquiry sponsored by the National Sulphuric Acid Association into the production of sulphuric acid.
- Paint - MLH 274
 - Monthly total turnover enquiry.†
 - Monthly sales survey sponsored by the Paint-

makers Association.

Hosiery and Other Knitted Goods – MLH 417

Monthly enquiry into total sales and total orders of hosiery and other knitted goods.†

NEW monthly enquiry into the production of warp knitting and yarn intake.

Leather (Tanning and Dressing) and Fellmongery – MLH 431

Monthly enquiries, sponsored by the British Leather Federation into quantities of input, production, and stocks.

Footwear – MLH 450

Monthly enquiry into total sales and total orders.†

Pottery – MLH 462

NEW monthly total turnover enquiry to large firms in the industry.†

Glass – MLH 463

Monthly and quarterly enquiries sponsored by the Glass Manufacturers' Association into sales and production of containers and other items of glassware.

†These enquiries represent the continuation or replacement of existing monthly enquiries.

Further information on these enquiries can be obtained from the Department of Trade and Industry, Economics and Statistics Division 3, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1 (Tel. 01-222 7877 Ext. 3159); Ministry of Aviation Supply, Statistics Branch, Horseguards Avenue, London SW1 (Tel. 01-930 7022 Ext. 3332) (for the enquiry into Aerospace Equipment Manufacturing and Repairing); and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Statistics Division, Great Westminster House, Horseferry Road, London SW1 (Tel. 01-834 8511 Ext. 6418) (for the enquiries into Bread and Flour Confectionery and Biscuits).

The following industries can now be added to those reported earlier where discussions between Government statisticians and industry interests on the reorganisation of industrial statistics have commenced:

Tobacco – MLH 240

Fertilisers – MLH 278

Polishes – MLH 279/1

Printing Ink – MLH 279/5

Surgical Bandages – MLH 279/6

Photographic Chemical Materials – MLH 279/7

Jewellery and Precious Metals – MLH 396

Woollen and Worsted – MLH 414

Carpets – MLH 419

Canvas Goods and Sacks and Other Made-up Textiles – MLH 422/2

Fur – MLH 433

Abrasives – MLH 469/1

Paper and Board – MLH 481

New Business Monitors

The first Business Monitors were published recently containing results of four new quarterly inquiries conducted by the Business Statistics Office into manufacturers' sales of rubber products (Minimum List Heading 491 of the Standard Industrial Classification); sports equipment (MLH 494/3); toys, games and children's carriages (MLH 494/1 and 2); and musical instruments (MLH 499/1). The inquiries have been designed, after close discussions with the industries, not only to meet official needs for statistics but at the same time to provide industry with comprehensive information about detailed sales for marketing and management purposes.

The new Monitors contain other statistical information useful to each of the industries. Imports and exports from the *Overseas Trade Statistics* are given in each of the new Monitors. Links where possible have been given with previously published sales series and back-runs of figures are also shown. The toys, games and children's carriages Monitor includes additionally, at the request of the industry, a table on birth statistics; the Monitor for rubber goods shows manufacturers' sales for export of belting and hose products.

The result of the inquiry into manufacturers' sales of rubber products is published separately as a supplement to the monthly Rubber Monitor P7; it supersedes a supplementary table previously published quarterly and includes sales of tyres and tyre products which were not previously available. Comprehensive official statistics for the rubber industry include the supply, consumption and stocks of natural and synthetic rubber and sales for many individual products. In order to avoid duplication of effort for manufacturers the British Rubber Manufacturers' Association has discontinued several of its own detailed quarterly inquiries previously conducted amongst its members.

The Monitors for toys, games and children's carriages P43 and sports equipment P44 supersede the well-established Monitors, published separately for toys, games and sports equipment and for perambulators, bed-folders and push-chairs. The new series are well related to the old both in product detail and coverage. In addition the Monitor for Sports Equipment introduces product detail in place of a single total sales figure previously published.

In view of the detailed nature of these new inquiries it was expected that firms would take some time to arrange their records to provide the information sought and response was rather slow. However, response to inquiries for the most recent quarters is noticeably quicker and it is hoped to improve on the date to publications of results in future.

Business Monitors P43 and P44 and the new Monitor P88 for musical instruments are available on annual

subscription at 7s 6d per year for each title and the monthly Rubber Monitor P7 at £1 per year from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, P.O. Box 569, London S.E.1.

Expenditure on scientific Research and Development

The November issue of *Economic Trends* carried an article giving some preliminary figures for the major components of this country's spending on scientific research and development (R and D) during 1968/69. The article is expected to be the first of a regular annual series.

The article – which was prepared jointly by the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Education and Science – presented some preliminary results from United Kingdom surveys of government and industry spending on R and D during that year. Results from the surveys of other (smaller) sectors are not yet available nor are analyses of transfers of funds between sectors. Fully detailed analyses for all sectors will appear in the next issue of *Statistics of Science and Technology* (SST). The current issue of SST, published in September last, carried full analyses of data for all sectors in respect of the two years 1966/67 and 1967/68, together with some limited provisional estimates of government spending in 1968/69 and summary figures for all sectors covering the two previous full survey years, 1961/62 and 1964/65; so the article in the November issue of *Economic Trends* may be regarded as updating the figures for the main elements of the analyses in that publication. The current issue of SST also carries detailed notes on the scope and definitions of the estimates.

Table 8 of the article in *Economic Trends*, which gave certain industry data for the three years 1966/67 – 1968/69 was incorrect in some respects: a corrected table was issued with the December issue of *Economic Trends*.

DISTRIBUTION

Census of Distribution for 1971

An Order prescribing the scope of the census of retailing and related service trades to be taken for 1971 was made on 11 November 1970 (the Census of Distribution (1972) Order, 1970 – SI 1970 No. 1715). Shortly afterwards an important step in the preparations for the census was completed when some 10,000 specimen forms were issued to large traders identified in the census for 1966. Smaller traders will not be notified individually until a register is compiled in the summer of 1971 from docketts prepared for the Business Statistics Office by enumerators engaged by OPCS for the census of population.

