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NOVEMBER 1971

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# STATISTICAL NEWS

## Developments in British Official Statistics

A publication of the Government Statistical Service

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# Note by the Editor

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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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**Statistical News**

**No. 15**

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**Developments  
in  
British  
official  
statistics**

LONDON

HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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NOVEMBER 1971

CENTRAL  
STATISTICAL  
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Statistical News  
No. 12

Developments  
in  
British  
Official  
Statistics

LONDON

HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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# New statistics and the Index of Industrial Production

A. A. Sorrell, *Chief Statistician, Central Statistical Office*

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## Introduction

The Index of Industrial Production is one of our most important economic indicators. It provides an up-to-date measure of changes in industrial production and is also the major element (accounting for over 40 per cent of the total weight) of the quarterly output-based estimate of gross domestic product; it is thus important that it should be as reliable as possible. Since it was first compiled in 1948 the quality of the index has improved as the range of economic statistics has developed and as more information has become available about industrial output; however, for a number of industries, some of them large, the information used to measure changes in output is still a good deal less than adequate. The thorough-going reorganization of official industrial statistics which is at present taking place<sup>(1)</sup> will enable substantial improvements to be made to the index.

These will come about largely because a major feature of this reorganization is the setting up, industry by industry, of a complete range of quarterly inquiries in each of which detailed figures of the sales of individual products or groups of products will be collected. When all of these inquiries are operational, in a year or two, there will, at least quarterly, no longer be any serious gaps in the information available for building up the index. The purpose of this article is to explain how this new information will be used to improve the index, and also indicate the problems that will be involved. For alongside the substantial overall improvements there will be some drawbacks, at least in the transitional period, as new series are spliced into the index to replace old ones; in particular, one of the costs of having a more reliable index each quarter may well be to increase the possibility of revisions to the provisional monthly estimates which in many cases will continue to be based on less reliable indicators. It is worth saying at this stage that our policy will be to introduce the new figures into the index, industry by industry, as each new inquiry is set up and is producing

reliable and timely figures. We shall not, save exceptionally, store up the new figures for introduction when there is a rebasing of the index. A series of gradual and minor discontinuities is, we think, preferable to less frequent but more substantial revisions for a long way back.

This article does not deal with the longer-term improvements to the index of production which may result from the reorganization of industrial statistics. With the full range of new data resulting from the reorganization, including that from the annual censuses of production, it may be possible, by the use of double deflation methods<sup>(2)</sup>, to obtain a direct estimate of annual changes in net output; it will also be possible to review the timing and frequency of reweighting and rebasing of the index. Nor does this article deal with efforts that are currently being made to speed up the publication of the index and improve the reliability of the first estimates. These matters will be reported on in due course.

## New series

The greatest improvement to the index will, of course, be where the new quarterly sales figures replace present indicators that are based on information which is incomplete or is an indirect and not very appropriate proxy for measuring output. For example, most of the output of the printing and publishing industries (MLH's 485 to 489) is measured at present by estimates of the input of paper; for the output of miscellaneous plastics products, estimates of inputs of synthetic resins and plastic materials is similarly used. Again, the value of prescriptions dispensed, together with the value of exports of pharmaceutical preparations and chemicals (in both cases, adjusted for price changes), is used to measure changes in the output of the pharmaceutical industry (MLH 272). In cases like these there must be serious doubts as to whether the output of these trades is reliably reflected in the index. Series based on materials inputs, employment or other indicators that

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(1) See articles in *Statistical News* by J. Stafford (1.7), R. W. Green (8.7) and A. A. Sorrell (6.4).

(2) In the double deflation method, figures of gross output and of inputs are each adjusted for price changes and net output at constant prices is obtained by deducting the latter from the former.



are particularly deficient – like pharmaceuticals, described above – account for about one-eighth of the total weight of the index.

While, as mentioned above, the new information will replace the old indicators in the index as soon as they are ready, it will normally be several quarters after the starting of a new inquiry before this can be done. In the early stages the response to new inquiries is normally slow as firms organize their records to provide the figures; for some firms there are problems in arranging to extract the figures required which take some time to overcome. In addition, the conducting of an inquiry very often reveals deficiencies in the registers in an industry used by the Business Statistics Office, which is conducting these inquiries; these have to be sorted out. It is usually some time, therefore, before the figures for the early quarters are complete enough, and the current figures are becoming available quickly enough, to be used for the index. The development by the BSO of computerized imputation techniques to allow, provisionally, for returns that have not been received should help to speed up the process of using the new figures. But there is bound to be some delay and when the new series are introduced there may be revisions for some quarters back if they show different movements from those shown by the old indicators. There may also be revisions subsequently to the most recent figures if it will have proved necessary to base these on less than complete information. We shall try to assure ourselves before introducing a series that the degree of imputation likely to be needed in future quarters is such that the risk of major revisions to the first quarterly estimates will be small; but some risk of this is bound to exist for some series.

More important than this – which is a perennial problem in trying to get timely estimates from statistical inquiries – is likely to be the fact that, where these much-improved figures are used quarterly, the first monthly estimates will have to continue to be based on the indicators previously used. These indicators, although poor, often have one quality that the statistician regards as a virtue – they are not subject to much revision (sometimes they are not revised at all) after they are first used. It may be that, when the superior quarterly figures become available, they will show a different movement in output from that shown by the monthly figures. This already happens elsewhere in the index but the extension of the area where provisional monthly estimates are overtaken by firmer figures could make the index more prone to revisions. Only experience will tell what the magnitude of this will be, both to the components of the index and the major aggregates such as the ‘all industries’ and the ‘total manufacturing’ figures. We shall be watching this carefully and considering what action, if any, is appropriate.

### Improving present series

For many industries the new quarterly sales inquiries will replace inquiries which have been running for many years on a similar basis and have been used to construct the index. This is so, for example, with the new inquiries into the paint industry (MLH 274) and hosiery (MLH 417) which have already started, and there will be many other similar cases. In these cases any effects on the index when the new results are used will normally be much smaller; splicing the new figures into the index will be simpler and the problems of getting the figures promptly will generally be less. There will, however, be some delays and discontinuities. In a number of cases the new inquiries will cover the sales of products that for one reason or another were not within the scope of the inquiries they replaced; frequently the information sought may be more detailed than previously; and there will be the register problems mentioned above. These factors will sometimes mean that in the early stages of the new inquiries the full results will be available more slowly than in the past and the first estimates used for the index may be less firmly based than in the past. This is a transitional problem but it could mean that for a time the index will be, on this account, again rather more subject to revisions than it has been.

### Delivery basis

The aim of the index is to measure changes in *production* – changes, that is, in the amount of goods produced and work done in each period. The index has never achieved this, not only because some of the indicators used are a proxy, and imperfect, measure of production, but also because some of the indicators are based on *deliveries*. The new quarterly inquiries will collect figures of deliveries and with the extensive use of the results of these inquiries in constructing the index, the index will to a much greater extent than in the past be measuring changes in deliveries. While, therefore, with the use of the new and undoubtedly superior information, the index will provide a more reliable measure of changes in activity, it will be a measure somewhat different from what we should ideally like to have.

Deliveries differ from production, of course, to the extent that stocks of finished goods and work in progress change from period to period; if stocks were constant, movements in production and deliveries would be the same. For manufacturing industry as a whole, changes in stocks are not regularly so great as to result in very large differences between production and deliveries; but from time to time in the past, for example, where there is a sharp turn-round from destocking to the building-up of stocks, the difference has been around 1 per cent in a quarter. A difference of this amount is important in assessing short-period movements in industrial out-

put. We are therefore examining whether it will be practicable, when the new information is fully incorporated in the index, to make an adjustment for changes in stocks, at least to the index for manufacturing as a whole so that a measure of changes in production is available.

### **An industry-based index**

In concept, the index is built up from sub-indices, each of which measures the output of a particular industry. These sub-indices are then weighted together by figures of the net output of each industry in the base period. In practice, for the most part the indicators for an industry are based on figures of the total production or deliveries (or some proxy measure) of products characteristic of that industry. They thus include characteristic products produced by firms in other industries and exclude the output by an industry of products characteristic of other industries. It has been necessary to construct the index in this way as the inquiries on which it is based have each related to the output of a group of products, and not to the total output of an industry. In total this does not matter a great deal as the output of a product is in principle included somewhere but is not included twice; the weights are not entirely appropriate to the composition of the sub-indices but the importance of this is slight. It can, however, be rather more important at detailed industry level. For many purposes it is desirable that the sub-indices should reflect changes in the total output of the group of establishments which comprise an industry – when, for example, comparisons are made between movements in output and employment – and include sales by that industry of products characteristic of other industries but exclude sales of characteristic products produced elsewhere.

In the new quarterly inquiries, each establishment will provide figures covering all of its turnover (including receipts from work done on customers' materials and services provided). It will be possible, therefore, each quarter, to construct an index for each industry which reflects its total sales – and thus to produce, at all levels, industry-based rather than product-based indices. This will not only put the index on a conceptually preferable basis; it will also improve the coverage of activity in manufacturing industry reflected in the index as output missed from the old inquiries, because of the inevitable deficiencies in the mailing lists of product-based inquiries, and sales not previously within their scope – e.g. merchanted goods – will all be accounted for in the new inquiries. It is proposed to introduce industry-based series into the index as the information becomes available and as it is convenient to do so with the minimum disturbance to the index.

### **Conclusion**

The construction of the index of industrial production is on the threshold of substantial changes which will be introduced gradually over the next year or so. In particular, there will be substantial improvements in the indicators used to measure changes in output, and in one respect – the construction of industry-based components – the conceptual framework of the index will be improved. During the period while the improvements are being introduced, however, there may be some teething troubles as the new information is consolidated and early estimates of the index may be more subject to revision. The new information will be quarterly and a longer-term problem is in those areas where the unsatisfactory information has to continue to be used for provisional monthly estimates, thus adding to the proneness of the index to revision. Experience will show whether this is serious and how desirable it is to try to improve the monthly figures; the position would be alleviated to some extent if the availability of the quarterly data could be speeded up, and any revisions to the index introduced more quickly than at present. We feel sure, however, that it is preferable to use the better figures to obtain a more reliable estimate of changes in output, even if some cost is involved in terms of an apparent increase in the unreliability of the early estimates, rather than to disregard them. The greater emphasis on delivery data will mean that consideration will need to be given to the possibility of adjusting the index for changes in stocks.

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# The CSO macro-economic data bank

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

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One of the new projects on which we have been working in the CSO is the development of a macro-economic data bank. This is essentially a computer-based system for storing and retrieving a selection of important economic time series. We are pleased to report that a pilot scheme is now operational.

Early in 1970, a small ICL computer (1901S) was installed at the CSO to provide for the first time our own in-house computer facilities. So far, it has been successfully employed on three broad tasks: first, for carrying out statistical applications, for example, for calculating regressions, seasonal adjustment procedures, matrix manipulations and similar analytical work; second, for carrying out tasks previously performed at the desk – the most notable example here is computerising the calculation of the Index of Industrial Production; third, for processing statistical returns, for example, financial returns from local authorities. In addition to these tasks, the CSO computer is now able to provide limited data bank facilities. This note is concerned with reporting progress on this.

Now that computers are being used increasingly for analytical and forecasting work, there is a demand for statistical data to be available in computer-readable form as well as on the printed page. This, together with the need for computerising more of the statistical work in the CSO, has led to the development of the CSO experimental macro-economic data bank project. The data bank is intended partly to support the work of the CSO and also to make available particular series or tables in computer-readable form. Our aim is to hold on the computer those statistical series which are most used by the CSO and HM Treasury for further processing or analysis, and to provide a new service to all users of our central economic statistics. By making statistical series available in computer-readable form, we avoid the necessity of each user having to take published series and punch them on to paper tape or cards before they can be processed further by computer. This has the additional advantages of minimising clerical transposition errors and of saving money. Input-output tables have already been made available to other departments and outside organisations in the form of punched cards and magnetic tape. Our intention is to extend this kind of service.

We also intend to hold more of our own worksheet data on the computer so that the data can be manipulated more efficiently within the CSO. A good start has been made on this, but we still have a long way to go before we make the maximum use of the data bank facilities for our own processing work within the Office. Computerising procedures within the CSO should help us to produce our statistics more promptly, more accurately and more efficiently.

## Contents

Most of the series held in the data bank are macro-economic time series already available in government publications. The rest consist of 'worksheet data' for use only within the Central Statistical Office. Our policy has been to build up the data gradually and to include only those series which are likely to be widely used within the government and by outside organisations. It is not possible to give full details here of the series included in the bank, but the following list gives some indication of its scope:

- the Index of Industrial Production and its component series – detailed monthly data back to 1963 and summary data quarterly back to 1958 and annually to 1948;
- the main national income and expenditure series – where possible annually back to 1946 and quarterly to 1955 (but in many cases the figures do not go back this far);
- the main balance of payments series – annually and quarterly back to 1958;
- statistics of population – mid-year estimates back to 1946;
- statistics of working population – quarterly back to 1950;
- numbers in civil employment in manufacturing and production industries – quarterly back to 1948;
- prices – indices for broad groups of wholesale prices monthly back to 1963, of retail prices monthly to 1947, and of consumer prices quarterly to 1948;
- average earnings and wage rates – indices of wage rates monthly back to 1958, of average earnings monthly back to 1963, and of average hourly wage earnings to 1960.

At present there are about 1200 series held in the data bank (counting annual and quarterly series as two separate series). Although the computer scheme can cope with considerably more series than this, there are costs involved in assembling the data, putting them into the bank and in keeping them up to date. In order to minimise these costs, we are proceeding cautiously to see how the demand for the bank's services develops.

Some series, for example the national income series, are continually being revised and the cost of keeping these series up to date can be quite large. On the other hand, there are a number of series, for example, relating to prices, wage rates, unemployment, and employment, which are not revised continuously, so the cost of maintaining a long and up to date series for them is trivial. We are considering whether it is worthwhile keeping a record of revisions, starting from now. None of the series included in the bank relates to individual persons, households or firms, so no question of privacy is involved.

### Facilities and charges

In order to keep down costs only minimal facilities have so far been provided. However, they will be augmented within the resources available as the demand for the services of the bank increases. For example, at present, the computer can provide data directly in the form of punched cards and paper tape but only indirectly on to magnetic tape. The computer can also provide printouts for particular series, and this may be an economical way of obtaining long runs of data in printed form, tailor-made to the user's own requirements.

The charges for using the data bank service are intended to cover marginal costs of providing the data, *plus* a contribution to overheads. It is at present 10p per 100 punched cards or per 100 lines of punched paper tape, subject to a minimum charge of 70p.

All inquiries about the CSO macro-economic data bank service should be addressed to Mr. R. A. Bowditch, Editor of the data bank, Central Statistical Office (Telephone: 01-930 5422, Ext. 115).

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# Statistical forms sent to the construction industry

*Note by the Department of the Environment*

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## **A review of construction statistics**

As part of a continuing review of the way in which the Department of the Environment collects statistics from the construction industry, a detailed examination is being made of the forms sent to the industry. The survey is being undertaken in consultation with the Standing Consultative Committee on Construction Statistics of the National Consultative Council for the Building and Civil Engineering Industries.

One of the purposes of the review is to reduce the time spent by the industry on form-filling. Since 1964 the Department of the Environment (formerly MPBW) has introduced only one new regular statistical enquiry for the construction industry – into the amount of industrialised building – and this was discontinued after a two-year trial period; but there have been many alterations and simplifications.

## *Construction output*

Quarterly inquiries into the value of output of the construction industry enable the construction component (accounting for 12½ per cent) of the index of industrial production to be calculated. The inquiry also provides the government with information on employment and output for eight types of work, and on output by size of firm.

For the third quarter of each year there is a full census of all the 75,000 firms on the department's register. Before 1971 the census inquiry into output and employment was held in April, but this has been combined with the September census inquiry of previous years into the occupational breakdown of operatives, the combined inquiry being held in October. The census provides information for the maintenance of the register of firms engaged in private enterprise housing. In order to reduce the burden on as many firms as is possible, sampling techniques are used in the other three quarterly inquiries. The 4,500 largest firms are included in each inquiry, but only one in ten of the 50,000 smallest firms (those with fewer than 8 persons in total employment) are included and many of these are sent a shortened form. The sampling selection procedure has been programmed so that no small firm

appears in consecutive three-monthly sampling cycles in any one year.

The review of inquiry forms is not sufficiently advanced to enable firm recommendations to be made for any changes in the methods for the collection of construction output statistics. Suggestions under consideration are (i) the collection of the value of repairs and maintenance work only once a year to reduce the burden on the many small firms whose output consists mainly of such work, and (ii) to continue to collect statistics of quarterly output from a sample of firms, but to restrict the inquiry also to a sample of contracts; thus, output from main contractors of all work on a project, including work sub-contracted, could be obtained from the main contractor, thus relieving the form-filling burden on sub-contractors.

## *Employment*

Quarterly and monthly inquiries into employment provide information on the movements in employment in the construction industry. This is integrated with Department of Employment data on employment in other industries to provide overall employment statistics. The annual and quarterly inquiries incorporated into the form used for value of output also provide information on the number of operatives employed on different types of work so that estimates can be made of output per head.

The monthly sample inquiry asking for total employment is despatched to about 6,000 firms. All firms with total employment of 80 or above and a sample of smaller firms are included.

## *Contracts and new orders*

The inquiry into contracts and orders for new construction obtained by contractors provides up-to-date monthly information sub-classified into work types. Information is obtained on the locations and values of the projects and on expected completion dates; it is thus possible to estimate new work outstanding at successive periods. The data are also used for short-term forecasts of the future work load on the industry.

Before 1969 there was an annual census. The inquiry is now conducted on a sample basis monthly and quarterly. Every month about 9,000 forms are despatched to firms likely to obtain substantial new orders. No firms with total employment of less than 8 are approached monthly, and of those firms with total employment of between 8 and 34 only main trade firms are sampled. All firms with total employment of 35 and above are approached each month. In addition every quarter a further sample is drawn from 8,000 smaller firms.

#### *Private enterprise housing*

The most important use of the inquiries into private sector housing is to provide information on house-builders' own expectations of activity during the next 12 to 18 months. The inquiry asks also for details of sales and the results are analysed for the different size-groups of builders. The inquiry shows what proportion of the market each category has been taking and assesses each group's forecasts. The information about sales is used as an indicator of changes in market conditions.

Before March 1970 this inquiry was carried out on a census basis three times a year. A census is now taken every two years, and five inquiries between the censuses are carried out on a sample basis, covering about 12 per cent of the 11,000 firms known to be engaged in private enterprise housing. The sample consists of all firms starting 151 or more dwellings a year, 20 per cent of those starting between 21 and 150 dwellings and 10 per cent of those starting 20 or less.

#### *Overseas contracts*

The inquiry into overseas contracts keeps the Export Group for the Construction Industries informed as to how well British contractors are performing overseas. It also provides information on the contribution made to the balance of payments by companies based in Great Britain. This inquiry is carried out annually and is sent to about 280 firms known to tender for overseas contracts.

#### *Fewer forms*

It is calculated that with all the changes outlined fewer inquiry forms will be despatched each year. This is balanced by the increased content of some of the forms, but is an indication of the efforts being made to reduce the demands on the industry's time by the Department of the Environment. There are, of course, other regular statistical inquiries made by other government departments and these, as well as those of DOE, are being examined by the Survey Control Unit of the Central Statistical Office.

# The Inquiry into the Catering Trades for 1969

J. D. Morris, *Senior Executive Officer, Business Statistics Office*

The preliminary results of the Inquiry into the Catering Trades for 1969 undertaken by the Business Statistics Office will be published shortly in *Trade and Industry*. This article describes the inquiry and some of the technical problems which have been met and dealt with.

## Introduction

The last large-scale inquiry into the catering trades was held for 1964 (the first such inquiry was for 1960) and the results were published in the *Board of Trade Journal* on 13 May 1966. The present inquiry differs from that of 1964. For the first time a question on numbers of bedrooms was addressed to all known licensed hotels, motels, licensed guest houses and holiday camps. This was designed to meet the Department of Trade and Industry's needs for information on hotel capacity in view of its interest in the administration by the Tourist Boards of the Hotel Development Grants made under the Development of Tourism Act 1969. The information should also prove useful to the Tourist Boards. The second respect in which the 1969 inquiry differs from the earlier ones is that the separate establishments of multiple traders (i.e. mainly those with 10 or more establishments) have each been classified to a type of business; in 1964 these had taken the kinds of business of their parent organisation. Thirdly, in order to widen the base for later annual sample inquiries, the size of the base-year inquiry coverage was considerably increased over that taken for 1964.

In planning the inquiry the views of the Hotel and Catering Economic Development Committee, the Market Research Society and Government Departments were taken into account within the constraints imposed by the availability of resources and the desirability of keeping to a minimum the burden to be imposed upon traders. The inquiry was taken under Section 1 of the Statistics of Trade Act 1947.

Besides the purposes given above, the inquiry provides estimates of stocks and capital expenditure in the catering trades as new bench-marks for subsequent annual and quarterly inquiries. It also provides an analysis of turnover in catering establishments for use in improving data on consumer expenditure and as a bench-mark for the series of monthly indices of turnover in the catering trades published in *Trade and Industry* and the Business Monitor series.