The information which traders will be asked to give in respect of trade done in 1971 has been agreed in

consultation with the Census of Distribution Advisory Committee appointed in February 1970 (see *Statistical News* 8.25). Every trader in Britain coming within the scope of the census will be asked to give for his business:

- i. Total turnover;
- ii. total purchases;
- iii. the number of persons engaged in the business.

Traders whose turnover in 1971 is £10,000 or more will in addition be asked for:

- i. An analysis of turnover by 57 classes of goods sold and services provided;
- ii. wages and salaries paid;
- iii. stocks of goods for sale or processing at the beginning and at the end of the year;
- iv. capital expenditure in the year on land, buildings, vehicles, plant, machinery and other capital equipment;
- v. sales on hire purchase and other instalment credit terms;
- vi. book debts at the end of the year;
- vii. floor space devoted to selling and display;
- viii. certain costs of operating their own goods vehicles and other transport costs.

In addition all traders will be asked to indicate which of the items on a check list were sold through each establishment. Multiple organisations will be asked to give figures for employment, total turnover, square footage of selling space and capital expenditure for each of their branches.

The Business Statistics Office, Chartist Tower, Dock Street, Newport, Mon NPT 1XG will be glad to give more detailed information about the information collected if requested.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

National Food Survey

Detailed tabulations of average household food consumption, expenditure and prices paid by housewives in Great Britain for each of some 150 categories of food in each quarter of 1968 are presented in *Household Food Consumption and Expenditure: 1968*, the latest in the series of Annual Reports by the National Food Survey Committee which was published in December. Comparable details for 1969 are contained in a Supplement which is included in the Report. Further analyses of the Survey data for 1968 which are also presented in the Report include similarly detailed annual estimates of consumption in Scotland, Wales and each of the standard regions of England, and in various categories of urban and rural areas. Details of average expenditure and consumption for each of some 45 broader categories of food are presented for households in various income groups and for various sizes of family.

In addition to these customary tables the Report

presents the results of a number of supplementary analyses of the Survey data for 1968. One such analysis shows that food consumption patterns varied more with the age of the housewife than with the socio-economic status of the head of the household. For many commodities average consumption per person reached its peak when the housewife was aged between 55 and 64 (when the household had become predominantly adult in composition and family income per head was still high).

An appendix to the Report presents a special analysis of garden, allotment and other supplies of food obtained without direct payment, and shows how these have declined over the past ten years. Another appendix shows that about three out of every four cups of tea, coffee and cocoa drunk in the home were sweetened with sugar, the proportion being higher than this among families with children. Sweeteners other than sugar were used in only three out of every hundred cups, mainly in households without children. Nearly a quarter of the beverages were consumed unsweetened, a proportion exceeded in the higher income groups, and among pensioner and other entirely adult households. A further appendix indicates that the proportion of households in Great Britain possessing a refrigerator rose from about one-third to more than a half between 1962 and 1968. Ownership is more widespread in the south than in the north of England and in Scotland, and more common among younger childless couples than in large families.

The nutritional section of the Report contains estimates of the average energy value and nutrient content of the diet in various types of household and compares them with the intakes recommended by the Department of Health and Social Security. Estimates are also given of the concentration of nutrients in relationship to the energy value of average diets of various groups of households. The broad picture revealed by the Survey is satisfactory, though not necessarily so for all households included in it.

Though intended primarily to provide information for administrative purposes, the National Food Survey yields data of interest to all who are concerned with the home market for food. Comprehensive Annual Reports necessarily take a considerable time to prepare and print, but summarized results are published as soon as possible in the *Monthly Digest of Statistics*, in *Trade and Industry* (formerly the *Board of Trade Journal*) and in the Ministry's *Food Facts* (obtainable from the Press Office). Unpublished results are available for some detailed analyses, including quarterly estimates of household food consumption, expenditure and average prices paid for nearly 150 categories of food by households of different income group and family composition, and in different areas of Great Britain. Such unpub-

lished data can be supplied on payment of a fee which varies according to the amount and nature of the information required; application should be made to the National Food Survey Branch, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Government Buildings, Tolcarne Drive, Pinner, Middlesex, HA5 2DT, telephone no. 01-868 7161 Extension 43 and 44.

Reference

Household Food Consumption and Expenditure: 1968 (including a Supplement giving preliminary estimates for 1969), HMSO, December 1970 (Price £1.25)

Estimates of agricultural output in the United Kingdom

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food have recently published a booklet *Output and Utilisation of Farm Produce in the United Kingdom - 1964/65 to 1968/69*.* It is the second in a new annual series of statistical tables showing the production and utilisation in the United Kingdom of all the principal agricultural and horticultural crops, and livestock and livestock products. The new series replaces one previously published every three years or so under the same title by HMSO.

Table 1 of the booklet shows, by separate commodity, the quantities of output produced for sale from the 'National Farm' (i.e. all holdings of agricultural land of over 1 acre), valued at the current prices, including Government subsidy, received by farmers. The sum of these values, after adjustment for end of year crop and stock valuations, represents the gross output of the 'National Farm'. By 1968/69 this had reached almost £2,000 million, an increase of almost £200 million (11 per cent) over the four years since 1964/65. Within the total, the value of farm crops produced for sale rose from £338 million in 1964/65 to 382 million in 1967/68, but fell back to £359 million in 1968/69 as a result of the poor cereals harvest of that year. Livestock and livestock products, however, increased over the four years from £1,217 million to £1,388 million, a rise of 14 per cent. The value of fruit, vegetables and flowers produced for sale rose from £181 million in 1964/65 to £215 million in 1968/69.

These estimates of agricultural output are made each year as part of the statistical background to the annual review of the economic condition and prospects of the agricultural industry and figures for 1969/70 will be available in the next annual *Output and Utilisation* booklet scheduled for publication in June 1971.

*The booklet is available price 11p (by post 17½p) from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Publications), Government Buildings, Tolcarne Drive, Pinner, Middlesex, HA5 2DT. The last in the HMSO series covered the years 1962/63 to 1965/66 and was published in 1967, price 17½p.