## Coverage and scope of the inquiry

The types of business included were those of Minimum List Headings 884 to 888 of the Standard Industrial Classification 1968 with the exclusions mentioned below.

In the main the inquiry was confined to business units whose main business activity was in the field of catering, i.e. providing meals and refreshments, drinks and accommodation; but in addition catering units of non-catering organisations such as industrial and other canteens were included.

Institutional catering (schools, hospitals, hostels and service canteens) was not covered as statistics for consumer expenditure and other purposes are available elsewhere. Catering in retail establishments will be covered in the Census of Distribution for 1971. Unlicensed hotels, guest houses, boarding houses and other smaller establishments offering residential accommodation were excluded because of the difficulties of defining and identifying them.

## The register

The Business Statistics Office maintains a register of multiple organisations engaged in catering in connection with its annual inquiry into stocks and capital expenditure of the industry and this register was used in the inquiry. Apart from this the Office does not maintain a comprehensive register of catering businesses but constructs a register whenever a major inquiry into the industry is undertaken. For this purpose a sample of local authorities was drawn as described in the next paragraph. Local authorities in the areas sampled were asked to supply the names and addresses of premises in their areas within the scope of the inquiry. In addition, the local authorities not in the sample were asked to list licensed hotels, motels, licensed guest houses and holiday camps in their areas, and brewery businesses were asked to list managed and tenanted public houses under their control. The Business Statistics Office wishes to acknowledge the help it received from local authorities and the Brewers Society.

## The sample scheme

A two-stage sampling scheme was used. As indicated above, the first stage was to sample local authority

areas for the purpose of listing various kinds of catering businesses. Two strata were used for this purpose:

1. Local authorities with population of 250,000 or more, London Boroughs, holiday areas as defined by the former British Travel Association, and all Scottish areas except Glasgow and Edinburgh.
2. Other local authority areas.

Stratum 1 was selected 100 per cent and Stratum 2 was sampled 1 in 2 for the purpose of asking for a full listing of catering businesses – though the remaining 1 in 2 authorities in Stratum 2 were asked to list licensed hotels and motels, licensed guest houses and holiday camps which were to be fully covered in the inquiry.

The second stage was to select from the lists of businesses in each area a random sample of businesses. From Stratum 1, a 1 in 4 selection was made and from Stratum 2, a 1 in 2 selection. In both strata the licensed hotel group was selected 1 in 1 and registered clubs 1 in 5.

### Register editing and selection procedures

Before the sample selections were made from the lists provided by local authorities, premises clearly outside the scope of the inquiry were deleted (e.g. institutions, unlicensed guest houses and boarding houses). Also deleted from the local authority lists were public houses identified by the brewery organisations as being managed for them and hotels and restaurants belonging to multiple organisations on the register maintained by the Business Statistics Office. The lists edited in this way were transferred clerically to some 46,000 registration slips. These, together with existing records about breweries, multiple catering organisations and catering contractors, and a 1 in 5 selection of managed public houses taken from a card index record of the brewers' lists of their public houses, provided the register for the inquiry.

### Field check of the register

The quality of the register lists supplied by local authorities varied considerably and, as in the 1964 inquiry, the extent of their likely deficiencies was measured by an independent field enumeration of a 1 in 10 sample of the local authority areas in England and Wales and 1 in 20 in Scotland. These areas were stratified as follows:

Stratum	Unit of selection
1. Large towns with a population of 250,000 or more	Municipal ward
2. Towns with a population of 100,000 to 249,999	Town
3. Urban areas with population less than 100,000 – England and Wales	Town

4. Rural areas – England and Wales	Rural area
5. Holiday areas with population less than 100,000	Town or rural area
6. Small burghs in Scotland	Burgh
7. Landward areas in Scotland	Landward area
8. Greater London area	Municipal ward

The areas of six local authorities which did not respond to the invitation to supply lists were each covered in the enumeration and included in the register.

The comparison of local authority lists with those obtained in the enumeration check produced about 1,200 new registrations. These were entered in the register and specially marked so that responders' returns could be grossed by the appropriate sampling fraction (i.e. by 10) to give a measure of deficiency of all the selected areas. A particular effort was made to obtain returns for these additional establishments; those who did not complete a return were telephoned.

Because the preparatory work on registers took considerably longer than was planned the inquiry was not launched until the end of September 1970.

### The inquiry forms

Five types of forms were used:

1. Multiple organisations and catering contractors (covered in full) were asked to list all their establishments (brewers had already supplied lists of their public houses at an earlier stage). Each organisation was asked to give total turnover for each of its branches. Branches classified as hotels, motels, licensed guest houses and holiday camps also provided capital expenditure and bedroom accommodation information for each branch. Multiple organisations were asked to give the kind of business classification for the business as a whole and separately for each establishment listed.
2. Other organisations with establishments in the sample areas identified as hotels, tenanted and 'free house' public houses, cafes, restaurants, snack bars, fish and chip shops, etc. by local authorities received separate forms for each of their establishments selected. Organisations receiving either of the above types of form were asked about their legal status (company, unincorporated business, etc.) and for a description of the kind of business. The latter was selected by the trader from a list of 17 provided. Each was asked (for the organisation as a whole in the case of the multiples) to give turnover analysed into 6 categories, stocks at the beginning and end of the trading year, capital expenditure and numbers of 'letting' and 'restricted' bedrooms each sub-divided into single or other bedrooms. ('Letting' bedrooms



are those not normally occupied by the same persons for more than 21 consecutive nights and which can be taken for a single night; otherwise, or if open only to members of a club for which an hotel is run or open only to any other limited group of people, bedrooms are regarded as 'restricted'.) For multiples the accommodation information was required only for branches in the hotel, motel etc. group. Traders with a turnover of less than £5,000 were required to give only their total turnover figures and bedroom accommodation, if any.

The other three form types were designed to fit the different trading characteristics of the remaining undertakings covered:

3. The form sent to canteens excluded questions about accommodation and capital expenditure.
4. The form sent to registered clubs was confined to a four-part analysis of income and a question about total capital expenditure, and
5. The form sent to the sample of brewers' managed public houses asked managers to state whether they had any receipts on their own account, i.e. other than takings on behalf of the owning brewery.

No questions were asked about employment because of the seasonal pattern in the industry which would make the results difficult to compile.

#### **Despatch and return of forms**

A total of 47,000 forms was despatched at the end of September 1970. Traders were asked to provide data for any twelve-month period between 6 April 1969 to 5 April 1970. They were asked to return the form by 31 December 1970.

Initial response was very sluggish. Moreover the despatch of a reminder due to be issued to some 31,000 traders in January 1971 was held up by the postal strike for two months. A further effect of the strike was to hold up correspondence with traders who had already responded and to stop the receipt of completed questionnaires.

#### **Non-response**

Estimates of the business of those who did not complete and return the questionnaire have been obtained by telephoning a sample of them. All hotels, motels and licensed guest houses and the multiple organisations who had not responded were approached, and about 1 in 10 of the remainder were telephoned. Canteens were excepted because their response was very good (93 per cent). The sample for the telephone follow-up was chosen at random within regions. The information asked for was limited to kind of business, total turnover and number of letting bedrooms where the latter was

relevant. Data obtained in this follow-up inquiry, together with the statistics obtained from completed questionnaires showing the breakdown within thirteen turnover sizes, and within regions, of the turnover/capital expenditure and turnover/stocks ratios were used to estimate the pattern of business of those who did not respond to the inquiry. The resulting 'non-response' data were then grossed by the inverse of the overall area sampling fractions (e.g. by 4) to produce Great Britain estimates. In these estimates, allowance was made for differences between the kind of business reported by the organisation when they were telephoned by the Business Statistics Office and the descriptions of their business in the local authorities' listings.

#### **Processing the data**

The results of the inquiry are being compiled using an ICL 1905E computer. The receipt of a form was recorded on a magnetic tape file. The next stage was a clerical examination of the form to ensure that answers were provided to relevant questions and that replies had been given in a form which could be transferred to punched paper tape.

The main task of vetting data was performed by the computer, using programs developed by the Business Statistics Office as part of its Standard Industrial Survey System. The tests used in the Catering Inquiry were mainly consistency checks against the 17 kinds of business classifications distinguished. For example, 'public houses' with no receipts for alcoholic drinks and 'hotels' with no receipts from accommodation were reported out for desk examination. Large variations between beginning and end-year stocks figures were questioned as were large items of capital expenditure in relation to turnover. Arithmetic checks that the sums of the turnover analysis components agreed with the total turnover figure and a check that the trading year fell within the periods prescribed were undertaken.

Those undertakings which had classified themselves as 'hotels' on the questionnaires gave rise to a particularly large number of queries. A first 'broad mesh' check allowed through establishments which obviously had a large proportion of their receipts attributable to accommodation charges but the dividing line between some public houses and licensed hotels is not clear cut and a set of classification rules was devised which took into account a minimum bedroom requirement combined with a minimum level of accommodation receipts which was low enough to permit the hotel classification to be given to those establishments with either a very short summer season or a low level of bedroom occupancy or both. The application of the rules excluded from the hotel classification some establishments which the proprietors described as 'hotels' but which appeared

from the pattern of their turnover to be public houses. The tradition of calling public houses 'hotels' is more prevalent in some parts (e.g. in Scotland) than in others. There exists no single legal definition of an hotel.

### Compiling the results

The computer will be used to aggregate the responders' data within kind of business/region/turnover size cells and in addition, for the hotel group, by 'number of bedroom size'. (From these aggregations are produced the ratios used to impute data to the non-responders who provided basic information by telephone and who were listed in similar kind of business/region cells.) The computations are being performed clerically to produce estimates for non-responders as is the final grossing of cell totals using the inverse of the realised sampling fractions in each cell as multipliers. The aggregation of the resulting cell totals for responders and non-responders for the published tables is also being done clerically.

### Publication of results

Publication will be in two stages. The first results should be published in *Trade and Industry* by the end of this year. These will provide figures of the number of business units in the catering trades and their turnover, with a regional analysis.

The remaining data mainly on bedroom accommodation for the kinds of business fully covered in the inquiry, i.e. licensed hotels and motels, licensed guest houses and holiday camps will be made available next spring in a separate publication of the Business Statistics Office. The provisions of the Statistics of Trade Act 1947 relating to disclosure of information collected under the Act prevent the publication of lists of hotels by name. Statistics will therefore be published for local authority areas giving the total numbers of hotels, etc. in each and their aggregated number of letting bedrooms. (It may be necessary with some local authority areas with few hotels to combine them with neighbouring areas to prevent disclosure of information about an individual business.) From local authority area tables it may be possible to produce aggregations as required e.g. for Tourist Board regions and areas, Standard Regions or Television Areas. Within larger groupings of areas (perhaps by county) it may be possible to give turnover figures in addition. It is also proposed to give the Great Britain figures of turnover analysed by kind of business by size group related to numbers of letting bedrooms.