Agricultural statistics in Northern Ireland

The forthcoming publication *Farming in Northern Ireland – Statistical Review, 1969-70*, one of a series issued annually, differs somewhat in content from previous editions. In former years, the *Statistical Review* included the results of the yearly Farm Management Survey, giving details of gross output, variable and fixed costs and net farm income on farms of different sizes and types. This survey, which in Northern Ireland is conducted by the Economics and Statistics Division of MANI (corresponding to the Farm Management Surveys carried out by the University Departments of Agricultural Economics in England and Wales and by the three Agricultural Colleges in Scotland), is of the financial results of a sample of approximately 500 farm business. As from 1969-70 this information will be published separately, and in more detail, in *The Northern Ireland Farm Management Survey, 1969-70*.

In place of the Farm Management Survey results, the *Statistical Review* will contain additional and more detailed statistical information on the structure of Northern Ireland agriculture – numbers, by size and type, of farms and their respective proportions of the total livestock, crops and grass – and of labour use on Northern Ireland farms. This information is similar in type to that contained in *The Eighth Report on the Agricultural Statistics of Northern Ireland, 1961/62 – 1966/67*, published in 1970.

The *Statistical Review* will continue to give a wide range of statistical information on the output, expenditure, and net income of farming, frequency distributions of livestock and crop acreages, and information on forestry and fishing. It will also include a new series of net income of farming in Northern Ireland, based on the years 1964/65 to 1966/67, and for the first time estimates of value-added for the main agricultural commodities.

References

Farming in Northern Ireland – Statistical Review, 1969-70 (Economics and Statistics Division, MANI, Belfast BT4 3SB) 1971 (to be published). (Free on request).

The Northern Ireland Farm Management Survey, 1969-70, (Economics and Statistics Division, MANI, Belfast BT4 3SB) 1971 (to be published). (Free on request).

The Eighth Report on the Agricultural Statistics of Northern Ireland, 1961/62 – 1966/67 (HMSO) 1970 (Price £1).

Horticulture in Britain

The second part of *Horticulture in Britain* dealing with fruit and flowers is being published early in 1971 and, together with Part I: Vegetables, provides a comprehensive background of comparative statistics for these crops, which should be useful to a wide variety of interests concerned with horticulture.

For the first time most of the statistical information on fruit, flowers, vegetables and glass house crops has

been gathered together in these two volumes, which cover a period of more than 20 years. The arrangement of the various statistics demonstrates the manner in which horticulture has been adapted to changes in technical developments, to trends in consumption and to the growing needs of the food manufacturing industries.

The method of presentation has been to take the more important horticultural crops grown in the United Kingdom and examine statistics for each to show long-term production tendencies, price trends, the availability of home-grown and imported supplies, the changing locations of growing areas and the number of growers arranged in groups according to the acreage of their production. These developments have had far-reaching consequences both in production, where the changes have been most striking, and in distribution and marketing. Also included are maps showing the location of areas of production for each of the more important crops which reveal the concentration in certain areas for which these districts have particular advantages.

Part I, published in 1967, includes technical sections on climate, irrigation, mechanization, the control of weeds, pests and diseases, and both volumes contain a number of appendices dealing with the advisory services and other aspects of the Government's concern with the horticultural industry, financial assistance to horticulture, marketing co-operatives, household purchases and consumption, Customs duties on imports, and other relevant information about horticulture and horticultural statistics.

References

Horticulture in Britain, Part I (HMSO) March 1967 (Price £2.87½)

Horticulture in Britain, Part II (HMSO) early 1971 (Price £4)

TRANSPORT

Road accidents

A note in the February 1970 issue of *Statistical News* described a number of new tables that had been added to the Ministry of Transport's annual publication *Road Accidents*. The edition for 1969 (available at the beginning of March) includes a further set of new tables, several of which are based on a revised accident reporting form containing aspects of accident detail not available from the earlier form. While they are of general interest, several of these new tables have a special interest in relation to the road safety policy of the Department of the Environment.

A table analysing driver and passenger casualties according to whether or not they were wearing seat belts shows that the likelihood of incurring fatal or serious injuries is substantially lower for wearers, even in accidents on urban roads. There is almost certainly a potential for a much greater saving in casualties by

the use of belts since the figures suggest that only a small proportion of drivers and passengers at present wear them, even on high speed roads.

With the increasing mileage and usage of motorways there is growing interest in the accidents that occur on them, and for this reason a table has been included showing the number of accidents on each of the motorways in use in 1969. It shows the motorway system to be one of the safer parts of the highway system as a whole, for although it carried 4 per cent of the traffic, well under 1 per cent (1600) injury accidents occurred on motorways. On the other hand accidents when they do occur are often more severe; 45 per cent of the motorway injury accidents were fatal or serious compared with 30 per cent on all roads. There were 90 injury accidents in fog reported on motorways in 1969, and two-thirds of these involved fatalities or serious injuries.

Analyses are given showing the numbers of vehicles involved in accidents according to age-group of vehicle, including the numbers reported to have some mechanical defect. Amongst other things these show that vehicles more than 10 years old have about twice as many reported defects per vehicle as vehicles less than 10 years old. Other new tabulations give breakdowns of casualties or accidents according to the type of street lighting, particular obstructions at the accident site, and the weather and road surface condition. In 1969, 4½ per cent of injury accidents occurred on snow or ice and 1½ per cent in fog. A recast table showing the hour-by-hour pattern of casualties indicates that road casualties varied in frequency between an average of 2 between 4 and 5 a.m. on weekdays and an average of 126 between 11 p.m. and midnight on Saturdays.

Explanatory notes are provided for nearly all the tables to bring out special points of interest, and there is an introductory article discussing the statistical and policy aspects of road accident trends over the past decade.

Reference

Road Accidents 1969 (HMSO) March 1971

Port statistics: unit transport traffic

The National Ports Council published at the end of November statistics of the container and roll-on traffic passing through British ports in the calendar year 1969. The statistics have resulted from revised returns now being made by port authorities in Great Britain to the Council following upon the earlier estimates of this traffic in 1965 and 1966 and upon the first returns introduced in January 1967 (*Statistical News* 5.29).