### Staff

Eight members of the Business Statistics Office staff

were engaged on the inquiry for approximately 27 months. They were supplemented for the field enumeration for about 6 weeks by about thirty staff from the Business Statistics Office. The availability of standard computer programs which the office is developing in its Standard Industrial Survey System kept to a minimum the number of computer programmers and systems analysts required to service the inquiry, although some special programming was required to meet the particular needs of the survey.

Inquiries about this article or about the catering inquiry should be referred to the Business Statistics Office, Lime Grove, Eastcote, Ruislip, Middlesex. (Telephone: 01-866 8771, Ext. 327).

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# Notes on current developments

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## POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

### Commentary on the vital statistics of England and Wales 1967

The publication of this volume completes the Registrar General's Review of 1967. Comment is made about population, migration, marriages, divorces, births and general mortality.

The chapter on population continues an evaluation, started in the 1966 Commentary volume, of the 1966 Sample Census and of the consequential revisions which should be made to the sex and age structure of the mid-1966 population estimates. It also describes in detail the methods used in revising the population estimates for local authority areas. Discussing migration it is pointed out that since 1964 estimates of migration have been primarily based on data from the International Passenger Survey which is a stratified random sample of all passengers travelling on the principal air and sea routes to and from the United Kingdom (except those to and from the Republic of Ireland). Estimates based on this source are compared with other sources of information, such as statistics from receiving countries for emigration from the United Kingdom; a comparison is also given of the definitions and coverage of the International Passenger Survey and of the Home Office statistics for immigrants to the United Kingdom. Estimates derived from the 1966 Sample Census of the immigrant stock in England and Wales are summarised.

Among the miscellaneous subjects considered are the general causes of mortality, the probability of being killed by lightning in England and Wales, mortality of widows and widowers, and mortality associated with alcohol. Tables are included which show the changes in cause of death statistics resulting from the introduction of the Eighth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases.

#### Reference

*The Registrar General's Statistical Review of England and Wales for the Year 1967, Part III, Commentary* (HMSO) September 1971 (Price £3.05).

### Scottish statistics

The 1970 Annual Report of the Registrar General for Scotland is to be published next month. It will include new tables on births classified by parents' birthplaces, and a revised and extended divorce section.

The Registrar General's second quarterly return for 1971 will also be published in December. In addition to the usual quarterly tables it will contain the estimated net migration for Scotland and for regions in the second half of 1970, and an analysis of the 1971 local elections.

## EDUCATION

### Scottish Educational Statistics 1970

*Scottish Educational Statistics 1970*, published on 6 July 1971 by the Statistics Branch of the Scottish Education Department, is the fifth edition of a single-volume publication first issued in respect of the year 1966 and devoted to providing, as a standard reference series, a comprehensive set of statistics on all aspects of education in Scotland.

Section I of the publication has generally been devoted to a number of charts illustrating a selection – varying in detail from year to year – of the most basic aspects of Scottish education at each level from primary school upwards. In the 1968 issue no charts were included, a survey on qualified school leavers being substituted. In the 1970 edition, as well as charts, the results of a survey of the first employment or training of graduates from Scottish universities have been included.

Section II of each issue has contained statistics for Scotland as a whole. Broadly the fields covered have been child population and numbers in school, primary and secondary education, further education, universities (since 1968), training of teachers and teachers in service, teachers' superannuation, students' awards, building, school meals and milk, and finance.

Section III is much briefer and gives statistics by Education Authority relating to total populations and numbers in school, departments including numbers by type and by size of roll, pupils remaining at school beyond the statutory leaving age, numbers of classes and pupils, school leavers, teachers employed in education authority and grant-aided schools, students and teachers in further education, and education authority finance.

The article 'First Employment or Training of Graduates from Scottish Universities', mentioned above as being included in Section I of the 1970 edition, is derived from an annual survey conducted by the

Appointments Officer of each university in Scotland as part of a national survey compiled by the University Grants Committee. Although the survey has been carried out annually for several years, the session 1968/69 (to which the Survey relates) was the first giving Scottish-domiciled graduates who stayed within Scotland and those who moved out of Scotland either to other countries in the United Kingdom or overseas. The survey covers all those who obtained university degrees (except B.Ed. degrees or those in medicine, dentistry or veterinary science) from the Scottish universities during the session 1968/69. The article will therefore be of interest to all readers concerned with Scottish manpower problems. In the article, degrees have been grouped under 4 faculties – arts, social studies, pure science and applied science – and these categories have been used also in summary tables relating to those entering research, academic study and teacher training. Destinations have been grouped as research or further academic study and other training, teacher training, employment, and others. Employments are classed as public service, education, industry, commerce, and other types of employment. Nine pages of tables appended to the report break down all these classifications into their component parts.

#### Reference

*Scottish Education Statistics 1970* (HMSO) July 1971 (Price £2.40).

## HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

### DHSS Annual Report

The Annual Report of the Department of Health and Social Security for 1970 deals with the work of the Department in the fields of health and welfare and of social security. It contains leading statistics about, for example, the executive council services, local authority services, hospital and specialist services, national insurance and industrial injuries, supplementary benefits, family allowances and war pensions.

A great deal of statistical material is also published in the *Digest of Health Statistics* (*Statistical News* 6.30) and the *Digest of Statistics* analysing certificates of incapacity (*Statistical News* 8.23 and 12.17). But the Annual Report of the Department is the only published source of detailed statistics about certain aspects of national insurance and supplementary benefit.

If further information is required it can be obtained from the Chief Statistician, Branch SR3, Department of Health and Social Security, 10 John Adam St., London, WC2N 6HD.

#### Reference

*Department of Health and Social Security Annual Report 1970*. Cmnd. 4714 (HMSO) July 1971 (Price £2.80).

### The number of persons sick on a given day

From September 1971 there was a change in the method of estimating the numbers of insured persons absent from work on a given date owing to sickness or injury. These estimates are published regularly in the *Monthly Digest of Statistics*, the *Annual Abstract of Statistics*, the *Digest of Welsh Statistics* and the quarterly reviews of the Registrars General for England and Wales and Scotland.

A person claiming sickness or injury benefit under the National Insurance Acts sends supporting medical certificates to the Department's local offices. Prior to 1966, a claim was initiated by a first certificate and terminated by a final certificate preceded, where necessary, by one or more intermediate certificates. Intermediate and final certificates were almost invariably retrospective and, normally covered up to a week's incapacity. Counts of first and intermediate certificates received by local offices during a week (ending on Tuesday) have always been needed for work control purposes. The numbers of these certificates formed the basis of the estimates of the numbers of persons incapacitated. (It was assumed that periods of incapacity for which first and/or intermediate and final certificates were received during the week offset those current on the Tuesday for which a first certificate had not yet been received.)

In January 1966 prospective certification was introduced and the period that could be covered by certain types of certificates was lengthened. From March 1966, the estimates of the numbers of persons incapacitated on the first Tuesday of the month were based on a count of cases with current incapacity; an addition was made for claims in the post.

More precise statistics relating to claimants to sickness benefit and injury benefit are available from the analysis of a standing 5 per cent (now 2½ per cent) sample (see *Statistical News* 5.14 and 10.18 for further details); the numbers of persons incapacitated for work on a specified day can be derived from these statistics, but subject of course to greater delay before being available for publication. Stringent tests are applied to the standing sample data to ensure accuracy and completeness. Comparison of the estimates obtained from the standing sample with those obtained by the local office method shows the latter to be consistently understated, mainly because of the difficulty in estimating the number of cases where incapacity had commenced but notification had not yet reached local offices.

Tests have now shown that equally satisfactory estimates of the numbers sick on a day can be obtained quickly by using the count of new claims received in the relevant and adjacent weeks and weighting this series

according to observed durational patterns derived from the standing sample over previous years. The estimate is obtained by a simple regression equation.

From September 1971, therefore, the figures published in the *Monthly Digest of Statistics*, etc., will be provisional estimates based upon new claims received and expected durational patterns. The estimates will be amended annually in the light of the results obtained from the standing 2½ per cent sample.

### **Incapacity statistics**

The method by which statistics of certified incapacity for work are obtained by the Department of Health and Social Security from claims to sickness and injury benefits under the National Insurance Acts was described in *Statistical News* 5.14. As announced in *Statistical News* 12.17, the latest issue in the Department's series of *Digests of Statistics* analysing certificates of incapacity covers a single period of 12 months (June 1967 to May 1968). It has now been distributed free to those persons known to be interested. A limited number of copies are still available and, while stocks last, a copy can be obtained on request from the Department's Statistics Branch at 10 John Adam Street, London WC2N 6HD.

The next Digest in the series will cover the period June 1968 to May 1969 and is likely to be available early next year.

### **Family income supplement**

Family income supplement is a new social security benefit provided by the Department of Health and Social Security, and payments to families began on 3 August 1971.

Put briefly, the supplement is payable to families with one or more dependent children where the head of the family is in full-time work and the total family income is below a prescribed level. For a family with one child this level is £18 per week; two children £20; and so on increasing by £2 for each additional child. The weekly rate of supplement payable is one half of the amount by which the family's total income falls below the prescribed level. The maximum payment allowed is £4 per week. Awards will normally last for 6 months. They are not subject to review during that time if circumstances change, but on renewal at the end of the award.

In order to obtain the supplement it is necessary to make a claim, and claims were accepted and processed from the beginning of May onwards. The number of awards of family income supplement made up to 28

September was 49,779. The number of claims rejected was 47,278. The principal reason for the rejection of claims by two-parent families is that income was over the prescribed level; for one-parent families the main reason is that the claimant is not in full-time work.

Detailed statistics on the characteristics of families receiving FIS will be prepared regularly in future from an analysis of 20 per cent of the awards made. The analysis will cover such factors as region of residence, age of parents, number and age of children, income and amount of benefit awarded.

Further details can be obtained from the Chief Statistician, Branch SR3, Department of Health and Social Security, 10 John Adam Street, London WC2N 6HD.

### **Low income families: resources and needs**

A report published in July 1971 <sup>(1)</sup> gives estimates of the number of two-parent families where the father is normally in full-time work and whose resources are less than their needs as normally defined for supplementary benefit purposes. It is estimated that there were about 75,000 families in this category at December 1970. In addition there were some 30,000 families where the head was unemployed and wage-stopped.

The report is based on a re-analysis of the Family Expenditure Surveys for the years 1968, 1969 and 1970. It was undertaken by the Department of Health and Social Security using basic data tapes provided by the Department of Employment. The analysis required extensive programming to isolate the income and housing expenditure of family units which corresponded most closely to those that would be covered in a supplementary benefit assessment. For all families a new variable, 'net resources', was calculated as the difference between family income and basic requirements according to the supplementary benefit rules. The report contains distributions of families by 'net resources' and number of children, showing not only the number and proportion of families living below their supplementary benefit level, i.e. with negative net resources, but at various levels above.

In a preface to the report, the department's Economic Adviser, Mr. J. L. Nicholson, emphasises that the report contains the best available, but not necessarily the best possible, estimates of the number of families with resources below the supplementary benefit level.

The report discusses the adequacy and validity of the Family Expenditure Survey data for this type of analysis and draws attention to the conceptual difficulties to be faced when defining 'poverty' in terms of

the supplementary benefit rules and of making comparisons over time, in particular with the results of the enquiry into family circumstances carried out in 1966.<sup>(2)</sup>

Additional results included in the report show the effect of the youngest child on the net resource distribution of families, the effect of wives' earnings and variations according to the tenure of household and region of residence.

This is not the first time Family Expenditure Survey data has been used for this purpose. Townsend and Abel Smith<sup>(3)</sup> used the official data for 1953/54 and 1960 in presenting estimates of the number of people living below their National Assistance Level and the Committee of Inquiry into the Impact of Rates on Households<sup>(4)</sup> adopted a rather similar approach but with special reference to the burden of rates.

This report on two-parent families is the first of what is hoped to be a regular series of analyses based on Family Expenditure Survey data. Further reports on one-parent families and pensioners are planned.

(1)*Two Parent Families: A study of their resources and needs* by J. R. Howe. Department of Health and Social Security. Statistical Report Series No. 14 (HMSO) July 1971 (Price 40p).

(2)*Circumstances of Families*. Ministry of Social Security (HMSO) July 1967 (Price 97½p).

(3)*The Poor and the Poorest* by Abel Smith and Townsend. Occasional Papers on Social Administration No. 17 (Bell and Sons 75p).

(4)*Report of Inquiry into the Impact of Rates on Households*. Cmnd. 2582 (HMSO) February 1965 (Price £1.52½).

### Survey of occupational pension schemes

A sample survey by the Government Actuary, the fourth in the series of such enquiries, was announced in July. The purpose of these surveys is to obtain up-to-date information on the extent and coverage of occupational pension schemes, and to investigate their provisions in depth. A report of the findings will be published.

The sample has been selected by the Department of Health and Social Security, from national insurance records of employees. The employer of each sample member was identified, and questionnaires were sent at the end of September to the private sector employers, about 3,000 in number, who were chosen by this method. Pension schemes in the public sector will be covered on a 100 per cent basis.

### Occupational pension and sick pay schemes

An article in the August 1971 issue of the *Department of Employment Gazette*, prepared in consultation with the Department of Health and Social Security, included

estimates of the numbers of employees in employment in Great Britain in April 1970 who were members of occupational pension schemes and who were covered by sick pay schemes. These were derived from information obtained in the New Earnings Survey 1970. Analyses by age-group within each industry group, occupational group, range of weekly earnings and region were also given, and supplement the more general tables published in the February 1971 issue of the *Gazette*.

#### Reference

*Department of Employment Gazette* August 1971 pages 690 to 710 (HMSO. Price 50p)

### Sample surveys in local authority areas

The Social Survey Division of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys has produced a booklet on the carrying out of sample surveys which is being distributed to every local authority with welfare functions in England and Wales. The guide has been produced in connection with the implementation of Section 1 (1) of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970, which requires that every local authority informs itself of the need for and existence of welfare services for the chronic sick and handicapped. This booklet explains how the methods used in the national survey (an outline of which appeared in an article in *Statistical News* 14.1) can be adapted for use by individual local authorities.

Thus it gives step-by-step instructions for drawing representative samples, suggests different sample sizes according to local authority resources, and offers detailed advice on carrying out a postal stage. For the postal stage of the enquiry a draft postal questionnaire and accompanying and reminder letters are shown, together with procedures for a less than 85 per cent response rate. For the subsequent interviewing stage basic interviewing instructions are included, and an interviewing schedule has been prepared, with notes showing the aims of the various questions, and explaining the importance of lay-out. Notes showing how and where the schedule could be adapted to meet local needs are included, as are recommendations concerned with briefing, publicity, and public relations. Finally, a method of estimating numbers in the population from sample data, and the accuracy of such estimates, is discussed, with examples.

#### Reference

*Sample surveys in local authority areas, with particular reference to the handicapped and elderly* by A. I. Harris and E. Head. A guide commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Security. (Not on sale to the public. Bona-fide requests for copies should be addressed to OPCS, Social Survey Division, Atlantic House, London EC1.)

## MANPOWER AND EARNINGS

### Projections of the working population

Revised 1970-based projections of the working population of Great Britain and of the United Kingdom for each year up to 1986 were published in the August 1971 issue of the *Department of Employment Gazette*. They replace the previous ones published in 1969 (*Statistical News* 5.23) and are based on the latest projections of the total population (*Statistical News* 14.4) and of the numbers in full-time education. They again take account of the planned raising of the school-leaving age and are dependent on assumptions about activity rates for specific age-sex groups at an assumed constant pressure of demand for labour throughout the period (at the 1970 level which was about mid-way between the highest and lowest levels in the previous ten years).

#### Reference

*Department of Employment Gazette* August 1971 pages 717 to 722. (HMSO. Price 50p).

### Qualified manpower

The 1966 Census question on educational qualifications covered, for the first time, all qualifications obtained after reaching the age of 18 (apart from qualifications normally obtained at school). The present volume analyses the responses under three levels of qualification and ten subject groups. The levels of qualification are: post graduate; first degree or equivalent; and other qualifications beyond the level of GCE 'A' level, SCE 'H' grade and ONC. Qualifications of a lower level have not been analysed.

A previous volume in the series gave tabulation of persons reporting qualifications at first degree level or equivalent in two of the subject groups, viz. science and technology; this provided information comparable to that produced by the question on scientific and technological qualifications in the 1961 Census. The present volume explains certain differences between the volumes in the classification of persons with qualifications in science and technology.

The report comprises five tables. Four relate to Great Britain as a whole and show the number of persons reporting qualifications by (i) the subject and level of the qualification, (ii) the same analysis by sex and age, (iii) the subject group by level of qualification and employment status and economic activity, and (iv) by industry and occupation groups in which they are employed. The fifth table shows the subject, level, age and industry and occupation groupings for England and Wales, Scotland and the regions of England and Wales.

A commentary on the tabulation has already been published and was summarised in *Statistical News* 13.21.

#### References

*Sample Census 1966, Great Britain, Qualified Manpower Tables* (HMSO) November 1971 (Price £2.80).  
*Studies in Official Statistics No. 18 Qualified Manpower in Great Britain - The 1966 Census of Population* (HMSO) June 1971 (Price 65p).

### Unemployment: coloured workers

The Department of Employment has extended the range of analyses published regularly of the numbers of persons registered as unemployed at employment exchanges and careers offices in Great Britain by introducing statistics of registered unemployed coloured workers. The new statistics are described in an article in the July 1971 issue of the Department's *Gazette*, when national and regional figures for May 1971 analysed by area of origin were published, together with some figures from 1963 onwards. They are being published at three-month intervals, relating to February, May, August and November.

#### Reference

*Department of Employment Gazette* July 1971 pages 616/7 (HMSO. Price 50p).

### New Earnings Survey, 1970

The comprehensive report of the Department of Employment's *New Earnings Survey, 1970*, foreshadowed in *Statistical News* 12.19, has now been published. In addition to results previously published in the Department's *Gazette* (November 1970 to February 1971), it includes many other analyses of earnings of employees in Great Britain in April 1970 and of other information obtained in the survey. A similar booklet of results of the 1968 survey was published in 1970.

Results of the 1971 survey in this new series are now becoming available and being published in the Department's *Gazette*.

#### References

*New Earnings Survey, 1968* (HMSO) September 1970 (Price £2.00).  
*New Earnings Survey, 1970* (HMSO) November 1971 (Price ££2.80).

### Index of Average Earnings

The Department of Employment has brought forward the publication of the monthly Index of Average Earnings. This now appears, together with the Indices of Basic Rates of Wages and Normal Hours, in a combined press notice which is normally issued in the third week of each month.

The Index, which is based on a monthly sample survey with wide coverage, provides an up-to-date indicator of movements in average earnings, including

both salaries and wages, of employees in Great Britain. Complete series of the indices for all industries and for all manufacturing industries, from January 1963 on the base January 1970=100, both before and after seasonal adjustment, were given in an article in the July 1971 issue of the Department's *Gazette*. The series for individual industry groups from January 1968 are also given each month in the *Gazette*. Earlier data for individual industries back to January 1963 are given in *British Labour Statistics: Historical Abstract 1886-1968*.

#### Reference

*Department of Employment Gazette* July 1971 pages 613 to 615 (HMSO. Price 50p).

### Regional earnings

The regional statistics of gross annual earnings produced by the Department of Health and Social Security from information contained in the Department's records of National Insurance graduated contributions were described in *Statistical News* 1.22 and 7.32. The tables for the 1969/70 tax year are now available and include, for the first time, separate analyses for subdivisions of the Greater London Council area. Summaries of the tables will be published in the 1971 edition of the *Abstract of Regional Statistics*. Further details can be obtained from the Department's Statistics Branch at 10, John Adam Street, London WC2N 6HD.

### Survey of labour costs in 1968

A comprehensive booklet of results of the Department of Employment's survey of total labour costs of employers in Great Britain in 1968 (*Statistical News*, 10.25) is now in preparation. In addition to the analyses previously published in instalments in the Department's *Gazette* (August and October 1970 and January 1971), the booklet will include more detailed analyses for selected industries and appendices giving analyses on different bases. The 1958 edition of the United Kingdom Standard Industrial Classification, in use at the time of the survey, was used for the primary analysis of the data. In the appendices, the main results will also be given based on the 1968 edition and on the basis of the European Economic Community Systems of classification of industries and of labour costs.

A similar booklet of results of the previous (1964) survey was published in 1968. Changes since 1964 in the pattern of labour costs include the effects of new legislation, in particular the Industrial Training Act 1964, the Redundancy Payments Act 1965 and the Selective Employment Payments Act 1966. Collection of information on hours worked in the 1968 survey has enabled average expenditure per employee to be expressed on an hourly as well as on an annual basis.

#### References

*Labour Costs in Great Britain in 1964* (HMSO) December 1968 (Price 42½p)  
*Labour Costs in Great Britain in 1968* (HMSO) In preparation.

## PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

### 1968 Census of Production

The publication of the separate parts of the Report on the Census of Production for 1968, referred to in the May 1971 issue of *Statistical News* (13.31), has now begun. The following table provides a list of those parts which have been published and which can be obtained from Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Similar information relating to additions to this list will be provided in future editions of *Statistical News*, until the publication cycle of the Report on the Census of Production for 1968 has been completed.

#### Available parts of the Report on the Census of Production for 1968:

Report Part No.	Description	Standard Industrial Classification Minimum List Heading
1	Description of the Census	—
2	Coal mining	101
9	Biscuits	213
12	Sugar	216
22	British wines, cider and perry	239 (2)
23	Tobacco	240
24	Coke ovens and manufactured fuel	261
45	Steel tubes	312
50	Agricultural machinery	331
68	Watches and clocks	352
72	Insulated wires and cables	362
83	Motor cycle, tricycle and pedal cycle manufacturing	382
85	Locomotives and railway track equipment	384
86	Railway carriages, wagons and trams	385
87	Engineers' small tools and gauges	390
92	Cans and metal boxes	395
94	Metal furniture	399 (1)
98	Production of man-made fibres	411
103	Rope, twin and net	416
106	Carpets	419
111	Asbestos	429 (1)
125	Bricks, fireclay and refractory goods	461 (1)
128	Cement	464
129	Abrasives	469(1)
138	Cardboard boxes, cartons and fibre-board packing cases	482(1)
145	Linoleum, plastics floor covering, leathercloth, etc	492
148	Miscellaneous stationers' goods	495
152	Gas	601
153	Electricity	602
154	Water supply	603

### Reorganisation of industrial statistics

The new system of industry statistics, fully reported in earlier issues of *Statistical News*, will be extended to cover a further 14 industries in the fourth quarter of



1971 bringing the total number of enquiries operative in the system to 89.

The 14 industries are:

- Tobacco – MLH 240
- \*Formulated Pesticides etc – MLH 279/4
- Printing Ink – MLH 279/5
- Surgical Bandages etc – MLH 279/6
- \*Metal Working Machine Tools – MLH 332†
- Textile Machinery and Accessories – MLH 335
- \*Construction and Earth-Moving Equipment – MLH 336
- \*Office Machinery – MLH 338
- Mining Machinery – MLH 339/1
- Printing, Bookbinding and Paper Goods Machinery – MLH 339/2
- Ball and Roller Bearings – MLH 349/1
- Canvas Goods and Sacks and Other Made-up Textiles – MLH 422/2
- \*\*Paper and Board – MLH 481
- Miscellaneous Manufacturing Industries – MLH 499/2.

In each of the above industries the enquiry will cover all establishments with 25 or more employees, the results of which will be published on a regular basis, subject to safeguards on confidentiality, in the Business Monitor series in due course.

The following short-period enquiries will continue:

Printing Inks – MLH 279/5

Quarterly enquiry into sales of printing inks (carried out by the Society of British Printing Ink Manufacturers)

Surgical Bandages – MLH 279/6

6-Monthly enquiry into sales by outlet sponsored by the Surgical Dressings Manufacturers' Association

Metal Working Machine Tools – MLH 332

Quarterly return of sales and orders into welding machinery by the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association

Returns by the Associated British Machine Tool Makers of home and export orders and deliveries

Annual enquiry into home and export deliveries and imports by the Machine Tool Trades Association

Construction and Earth-moving Equipment – MLH 336  
Enquiry into production by the Federation of Manufacturers of Construction Equipment and Cranes

Mining Machinery – MLH 339/1

Quarterly enquiry by the Coal Preparation Plant Association into NCB orders received by members

Paper and Board – MLH 481

Monthly tonnage enquiry into production and stocks of paper and board

Monthly tonnage enquiry into consumption and stocks of papermaking materials (Sections 1 and 2 of existing enquiry to be collected quarterly in future)

Monthly tonnage enquiry into newsprint consumption and stocks of printers (excluding national newspapers).

Further information on government enquiries can be obtained from:

Department of Trade and Industry

- a. Economics and Statistics Division 3A,  
Dean Bradley House,  
Horseferry Road  
London SW1 (Tel: 01-799 5688)

for enquiries into MLH's 332, 335, 336, 338, 339/1, 339/2, and 349/1 (Ext. 38) and Economics and Statistics Division 3D (address as above) for MLH's 481 (Ext. 62) and 499/2 (Ext. 64).

- b. Economics and Statistics Division 3B,  
1 Victoria Street,  
London SW1 (Tel: 01-222 7877)

for enquiries into MLH 240 (Ext. 3152); for MLH's 279/4, 5 and 6 (Ext. 3156); and for MLH 422/2 (Ext. 3160).

Subscribers will wish to note that the new quarterly sales enquiry into Dyestuffs and Pigments reported in *Statistical News* (14.8) as becoming operative in the third quarter of 1971 has been postponed.

### Digest of Energy Statistics

In 1970 total inland energy consumption in the United Kingdom rose by more than three per cent to reach a record level of 328 million tons of fuel, expressed as coal equivalent. For the first time coal accounted for less than half of the total. Oil's share of the energy market rose to 44 per cent. Nuclear energy contributed less, but natural gas rose to five per cent. Expenditure on energy by final consumers (including £1,335 million paid in duties) exceeded £5,000 million; a little over a third of this amount was spent on transport fuels while just under a third was expenditure on household lighting, heating and cooking.

\*These enquiries replace existing quarterly enquiries into: home sales of disinfectants and antiseptics (carried out by the British Disinfectants Manufacturers' Association) and sales of pesticides and phytosanitary products (MLH 279/4); deliveries and new orders received and orders in hand for metal working machine tools and deliveries and new orders received for numerically controlled metal working machine tools (MLH 332); deliveries of contractors' plant (MLH 336); deliveries of office machinery (MLH 338).

†A new quarterly enquiry into new orders will be introduced simultaneously with the sales enquiry (MLH 332).

\*\*As a result of the reorganisation in this industry the existing monthly tonnage enquiries into paper and board orders and consumption and stocks of industrial woodpulp of manufacturers of rayon and cellulose films (MLH 481) have been discontinued.

These are a few of the facts presented in the 1971 edition of the *Digest of Energy Statistics* prepared by the Department of Trade and Industry and published at the end of September. The Digest continues the series produced by the Minister of Technology in 1970 and the Ministry of Power in earlier years. It contains 190 pages with 126 tables of statistical information.

The 1971 Digest is similar in content to the previous issue but some new material has been introduced. In the Energy section Tables 3 and 4 give information on the flow of energy in money terms for both 1969 and 1970 – a year more up-to-date than in previous Digests. The Prices and Values section contains four additional tables (Nos. 97–100) relating to industrial fuel prices. The first of these gives information on representative prices paid by industrial consumers for coal and oil and the average revenue received by Gas and Electricity Boards from their sales to industrial consumers. Table 99 shows average delivered prices of fuels used by the gas and electricity industries. (The index numbers of wholesale prices of industrial fuels given in Table 100 are part of the general series of wholesale price index numbers.) The effective rates of duty on principal hydrocarbon oils since 1950 and the dates on which the various rates came into effect are set out in Table 98.

#### Reference

*Digest of Energy Statistics, 1971* (HMSO) October 1971 (Price £3.00).

### Census of Distribution for 1971

The Business Statistics Office has now compiled a register of retailers which will be used as a mailing list for issuing statutory forms in January next. Though primarily a register of traders each of whom will be asked to complete a return in respect of the business as a whole, the register also provides a record of all retail premises in Britain coming within the scope of the census. Each shop has been allocated a provisional kind of business classification based on an enumerator's description of the business as he saw it.

The shops are also classified by form of organisation i.e. whether belonging to a multiple, a co-operative society or a single-shop trader, but the distinction between multiples and single-shop traders is also provisional at this stage. It is suspected that a fair number of small multiples have not responded to letters asking them to inform the Business Statistics Office of the shops under their control.

Final classification and structure can only be determined from returns received in the course of the inquiry so that the register now available is subject to correction at a later stage.

## AGRICULTURE

### Estimates of agricultural output in the United Kingdom

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has published a booklet *Output and Utilisation of Farm Produce in the United Kingdom – 1964/65 to 1969/70*. This is the second in an 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 series replaces one previously published about every three years by HMSO. Changes in the coverage of the agricultural census and certain conceptual changes in the method of calculating agricultural net output have been made in the past year, and figures on the new basis were published for the first time in the White Paper *Annual Review and Determination of Guarantees 1971* (Cmnd. 4623) for the years 1968/69, 1969/70 and 1970/71. Essentially the revised series relates to output from all agricultural holdings with a commercially significant output, whereas the previous series related to output from all holdings of agricultural land over one acre in extent (one acre or more in Northern Ireland) and therefore omitted output from certain highly intensive units, notably pig and poultry enterprises, on smaller areas of land. The booklet provides detailed figures for the years 1964/65 to 1969/70 on both the old 'agricultural holdings' basis and the new 'commercially significant holdings' basis.

The booklet is available from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Publications), Government Buildings, Tolcarne Drive, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 2DT (Price 17p, by post 22½p).

### Estimates of agricultural output, input and net income in the United Kingdom

As foreshadowed in the Notes on Current Developments in *Statistical News* (13.23), fully harmonised accounts at current and at constant prices covering the years 1964/65 to 1970/71 are included in the 1971 edition of the *Annual Abstract of Statistics*. The series at current prices shows the build-up of farming net income; that at constant prices (averaged over 1964/65 to 1966/67) gives details of output and input down to the level of net product. (Net product less the cost of labour, net rent and interest, equals net income.)

Both series relate to holdings with a commercially significant output, and replace Tables 215 (output at constant prices, all holdings), 216 (gross output at current prices, agricultural holdings) and 217 (farming net income), which appeared in the *Annual Abstract 1970*.

## CONSTRUCTION

### Housing surveys

A report on the 1966 West Midlands Conurbation Housing Survey has been published by the Department of the Environment. The report, written by Ruth L. Welch formerly of the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies, University of Birmingham, discusses the housing situation in the light of the results of the sample survey and draws some comparisons with data for England and Wales (excluding Greater London) collected in the similar survey in 1964.

In the survey, which was designed and supervised by the Statistics Branch of the former Ministry of Housing and Local Government, over 3,000 households in the conurbation were interviewed and information was gathered about their size, type, income and socio-economic group and about the type of accommodation occupied, number of rooms, amenities available, tenure and housing costs. People who had moved recently and those who intended to move were asked about their reasons for moving and their tenure preferences.

The survey found 40 per cent of households were council tenants compared with 28 per cent in England and Wales outside London two years earlier. This large difference stems mainly from two factors: the relatively high rate of council building in the conurbation between the wars; and the practice by local authorities, notably Birmingham C.B., of buying old houses some years in advance of their demolition and keeping them in use after 'patching'.