The quantity of this type of goods traffic, in terms of numbers of units, as well as tonnages, is reported for individual overseas countries for the first time. On the

world's most containerised trade route across the North Atlantic, the British share, amounting to 1¼ million tons is shown in comparison with the smaller shares of other countries in Northern Europe.

Actual numbers of empty containers and other units moving through ports have now replaced the estimates made by the Council in previous years. Due to trade or seasonal imbalances, empty units accounted for 414,000 out of a total of 1,738,000 unit movements in 1969. The proportion of empty units varied by type of unit, type of shipping service and trade route served.

The statistics now show the volume of unit transport traffic carried by the three main types of shipping service involved: specialised lift-on services (6.2 million tons), roll-on services (5.6 million tons) and conventional vessels (0.9 million tons). Extension of the scope of the returns to cover non-unitised goods traffic carried on roll-on services, such as import/export cars, caravans, tractors, etc., has resulted in the inclusion of 1.1 million tons of cargo in 1969.

The statistical returns from port authorities now cover the traffic in accompanied cars and buses, of which over ¾ million were carried each way in 1969.

Reference:

Container and roll-on port statistics, Great Britain, 1970: Part (i) Traffic by type of unit, service and overseas country. November 1970 (Price 20s.). Available from National Ports Council, 17 North Audley Street, London, W.1.

Airline financial statistics

Financial information about British airlines is published in a new *Business Monitor* the eighth in the Civil Aviation series. The statistics include the values of the main categories of assets and liabilities of British airlines, their revenues and an analysis of their expenditures. The headings are more detailed than the minimum required under the Companies Act and are modelled on the International Civil Aviation Organisation reporting forms for airlines operating international scheduled services. The information published is the result of a new voluntary inquiry among private sector airlines to extend information available to the public about British air transport. The separate accounts of some important airlines are included. The results of the present inquiry are linked with those collected by the Edwards Committee (British Air Transport in the Seventies, Cmnd. 4018, HMSO 1969) for the years 1962 to 1967.

The Monitor reference CA8 is available on subscription of 25p from HMSO, P.O. Box 569, London, SE1.

Statistics of shipping movements

The regular quarterly statistics of the number and net tonnage of ships entering and leaving British ports, analysed by port and by flag, and distinguishing coastal

from foreign trade, are to be discontinued after the end of this year. Where formerly they provided the main indication of the level of port activity and of the British share of the carrying trade, there are now other sources of information. The chief of these are the port statistics which have been developed in recent years largely on the basis of returns made by the port authorities; and the flag analysis of overseas trade in terms of the tonnage of goods of different types carried by sea to or from different overseas countries, which is the subject of an annual article in *Trade and Industry*.

The basic Customs records of shipping movements will still be available as the basis for any analysis that may be required, and the Department of Trade and Industry will be maintaining a limited analysis of arrivals of ships in the coastal trade.

This statistical series is of very long standing. There are annual figures going back without a break to 1820; and some figures of the kind were produced very much earlier. These statistics constituted the Navigation section of the former *Trade and Navigation Accounts*. Since 1965, when the trade accounts were first produced by computer, the statistics of shipping movements have appeared in *Trade and Industry* (formerly the *Board of Trade Journal*) and in the *Annual Abstract of Statistics*.

OVERSEAS TRADE

UK visible trade – new presentation

A new form of presentation of the monthly UK trade figures is to be adopted starting with those for January 1971, to be published in February. The balance of trade shown will now be the visible balance (which includes payments for US military aircraft) instead of the visible trade balance (which does not include these payments). In addition, the derivation of the visible balance from the figures of imports and exports as recorded in the *Overseas Trade Statistics* will be presented more clearly.

To calculate the visible balance, the import and export figures must be put on a comparable basis, and this necessitates certain adjustments to the seasonally adjusted figures on an *Overseas Trade Statistics* basis. These adjustments are partly coverage adjustments, e.g. the exclusion of returned goods and goods for processing and repair from both the export and import figures, and the inclusion in imports of new ships delivered abroad to UK owners.

In addition there are adjustments to bring the valuation of imports to the same basis as for exports. The recorded value of exported goods is the value of goods only, i.e. they are valued *fob*, while the recorded value of imported goods includes the cost of insurance and freight, i.e. they are valued *cif*. Hence, to obtain imports on the same basis of valuation as exports, the

element of freight and insurance in their recorded value has to be subtracted.

Hitherto, in the monthly notices on UK trade, emphasis has been laid on the figures before these adjustments have been made, and as a result it was not obvious how the visible trade balance was derived from the totals of exports and imports in the same table. The tables have been redesigned to give more prominence to figures of imports and exports on a balance of payments basis and to show clearly how the visible balance is derived. Since the publication of the figures for March 1970, the relationship between the recorded figures and those on a balance of payments basis has been set out in a table in the Notes which covered both imports and exports; they are now to be shown in separate tables, and given more prominence.

For both imports and exports the discussion of trends in trade as a whole will be in terms of the totals adjusted to a balance of payments basis. The analysis of the area and commodity pattern of trade will, however, continue to be in terms of figures on the basis of the *Overseas Trade Statistics* because it is not practicable to apply the necessary adjustments to all the detailed figures.

A fuller description of the reasons for the change and details of the adjustments was published in an article on page 130 in *Trade and Industry* of 4 November 1970.

Preliminary estimates of exports and imports of goods and services at constant prices

A note in the January issue of *Economic Trends* introduces publication of a new series of preliminary estimates of exports and imports of goods and services at constant prices and seasonally adjusted. Beginning with estimates for the fourth quarter of 1970, preliminary estimates based on partial data will be published in *Economic Trends* one month and two months after the end of the quarter, in advance of the regular published estimates based on the usual quarterly data which are first published about twelve weeks after the end of the quarter in the provisional press notice on national income and expenditure. The figures will be shown in the same table as the preliminary estimates of consumers' expenditure, which will thus include preliminary estimates for three out of the seven main components of the estimate of gross domestic product based on expenditure data.