The report contains a full description of the results of the survey and 134 tables.

#### Reference

Housing Survey Reports No. 6 *West Midlands Conurbation Housing Survey 1966*. (Obtainable only from the Department of the Environment) September 1971 (Price £1.25).

## TRANSPORT

### Road traffic censuses

Since 1922, general road traffic censuses have been carried out periodically to measure the flow of traffic, by classes of vehicles, at a large number of points on the main through routes. The information is needed for highway design, assessing priorities for improvement schemes, programming maintenance work, and for miscellaneous purposes such as assessing needs for speed limits, pedestrian crossings and road lighting. Every few years variations in the pattern of traffic and in its growth from point to point make it necessary to collect new data.

Postwar censuses were held in 1954, 1961 and 1965. A new series of counts was started in 1969 with counting spread over a four-year cycle in order to provide a

more continuous flow of information and to spread the data-processing load. Some 7,000 points on the 29,000 miles of motorways, trunk roads and principal roads of Great Britain will be covered at least once during the cycle. As in previous censuses the main counts are taken in August, although supplementary counts at one-quarter of each year's list of points are also mounted in April, and additional data are available from a small continuing sample census every month.

Data-processing is computerized and employs optical mark reading to process the enumerators' record sheets. Results for 1969 and 1970 are now available and information may be obtained from the Department of the Environment (Directorate of Statistics), St. Christopher House, Southwark Street, London SE1, Scottish Office (Regional Development Division), St. Andrew's House, Edinburgh EH1 3DD, or Welsh Office, Cathays Park, Cardiff.

## OVERSEAS TRADE

### New system for recording exports

During recent years, export statistics have not been up to the required standard of accuracy; some exporters and agents had failed to deliver export documents to Customs, and the system of export documentation had not enabled Customs to secure all the necessary declarations. To ensure that full and accurate statistics are obtained, new procedures for reporting exports were introduced on 25 October 1971. They are described in detail in Customs and Excise Notice No. 275 entitled 'Documentation of Exports for Statistical Purposes', which can be obtained from the Secretary, HM Customs and Excise, King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE or from the office of any collector of Customs and Excise. A special short notice for foreign road hauliers is available in a number of foreign languages.

Under the new procedures only exporters and agents registered with Customs are permitted to deliver Customs export documents after goods have been shipped; non-registered exporters are required to 'pre-enter' their goods. Shipping companies and airlines are not allowed to load goods without having either a copy of the pre-entry or the exporter's registration number, and the manifests have to include the exporter's registration number or the pre-entry number. It is thus possible to determine who is legally responsible for delivering the Customs export document for any consignment, which was sometimes difficult under previous legislation; now, when an exporter uses his registration number to enable goods to be loaded he accepts the liability for delivering the required Customs entry.

An exporter is now allowed 14 days, after the ship or aircraft departs, to deliver his export document (which will show the registration number). Under the new arrangements Customs will be able to identify more certainly from ship and aircraft manifests an exporter who has not delivered his export document for any particular consignment exported.

A short article summarising both the background to the introduction of the changed procedures and the Customs Notice was published in *Trade and Industry* on 16 August 1971.

## PRICES

### Retail prices indices for regions

Proposals for regional retail prices indices are discussed in a report from the Retail Prices Index Advisory Committee to the Secretary of State for Employment which was published in August 1971. There was a difference of view within the Committee on the desirability of publishing such indices and the government has undertaken to consult the Confederation of British Industry, the Trades Union Congress and other interests on the report.

A technical committee which studied the technical problems associated with the compilation of regional prices indices concluded that, in spite of the difficulties involved, two types of indices – inter-regional and inter-temporal – could be compiled with the required degree of accuracy. Inter-regional indices showing how prices in different parts of the country compare at a given time could be compiled annually for each of the 11 standard planning regions in the United Kingdom and for the Greater London Council area. Inter-temporal indices showing how prices in a given area change over time could be compiled quarterly for Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and the Greater London Council area.

The majority of the Advisory Committee, while accepting the technical committee's conclusions, considered that their adoption should be in two stages. The first stage should be limited to inter-regional and inter-temporal indices for Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Greater London Council Area, as these indices would reveal the most important differences in prices and are more urgently needed than indices for the separate regions of England. The cost of collecting and processing the additional prices information which would be required was estimated to be a little less than £40,000 a year. A minority of the Committee opposed the publication of regional prices indices on the grounds

that it would complicate national wage negotiations and could have an inflationary effect.

### Reference

*Proposals for Retail Prices Indices for Regions*. Cmnd. 4749 (HMSO) August 1971 (Price 30p).

## NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

### Derived statistics of national income and expenditure

*Economic Trends* for October each year now contains additional tables providing percentages derived from the figures published in the National Income and Expenditure Blue Book. The time-table for producing the Blue Book does not allow time for the inclusion there of these derived figures but, as they are of general interest and widely used, the figures are made available in this way.

The derived percentages given include those for the composition of total final expenditure, total domestic income and total personal income; also given are growth triangles (which show the annual rates of change between any given part of years) for gross domestic product at constant factor cost in the years 1949 to 1970. Similar growth triangles are available on request from the Central Statistical Office for the main components of final expenditure at constant prices (consumers' expenditure, public authorities' current expenditure on goods and services, gross domestic fixed capital formation, exports and imports of goods and services, and total final expenditure) and for personal disposable income revalued at constant prices.

### Capital consumption estimates analysed by industry

The National Income and Expenditure Blue Book for 1971 incorporates two new tables (Nos. 60 and 63) giving analyses of capital consumption and net domestic fixed capital formation respectively, by industry group. The tables give annual figures from 1960 to 1970 for 8 industry groups at current and at 1963 prices. The preparation of these tables was facilitated by the transfer of the capital stock and capital consumption calculations to the CSO computer during the first half of 1971.

The estimates of capital consumption incorporated in the national accounts are derived from estimates of gross fixed capital formation and assumptions about the lengths of life of assets. It is difficult to get reliable comprehensive information about the lives of past assets and even more difficult to predict how long current assets will last. Nevertheless it can be shown that such estimates of capital consumption are not very greatly affected by moderate errors in the assumptions

about lengths of life. A full description of the methods of calculation and limitations of the estimates is given in *National Accounts Statistics: Sources and Methods*.

#### References

Studies in Official Statistics No. 13. *National Accounts Statistics: Sources and Methods* (HMSO) September 1968 (Price £2.25).  
*National Income and Expenditure 1971* (HMSO) September 1971 (Price 75p).

### Commodity analysis of central government current expenditure

An article in the August issue of *Economic Trends* presented, for the first time, a commodity analysis of current expenditure on goods and services by the central government. 'Current expenditure' (following national accounts conventions) includes nearly all defence expenditure but excludes civil capital expenditure on buildings and roads. It covers therefore over eighty per cent of all central government purchases of goods and services.

The analysis was done to provide more accurate information for the national input-output tables. The results give a useful guide to the overall pattern of government purchases from industry in recent years. They are based on data for the financial years 1968/69 and 1969/70 but estimates for the calendar years 1968 and 1969 have been derived from them.

#### Reference

'Commodity analysis of central government current expenditure on goods and services', *Economic Trends* No. 214 (HMSO) August 1971 (Price 60p).

### Plant and machinery investment matrices: 1963 and 1968

Tables showing an analysis of plant and machinery investment, classified by industry and by commodity, for 1963 and 1968, were published in the August 1971 issue of *Economic Trends*. The 1963 table is consistent with the 1963 input-output study (Studies in Official Statistics No. 16). The 1968 table is consistent with the more recent provisional 1968 input-output study (see *Economic Trends*, January 1971) and is based upon a simple up-dating procedure. A final version of this table will be published when the 1968 input-output study is complete.

## INTERNATIONAL

### International Computing Centre (ICC)

At the end of 1970, the General Assembly of the United Nations decided to establish the International Computing Centre at Geneva. The Centre was set up jointly by the United Nations, the World Health Organisation and the United Nations Development Programme and

began operations in March 1971. It is located in the premises of WHO and is equipped with a 360/65 computer having a capacity of 512K, which will soon be increased to 768K. The UN Statistical Office has set up a branch at Geneva and has transferred to it a copy of the data bank it maintained in New York and some operational tasks, particularly those closely related to electronic data processing. Henceforth, a duplicate of the foreign trade data bank will be located at Geneva and other data will soon be available there. In the future, all the basic series of international statistics will be available to users either in New York or at Geneva.

## PUBLICATIONS

### New Business Monitors

Nine monitors have recently been published in the Production Series presenting the first results of new inquiries which have been introduced as part of the new system of industrial statistics<sup>(1)</sup>. These inquiries have been designed, in close consultation with industry, not only to meet official needs for statistics but also to provide industry with detailed sales information for marketing and management purposes. Details of the nine monitors are given below.

### *Ships, boats and marine engineering*

The existing merchant shipbuilding monitor (reference P82) is being restyled to include, temporarily as a supplement, the initial results of the new quarterly inquiry covering the whole of the shipbuilding and marine engineering industry (Minimum List Heading 370 of the Standard Industrial Classification). This gives detailed information for 3rd quarter 1970 on completions and deliveries of ships and boats, marine engines and machinery, fittings etc. and on repair work. No short-period figures on sales of boats and repair work have previously been available.

### *Clothing*

A set of six monitors has been issued giving manufacturers' sales figures for 3rd quarter 1970 of weatherproof outerwear (MLH 441), men's and boys' tailored outerwear (MLH 442), women's and girls' tailored outerwear (MLH 443), overalls and men's shirts, underwear, etc. (MLH 444) women's and girls' light outerwear, lingerie and infants' wear etc. (MLH 445) and corsets, umbrellas and miscellaneous clothing articles and accessories (MLH 449/1, 3 and 4). The monitors are numbered

(1) See 'The Development of Industrial Statistics', J. Stafford, *Statistical News* (1.7), May 1968.

P89-94 respectively. Each one, in addition to containing itemised sales figures for its own industry, gives the total sales figures for each of the other five made-up clothing industries together with export sales of major groups of products. Also included are figures on orders and deliveries and background information on wholesale and retail prices, consumers' expenditure and employment.

#### *Plastics floor coverings, leathercloth etc.*

The first results of the new inquiry into plastics floor coverings, leathercloth, linoleum, etc. (MLH 492), which began in 1st quarter 1971, are now available under reference P40. The new monitor contains figures of manufacturers' sales together with export and import statistics, and supersedes the two former separate monitors for floor coverings and leathercloth.