FINANCE

Money supply

A note on definitions of the money supply was published in *Economic Trends* for August 1970. Its purpose was to introduce a new table providing details of two narrower definitions of the money supply (M_1 and M_2)

in addition to the existing official definition, now called M_3 , together with details of total sterling deposits with the banking sector. The new table was introduced into the September issue of *Financial Statistics* and will be published there each month. Estimates of the money supply on the two narrower definitions are available quarterly from the first quarter of 1963. In addition to the unadjusted series, a seasonally adjusted series is continued for changes in M_3 and it is intended to introduce seasonally adjusted series for M_1 and M_2 in due course.

A technical appendix to the note in *Economic Trends* describes the statistical information currently available from institutions classified to the banking sector and the assumptions which have to be made in arriving at estimates for the narrower definitions of money supply.

INTERNATIONAL

UNCTAD

A selected group of individual experts on insurance statistics, drawn from 14 different countries, met in Geneva in October to discuss a draft report prepared by the Secretariat of the Insurance Branch of the Department of Invisibles. The draft report proposed a minimal system of insurance statistics suitable for application in developing countries but appeared also to envisage its being extended world-wide for purposes of international comparison.

The principal drawbacks to what was proposed were that the system envisaged was based on the continental method of insurance operation and accounting and would not have fitted the pattern in the United Kingdom or in those developing countries with a UK tradition, and that its proposals regarding balance of payments statistics contained a number of flaws and would moreover have been totally inadequate in relation to a large international market like the UK.

The experts reached a substantial measure of agreement on the amendments which should be made before the report could be submitted to the Invisibles Committee and they emphasized that the implementation of the proposals, as revised, would have to be made progressively and with a measure of flexibility related to the circumstances in the various developing countries.

Programme of work of OECD in statistics 1971:

Development Assistance Committee

One of the main subjects in the Organisation's work programme for 1971 is the further improvement of aid statistics. DAC statistics have long been acknowledged as a basic and reliable source of information on aid and resource flows to developing countries and have played an essential role in the discussions of DAC over a wide range of policy issues. In 1971, for the further improvement in quantity and quality of these statistics, activi-

ties will focus on two main items: the development of definitions and methods, and the computerisation of the data which is expanding both in volume and in complexity.

Firstly, on the subject of definitions, it is proposed that the Group on Statistical Problems of the DAC (for which the UK provides the Chairman) continues its work in 1971. During 1970 the permanent value of this Group was recognised by removing the term 'Ad Hoc' from its title. The Group's work aims at improving the consistency and reliability, and hence the credibility, of the various donors' aid statistics. As part of this work the Group keeps under continuous appraisal progress in statistical reporting of donors in the light of their needs for data and their ability to provide them.

Secondly, with the growth in the volume and variety of statistical input and output, manual processing of data is no longer possible. The volume of data in the annual statistical submissions by member countries to DAC is increasing. Further, the development of the IBRD/OECD Joint Expanded Reporting System is already beginning to provide valuable information whose potential cannot, however, be fully explored other than by increasing computerisation. Steps have already been taken in this direction with the co-operation of the Data Processing Office of the Economic and Statistics Department. This programme will take up to three years to complete, but 1971 will be a key year. This statistical work will be strengthened in 1971 by the transfer to it of a grade A2/A3 post from elsewhere in the Secretariat.

Conference of Asian Statisticians

The tenth session of the United Nations Conference of Asian Statisticians was held in Kuala Lumpur from 2-14 December 1970. The Conference which is conducted jointly by the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) and the Statistical Office of the United Nations meets every 18 months, usually in Bangkok but sometimes elsewhere by invitation from member countries in the region and on this occasion in co-operation with the Government of Malaysia.

It was attended by 47 high level statisticians from 22 member and associate member nations of ECAFE, together with representatives of the Specialised Agencies and other international organisations. The United Kingdom delegate was Mr. K. V. Henderson, Director of Statistics, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Overseas Development Administration).

The Conference reviewed the development of statistics in the ECAFE region, the pace of which it regarded as inadequate *vis-à-vis* the expected demand in the content of the needs of the Second Development Decade. Concern was expressed at the shortage of adequately

trained statistical and data processing staff. An expansion of training facilities was required. In this connection the Conference also reviewed the first report of the Asian Statistical Institute, set up in Tokyo in June 1970 under ECAFE auspices, and with the co-operation of the Government of Japan.

The report of the Conference presents detailed recommendations and reviews on nine major statistical fields: education, planning, labour, national accounts, health, construction, agriculture, prices and quanta, and children and youth. It also presents the Conference's recommendations for a programme of 20 seminars, workshops and working sessions in special statistical fields from 1972-1976, to be organised by ECAFE's Statistical Division.

This Session of the Conference was notable for the increased contribution to the proceedings made by the delegates from the smaller and less developed countries of the region such as Fiji, which had achieved independence only just before the Conference, reflecting the rapid development of statistics in Asia and the Pacific.

PUBLICATIONS

Social Trends

In December the CSO launched its new publication, *Social Trends*. This starts life as an annual though the possibility of rather more frequent publication is not ruled out. It is however not just another annual abstract. The difference lies in the choice of statistics which, although drawn from a wide variety of sources, are specially selected to highlight the most important aspects of social conditions in the United Kingdom: it also uses extensively colour charts and diagrams to bring out the key features of social change. Moreover although there is little entirely new statistical information in the tables, the way the figures are presented is often new: in particular the various sections cut across formal departmental boundaries and bring together related tables from different sources.

Social Trends is in some degree a counterpart to the CSO's *Economic Trends* but there are important differences. It is aimed at a rather less specialist audience and hopes to interest those concerned, in many fields and at many levels, with formulating and administering social policies. Thus it tries to present a rounded picture of society with a relatively few key statistics illustrated in such a way that they can be quickly assimilated. For those who wish to explore any subject in greater depth there are comprehensive source references.