#### *Miscellaneous stationers' goods*

A new monitor for miscellaneous stationers goods (MLH 495) is now available under reference P45. Detailed manufacturers' sales information is given for the 4th quarter 1971 in respect of pens and pencils and a wide range of office requisites such as carbon paper, ribbons, writing inks, rubber stamps, stapling machines, etc. Hitherto, short-period statistics for pens and pencils only have been available. The monitor also contains relevant export and import figures. It supersedes a former monitor entitled 'pens and pencils'.

All the above monitors are obtainable from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, P.O. Box 569, London SE1 9NH for an annual subscription of 37½p each.

### **Business Statistics Office**

A revised version of the booklet giving a general account of the background and activities of the Business Statistics Office is now available. Copies can be obtained from the Business Statistics Office, Lime Grove, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 8RS (Tel: 01-866 8771, Ext. 17 or 123).

### **Profit from Facts**

A booklet which demonstrates some of the uses that can be made of official statistics in the day-to-day running of business firms has recently been published by the Government Statistical Service. Entitled *Profit from Facts*, it has been prepared by the Central Statistical Office and the Central Office of Information in co-operation with the statistics divisions of other government departments, and is intended primarily for small and medium-sized businesses rather than the larger firms who are likely to be very familiar with the subject.

The booklet, which is free, puts the case for using readily-available statistical material in planning and decision making, indicates by means of 13 real-life

case-studies how firms have used official statistics, explains some jargon, and describes Government Statistical Service publications and services. It is being widely publicised. A leaflet inviting application for the booklet has been mailed to all manufacturing firms except the very smallest and largest. Sample copies of the booklet have been sent to Chambers of Commerce, Chambers of Trade, trade associations, various professional and managerial organisations, libraries, educational institutions teaching elementary business studies, and Industrial Training Boards.

It is estimated that in the week following publication of *Profit from Facts* there were over 10,000 individual requests received for the booklet.

Although this publication has been prepared for people unfamiliar with government statistics, readers of *Statistical News* may find the contents and method of presentation of some interest. A limited number of copies are available on request to: The Press and Information Service, Central Statistical Office, Great George Street, London SW1P 3AQ.

### **Government Statistics for Industry**

A completely new and updated version of the leaflet *Government Statistics for Industry* has been prepared by the CSO on behalf of the Government Statistical Service. It lists the main published sources of all official statistics likely to be of use to industry and commerce, together with telephone numbers to call for further information and advice. Copies are available free on request to the Press and Information Service, Central Statistical Office, Great George Street, London SW1P 3AQ.

### **UN indexes to the International Standard Industrial Classification of all economic activities**

The International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) is one of the two major classifications for statistical data which have been developed by the United Nations. It is widely used, both by international organisations – including the United Nations, the International Labour Office, the Food and Agricultural Organisation – and by national bodies, in publishing and analysing data for which arrangement by kind of economic activity is appropriate.

ISIC was first issued in 1948, was revised in 1958 and further revised in 1968. It is a classification of kinds of economic activity, not of goods or services or occupations. Some kinds of data for which it may be used – such as statistics on production, prices, employment and wages – can be gathered for units (establishments) which are relatively homogeneous in respect of kind of activity, and this data can therefore be classified in detail. Other kinds of data, however, such as profit and

loss and financial statistics, can usually be gathered only for less homogeneous units (enterprises), and thus can be specified less precisely in terms of the classification.

Until the publication of this volume only the schedules of the 1968 version have been available, in which the definitions of the scope of the groups in the classification have been given in fairly general terms. These schedules are also included in the present volume, but they are now supplemented by a numerical index and an alphabetical index. The former is a list in group order, repeating the definitions from the classification schedules and adding an alphabetically-arranged list of titles of activities, names of commodities made or dealt in, services performed and abbreviated descriptions of establishments pertaining to each group. The latter is a complete alphabetical index to these lists. The volume also includes a table setting out the differences in classification between the 1958 and 1968 versions.

Published by the Statistical Office of the United Nations, this volume can be obtained from HMSO, reference SBN 11 901715 6 (Price £1.96, by post £2.06½).

### SIC and the ISIC

The CSO have prepared a reconciliation between the 1968 Standard Industrial Classification and the International Standard Industrial Classification which also includes a brief commentary on some of the major differences between the two classifications. Copies of this paper are available on request from the CSO (Mr. R. A. Bowditch, Tel: 01-930 5422, Ext. 115).

### FITC statistical review

The Foundry Industry Training Committee has published a statistical review describing the manpower structure of the industry, labour turnover, training and further education, and the age and length of service of employees in different occupations. These figures enable companies to examine their own manpower policies in the light of those of the industry as a whole, their region and their size-group.

The review has been produced in two forms. The summary version contains only the main national statistics. Regional breakdowns, information about age and length of service, off-the-job training, the certificate of craftsmanship scheme, further education, and other detailed information are contained only in the full version. Copies of either version can be obtained from the Information Officer, Foundry Industry Training Committee, 50/54 Charlotte Street, London W1P 2EL.

### GLC Intelligence Unit

#### *Quarterly Bulletin*

Issue No. 15 of the GLC Intelligence Unit *Quarterly Bulletin*, published in June 1971, contains *inter alia* the following articles:

'After Roskill', by Dr. D. E. C. Eversley and A. H. Cumberbirch, of the Strategy Branch, GLC Department of Planning and Transportation.

This article, based on a lecture given by Dr. Eversley to the Regional Studies Association, examines the alternatives that were open to the government in reaching a decision on the siting of the third London airport. Written before the Government had finally decided upon Foulness, the article advocates the adoption of this site as justified not only on environmental grounds but also in terms of its compatibility with the 1970 strategic plan for the South East. Dr. Eversley also suggests that the construction of a road and rail link between Foulness and central London along the line of the Thames could, at the same time as serving the airport, provide the basis of the communications system that is needed for the redevelopment of east London and the docklands.

'The population of Greater London according to the 1966 Sample Census', by E. J. Thompson, of the Strategy Branch, GLC Department of Planning and Transportation.

This article demonstrates how data from the 1966 Sample Census can be used to provide estimates of the resident population both of the GLC area as a whole and of individual London boroughs. More information than has previously been published is also presented about people enumerated in hotels, hospitals and various communal establishments. Other tabulations include the enumerated and resident population of Greater London, by age and sex, and by borough; finally, there is a table giving estimates of the economically active population.

#### Reference

GLC Intelligence Unit *Quarterly Bulletin* No. 15, June 1971. Obtainable from the Information Centre, The County Hall, London SE1 7PB (Price 25p, postage extra).

### *The work of health visitors in London*

This research report is based on a survey undertaken by the Boroughs' Division of the GLC Intelligence Unit at the request of the Council for the Training of Health Visitors and of the Association of London Borough Medical Officers of Health. The object of the survey was to examine the exact nature of the day-to-day work of London health visitors, in the home, in the clinic, in the schools and elsewhere.

Most of the field work for the survey took place in the two weeks from 29 September to 10 October 1969. The report is based on the record of the activities of 215 health visitors, about one-fifth of those working in London; thus it was possible for over one million minutes of working time to be analysed in detail. For the purpose of the survey, boroughs were divided into three groups: the central boroughs, comprising the eight nearest the centre together with the City; the outer boroughs, comprising the fourteen just inside the GLC boundary; and the remaining ten middle boroughs.

The greater part of the report consists of chapters giving the results of particular aspects of the investigation, such as an examination of the health visitors themselves and an analysis of the people served. It was found that an estimated total of 24,000 people per day in London were receiving some form of service, of which by far the largest categories were, first, children at school or of pre-school age, and then mothers and babies. Other chapters deal with such matters as the activities carried out by the health visitors, the topics covered, the techniques used and the number of minutes taken to serve people. Finally, there are over twenty pages of appendices, including tables giving further details of subjects covered in the main body of the report.

#### Reference

*Research Report No. 12: The work of health visitors in London - A survey, 1969.* Obtainable from the Information Centre, The County Hall, London SE1 7PB (Price £1, postage extra).

#### *Standard statistical sectors for Greater London*

This research report, prepared for publication by the GLC Intelligence Unit, is based on the work of the Standardisation of Boundaries Working Party set up in December 1967. One of the Working Party's main aims was to define standard major units in the GLC area that could be used for statistical purposes.

It is often desirable, in presenting statistical results for the GLC area, to give data for sub-divisions; the borough, however, may be too small a unit for convenience, and thus the need arises for an intermediate unit between GLC and borough level. Hence, the Working Party addressed itself to the task of defining suitable 'standard statistical sectors' and the allied problem of ensuring that such sectors should as far as possible be related to the areas in actual use. In this latter regard, GLC departments, certain ministries and other authorities (such as the London Electricity Board and the Metropolitan Police) were asked to supply details of the geographical areas that they used for statistical and administrative purposes. From this information, transparent overlays were prepared; and

maps based on the overlays, showing the sub-divisions in use by the various authorities as at 1 July 1969, are reproduced in the present paper, of which they occupy the greater part.

The standard statistical sectors comprise groups of whole London boroughs, their outer limits following as far as possible natural or long-established boundaries (such as the Rivers Thames and Lee). In determining the boundary between the Inner London and Outer London sectors, it was decided to adhere to the division between Group A and Group B boroughs, as defined for the Greater London Development Plan, which meant that Inner London was specified as the former LCC area plus Newham and Haringey but excluding Greenwich.

Inner London has been divided into three sectors, the radial boundaries being the Thames and the west boundary of Islington and the City of London. Outer London now consists of five sectors. It has been agreed that if a central area should be needed for any statistical purpose then the 'conurbation centre' as defined by OPCS should be used. A map showing this area in some detail has been included as an addendum.

#### Reference

*Research Report No. 14: Standard statistical sectors for Greater London.* Obtainable from the Information Centre, The County Hall, London SE1 7PB (Price £1, postage extra).

## GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL SERVICE

### Statistical Liaison Committee: change of chairman

From 1 October 1971 Mr. A. H. Watson, Director of Statistics, Department of the Environment, will take over the chairmanship of the National and Local Government Statistical Liaison Committee (see *Statistical News*, 13.30).

### Appointments

#### CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE

*Mrs. M. Nissel* has been promoted to an additional Chief Statistician post in Social Statistics in the Central Statistical Office.

#### HM CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

*Mr. B. F. Middleton*, Chief Statistician, Department of Trade and Industry, has transferred to a new post at the same level in the Planning Unit of HM Customs and Excise.

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

*Mr. S. C. Boxer* has been promoted to Chief Statistician to fill the vacancy caused by the transfer of Mr. B. F. Middleton.



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# Alphabetical Index

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The index to *Statistical News* covers the last nine issues. Page numbers are prefixed by the issue number e.g. 11.31 signifies issue number 11, page 31.

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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# SOCIAL TRENDS

## No. 2 1971

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