The publication includes a number of authoritative articles on topics bearing on social policies. One of these articles, by Jean Thompson of the Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys, considers population prospects during the rest of the century; another

by Professor Brian Abel-Smith, who is now professor of Social Administration at the London School of Economics but was, at the time the article was written, senior adviser to the Secretary of State for Social Services in the previous government, deals with broad changes in public expenditure on the social services during the post-war period; a third article by A. E. Holmans of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government discusses effective demand for houses in the 1970's and the various methods involved in making the forecast. Finally Professor C. A. Moser, Director of the Central Statistical Office, reviews general developments in government social statistics.

The Editor is Mrs. Muriel Nissel of the Central Statistical Office.

Inland Revenue statistics

Last year, for the first time, the statistics previously included in the *Board of Inland Revenue's Annual Report* were published as a separate volume entitled *Inland Revenue Statistics 1970*. The 1971 edition will be published next month and will include data for the latest available year, normally 1968/9 but in some cases for 1969/70.

A major feature of the 1971 edition will be the results of the 1968/9 Survey of Personal Incomes. The results of the Survey are analysed by income groups, family circumstances, type of income and the Standard Regions. The volume also gives an analysis of the estimated wealth of individuals as well as analyses of estates subject to estate duty and of capital gains.

Customs and Excise statistics

The *61st Report of the Commissioners of HM Customs and Excise* was published on 22 December 1970. The Report covers the year ended 31 March 1970 and takes the customary form of a narrative review of the year's activities followed by an Appendix giving descriptions and statistics of the various Customs and Excise duties. Most of the statistical tables cover ten years.

Reference

61st Report of the Commissioners of HM Customs and Excise for the year ended 31 March 1970, Cmnd. 4555 (HMSO) December 1970 (Price £1.10)

Family Expenditure Survey 1968 and 1969 (Northern Ireland)

The Northern Ireland Family Expenditure Survey for each of the years 1968 and 1969, compiled by the Economic Section of the Ministry of Finance, gives details of household income and expenditure in each of the years 1968 and 1969 with comparisons for 1967, obtained from a fresh random sample of Northern Ireland families for each year. The expenditure analysis covers a range of 94 separate categories of which 32 apply

to food, ranging from bread and flour to soft drinks and ice-cream.

In 1968, 78% of all households visited agreed to co-operate and comprehensive information was obtained from 636 households comprising 2,271 persons. In 1969, co-operation was achieved from 79% of the households visited in that year and information was obtained from 641 households comprising 2,275 persons. In each of the co-operating households, all members aged 15 and over kept detailed records of day-to-day expenditure for differing periods of 14 consecutive days.

Of the co-operating households in 1968, 53% occupied rented unfurnished accommodation (31% from local authorities and 22% from private landlords) and in the 1969 sample, 52% of the dwellings occupied were rented unfurnished (28% from local authorities and 24% from private landlords). In each of the 2 years almost 13% of all dwellings were in process of purchase by the occupiers and 29% were owned outright.

The average total weekly income of the sample households increased from £23 19s 6d in 1967 to £26 14s 6d in 1968 and to £26 17s 6d in 1969 with average weekly household expenditure rising from £21 16s 0d in 1967 to £25 1s 0d in 1968 and £25 14s 0d in 1969. On an average the households spent (percentage of total expenditure in brackets) in 1968 and 1969 respectively – on food £6 19s 6d (27.9%) and £7 5s 6d (28.3%); on clothing and footwear £3 0s 0d (11.9%) and £3 3s 0d (12.3%); on transport and vehicles £3 10s 0d (14%) and £3 9s 0d (13.4%); on services (entertainment, postal and telephone charges, subscriptions, hotel and holiday expenses) £2 6s 0d (9.1%) and £2 6s 0d (8.9%); on tobacco £1 7s 0d (5.5%) and £1 9s 0d (5.7%); on alcoholic drink 15s 6d (3.1%) and 17s 0d (3.3%); on housing £2 3s 6d (8.7%) and £2 4s 0d (8.5%); on fuel, light and power £1 11s 0d (6.2%) and £1 14s 0d (6.6%). The remainder in each year was accounted for mainly by the purchase of household durable and other miscellaneous goods.

Reference

Family Expenditure Survey 1968 and 1969 (Northern Ireland) (HMSO) 1970 (Price 75p)

25 years of statistics

The December 1970 issue of the *Monthly Digest of Statistics* was No. 300 and thus completed 25 years during which the *Digest* has made regularly available a wide range of short-term statistics covering most aspects of the UK economy. The *Digest* had its origin in a series of Secret and Top Secret monthly statistical reports on various subjects which the CSO prepared during the 1939–45 War for the information of the War Cabinet and a few senior officials. With the end of the

war, those series which were relevant to the development of the economy in the post-war period and which were not still subject to restriction on security grounds were brought together for regular monthly publication. The first issue of the *Monthly Digest*, for January 1946, contained 108 tables, occupying 96 pages. As new statistics became available the *Digest* was expanded to accommodate them and now has 169 tables and 148 pages, with an appreciably higher average number of columns per table.

Annual Digest of Health Statistics

The Department of Health and Social Security will shortly publish the second *Annual Digest of Health Statistics for England and Wales* (HMSO). This edition will contain Great Britain summary tables where comparable information is available. The coverage will be as in the first edition (see *Statistical News* 6.30) but an additional section on Abortions notified under the Abortion Act 1967 is included.

Publication of statistics of education

A sustained effort was made during 1970 to improve the timeliness of the annual volumes of *Statistics of Education* with a view to publishing the six volumes for 1969 within four to eight months of the corresponding 1968 issues. Two of the volumes for 1969 were published by the end of 1970 and the remainder are expected to appear in the first few months of 1971. It is hoped to make further improvements in the timeliness of the publications for future years.

Bank of England statistical abstract

The Bank of England have compiled a *Statistical Abstract* which presents long runs of quarterly or, where available, monthly figures on financial subjects – such as the central government's accounts, banking, money supply and domestic credit, the capital markets, external finance, exchange and interest rates and security yields, and financial flows between sectors. Many of the tables are the same as, or closely related to, those that appear regularly in the Bank's *Quarterly Bulletin*; the aim has been, wherever possible, to provide continuous series spanning the period 1945–69.

The *Abstract* is available from the Publications Section, Economic Intelligence Department, Bank of England, London EC2R 8AH, price £3.

Business Monitor – Assets and liabilities of finance houses

The quarterly series on *Selected assets and liabilities of finance houses*, published since 19 October 1962 in the former *Board of Trade Journal*, appeared for the last time in that publication on 18 November 1970. The series is now being incorporated, under the same title,

into the Business Monitor series of publications. As before, it will be published quarterly, showing the same breakdown of assets and liabilities, except that it will, in addition, give figures for an increased number of dates.

The series (reference SD7) is available from HMSO, by subscription only, at 37½p per annum.

Economic Statistics Collections

Recent developments in the field of economic statistics such as the reorganisation of government statistical services and the increasing use of statistical data have emphasized the need for detailed information on the research sources available within the United Kingdom. The 1965 Library Association/Royal Statistical Society conference on librarian-statistician relations in the field of economic statistics revealed that research workers were frequently unaware of the collections of material available to them, while librarians were not always aware of the needs of statisticians. The Committee of Librarians and Statisticians, set up as a result of the conference, accordingly initiated a systematic survey of sources on economic statistics contained in libraries and other organisations within the United Kingdom. The results of this survey are being published in the *LA-RSS Resources in Economic Statistics* series, of which the present volume, *Economic Statistics Collections*, is the first.

Economic Statistics Collections is a directory of the research sources contained within the following types of organisation: business firms; trade and other associations; and trade unions. The collections contained in libraries, public or otherwise, will be dealt with in subsequent publications. The present volume contains a major section comprising a geographical list of organisations covering the whole of the United Kingdom, together with official addresses and details about the geographical coverage of the collections involved and also their subject coverage and time span.

Economic Statistics Collections is obtainable from the Library Association, 7 Ridgmount Street, London WC1E 7AE, at £2 post free (or £1.60 post free to members of the Library Association).

Statistical sources

In 1969, the Joint Working Party of Librarians and Economic Statisticians, set up by the Library Association and the Royal Statistical Society, published a list of the principal sources of United Kingdom economic statistics. This first edition contained 58 titles. The Joint Working Party, now re-named the Committee of Librarians and Statisticians, has recently produced a second edition; it was published last December under the title *Recommended basic statistical sources for community use*. As before, it contains a basic minimum

list of key sources, such as the *Annual Abstract of Statistics*, which the committee believes should be readily available to every member of the community for general reference. Again, there is a larger and more detailed section devoted to an extended list of titles, arranged under subject headings, which the committee recommend should be available for public use in all substantial centres of population. The main changes consist in the deletion from this section of items 4, 34 and 49, and the insertion of some additional titles, with numbers in the form 13A, 13B, etc. Otherwise, the numbering of entries is unchanged from the first edition, so that despite the increased number of titles (now 65) the list can still be related to the results of the committee's geographical survey of the provision of statistical publications in public libraries (described in *Statistical News* 9.29).

Recommended basic statistical sources for community use is obtainable from the Library Association, 7 Ridgmount Street, Store Street, London WC1E 7AE, at £0.25 net.

National Institute Economic Review

'Another look at the Common Market' is the title of an article by R. L. Major and S. Hays, assisted by A. Grunberger, included in the November 1970 issue of the *National Institute Economic Review*.

The authors write that shares in industrial countries' trade and output and their economic growth rates before and after 1958 suggest that membership of EEC has stimulated trade between the Six without making their economies more competitive, specialised or dynamic. Higher agriculture output per man-year and labour transfers from agriculture to other employment have, moreover, contributed substantially to output gains. Agriculture's share in employment is so low in the United Kingdom that it seems ill-placed to achieve through EEC membership improvements in growth rate and competitiveness which would compensate for loss of tariff preferences elsewhere and balance of payments costs of adopting the Common Agricultural Policy.

In the same issue, J. K. Bowers of Leeds University, P. C. Cheshire of the College of Estate Management, University of Reading and A. E. Webb of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research have written on the 'Change in the relationship between unemployment and earnings increases' and review some possible explanations.

They say that since about the end of 1966 wages in the United Kingdom have risen much faster than previous relationships with unemployment would have suggested. This development reflects a change in relationships between unemployment and vacancies; there is no evidence that relationships between wages

and vacancies have altered.

Possible explanations include the introduction of redundancy payments (December 1965), selective employment tax (September 1966), and earnings-related unemployment benefit (October 1966), incomes policy (notably a freeze on prices and incomes from July 1966 to January 1967), devaluation-induced structural changes in industry and a labour 'shake-out' due to deflation late in 1966.

Journal of the Royal Statistical Society

Volumes 1-89 (1938-1926) of the *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society* have been out of print for many years. In view of the interest of these early volumes, arrangements were made for them to be re-printed. Copies of the re-print (either single volumes or complete sets) can be obtained from Wm. Dawson & Sons Ltd., Cannon House, Folkestone, Kent, who hold and distribute on behalf of the RSS all back numbers of the Journal.

GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL SERVICE

Liaison with industry

Statistics Users Conference

The first UK conference to bring together representatives from business, central and local government and the academic world specifically to discuss the problems of those who provide and use business, economic and financial statistics was held on 28 October 1970 in the rooms of the Royal Society.

The conference was modelled on the lines of the Federal Statistics Users' Conference in the USA, which serves as a standing forum for the ventilation of issues of broad general interest to those concerned with national statistics.

The conference was sponsored by the Social Science Research Council at the request of a joint committee of representatives of the Central Statistical Office, the Confederation of British Industry, the National Economic Development Office, the Royal Statistical Society and the SSRC itself.

The introductory address was given by Mr. Campbell Adamson, Director-General of the CBI, who stressed the importance which the CBI placed on any moves to improve communications between the various sectors of the statistics world.

There were sessions on questions of confidentiality (Chairman Andrew Shonfield, SSRC's Chairman), the problems associated with form-filling (Chairman Professor Maurice Zinkin, Chairman of the CBI Statistics Working Party), and an open forum, chaired by Professor Claus Moser, Director of the CSO, to discuss possible future action which could be taken to attempt to resolve some of the very real problems

experienced by those who collect and use statistical data.

Participants agreed that there was a need for future meetings of this kind to discuss in more detail particular problems associated with the use and provision of national statistics. One important topic for discussion would be the special problems of the smaller firms in fulfilling the ever-increasing demands made on business for statistical data. Another important field for future discussion is that of social statistics; the CSO already has a number of activities in this area and a conference to discuss the various aspects of the provision of adequate social statistics will be organised by the SSRC in 1971.

Reduction in form-filling

Consultations have taken place between the Central Statistical Office and the Building Societies Association and agreement has been reached whereby Societies will report savings under the Save As You Earn scheme at quarterly intervals instead of monthly.

The Department of Trade and Industry's quarterly inquiry into inward portfolio investment based on company share registers will cease after the one for the fourth quarter of 1970. The inquiry was instituted in 1961 and provided figures on changes in holdings of securities by non-residents of the UK, mainly for balance of payments purposes. The quarterly inquiry has been discontinued as the information required for compiling the balance of payments accounts is now obtained as part of an enquiry by the Bank of England from banks and brokers. It is hoped that these new arrangements will be less burdensome on respondents considered overall. It will be necessary, however, to conduct base-year inquiries at infrequent intervals with respondents to the present quarterly inquiry.

Civil Service Department

The statistics units of the CSD have been re-organised to form two Divisions and a small Planning Unit on the staff of the Director of Statistics (Mr. A. R. Smith). Statistics Division 1 is headed by Mr. J. A. Rowntree (Chief Statistician) and Statistics Division 2 by Mr. C. P. H. Marks (PEO). Statistics Division 2 is responsible for the Civil Service personnel data systems (CSR, CMSR and the PRISM Project) and, because in the PRISM system personnel records are to be linked with pay records, also for Civil Service computer pay-roll matters generally. Statistics Division 1 is responsible for all other statistical work in the Department, including the Civil Service Commission, but excluding the Civil Service College. This statistics organisation has become part of the Central Group of the CSD, which reports to the Permanent Secretary.

The teaching of statistics in the Civil Service College

is the responsibility of the Director of Studies in Statistics and Operational Research (Dr. B. Benjamin), and is not organisationally linked to the Statistics Division of the CSD, but there are exchanges of staff on a part-time basis between the two Directorates.

HM Treasury

Transfer of statistical responsibilities from the Department of Trade and Industry

Following the government reorganisation, the branch concerned with developing an input-output forecasting model for the economy has been moved to the Economic Assessment Division of the Treasury. It was formerly located in the Ministry of Technology.

Department of the Environment

Following the merging in the Department of the Environment of the former Ministries of Housing and Local Government, Public Building and Works, and Transport, the statistical services have been brought together within a centralised Resource Allocation and Central Economic Services group headed by Mr J. A. Jukes, CB, Deputy Secretary. Within this group the reorganisation of the statistical services will take place in stages. The arrangements for the first stage are in outline as follows:

The Director of Statistics, Mr. A. H. Watson, CBE, is responsible for three divisions:

STA Division under Mr. J. A. Rushbrook, Chief Statistician, responsible for statistical services on personal travel, road traffic, road accidents, road construction and maintenance, public passenger transport, motor vehicle registrations and allied matters.

STB Division under Mr. K. F. Glover, Chief Statistician, responsible for statistical services on freight transport by road and railway, seaports, the Channel Tunnel, and related matters.

SC Division under Mr. H. Palca, Chief Statistician, responsible for statistical services relating to the construction industry.

A fourth Division, **SR Division**, under Mr. B. C. Brown, Chief Statistician, will for the present be responsible (a) for statistical services on housing and (b) for forecasting work on population and employment demand, and for other work for regional planning. On (a), Mr. Brown will be responsible to the Director of Statistics; on (b), he will report to Mr. I. C. R. Byatt, Director of Economics B, who has responsibilities for economic matters concerning housing, construction, regional planning and local government.

At a later stage a re-arrangement of the work of SC and SR Divisions is envisaged with the objective of closer integration of statistical work on housing and the construction industry.

Appointments

CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE

Mr. A. A. Sorrell, Chief Statistician, Department of Trade and Industry, will transfer on 1 March to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. W. D. Stedman Jones.

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Mr. M. Neifield, Chief Statistician, Department of the Environment, has transferred to the post left vacant by the promotion of Mr. T. Paterson to Assistant Director.

Mr. J. D. Wells, Chief Statistician, will transfer from the Economic Assessment Division of the Treasury to the post vacated by Mr. A. A. Sorrell.

Mr. F. W. Hutber, formerly with the Programmes Analysis Unit at Harwell, has been appointed Chief Statistician and Head of the Model Building and Analysis (Energy) Branch.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. H. Palca, Chief Statistician, Post Office, has been appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the transfer of Mr. M. Neifield.

TREASURY

Mr. D. C. Upton, Statistician, Treasury, will be promoted to Chief Statistician in Mr. Wells' place.

CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Mr. C. P. H. Marks, Senior Chief Executive Officer, has been promoted to a new post at Assistant Secretary level in charge of the section with responsibility for Civil Service personnel data systems, including pay-roll matters generally.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OVERSEAS AID ADMINISTRATION

Mr. H. Fell has been promoted to Chief Statistician on the retirement of Mr. W. L. Kendall.

OFFICE OF POPULATION CENSUSES AND SURVEYS

Mr. H. J. M. Jones, formerly serving on secondment at the Commission on the Third London Airport, has been appointed Chief Statistician in the Census Division of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys in succession to Mr. C. A. F. Russell.

Alphabetical Index

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Generally speaking articles relating to United Kingdom, Great Britain, England and Wales or covering several geographical groups are not indexed under these groups, but topics with a significant regional interest are indicated e.g. regional earnings. Articles and notes dealing particularly with Scottish statistics are indexed under 'Scotland' as well as the topic, e.g. 'Scotland, population projections', and similarly for Wales and Northern Ireland.

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