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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 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. 22**

### **Developments in British Official Statistics**

LONDON

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# United Kingdom Official Statistics and the European Communities

Professor Sir Claus Moser, *Director* and I. B. Beesley, *Statistician*,  
*Central Statistical Office*

*At a meeting of the Royal Statistical Society on 20 June 1973 Sir Claus Moser and Mr I. B. Beesley of the Central Statistical Office presented a paper on United Kingdom Official Statistics and the European Communities. The paper, of which a shortened version follows, will be published in full in Series A of the Journal of the Royal Statistical Society.*

## Introduction

Our aim in this paper is to discuss the future development of the United Kingdom Government Statistical Service (GSS) in the context of statistical co-operation in the enlarged European Communities. The GSS is the statistical part of central government and is the largest employer of statisticians and statistical supporting staff in the country. It may therefore be of interest, even at this very early stage, to try to assess what issues for the GSS are likely to arise from membership.

However, these *are* early days. Enlargement of the Six into the Nine and the additional impetus towards integration provided by the Paris Summit of October 1972, make it hazardous to project past trends in the development of Community statistics. But we believe that there will be substantial benefits from the standardization of statistical data for the Nine, both for common policies of the Communities and for United Kingdom users of statistical data. At the same time we do not underestimate the difficulties of achieving standardization for the Nine since there are important social, economic and administrative differences between countries. The GSS will do all it can to collaborate constructively in the activities of the Communities.

## The framework for co-operation

### *The United Kingdom Government Statistical Service*

Some points need to be made about developments within United Kingdom official statistics since the role and future development of the GSS within the United Kingdom colour its approach to the Communities and since the way it is structured must affect the way in which it responds to co-operation in the Nine.

First, the United Kingdom aim is to build up and run a GSS which is largely user-orientated. This does not of course mean just responding to user demands. A programme of statistical activities needs to be

planned over a long term and to be sufficiently flexible to serve new and unexpected user demands. Nor does it mean that each statistical project can be tailor-made to a specific user need, since some of the most important bodies of information (for example, national accounts, population censuses) need to be devised on a multi-purpose basis. What it does mean is that in planning any project the main concern is how it will help decision-makers, planners and users generally.

Second, a notable difference in national statistical systems is the extent to which the output of the system ventures into analysis, interpretation and forecasting. One view is that the statistical office has the task of producing 'pure facts', characteristically in statistical abstracts and digests. Commentary is confined to technical points and forecasting is done elsewhere. The United Kingdom approach – and of course we are not alone in this among the Nine – is to put substantial weight on analysis, interpretation and forecasting. This is because statisticians, through their familiarity with the processes which lead up to the figures, have much to contribute to the understanding of trends and thus to the use made of the data, outside government as well as within.

New commitments in the context of the European Communities are not the GSS's first experience of international co-operation. As described to this Society by Sir Harry Campion, official statisticians' co-operation in the development of international statistics has been active for more than a century and GSS links with the United Nations Statistical Commission, with the ILO, WHO, FAO and other UN bodies, with the IMF and OECD, for example, remain very active.

The GSS has long-standing commitments to fit in as best it can with the statistical recommendations of the United Nations, etc. Although many of the dif-



ferences between existing United Kingdom data and Community requirements which will be described later in the paper are of detail rather than basic concept they cannot always be overcome by alternative tabulations and the United Kingdom is anxious not to jeopardise this well-founded tradition of co-operation. As the member states of the Communities are members of most of the bodies described above, there is also a common basis of progress towards the unification of statistics even without the Communities.

#### *The Statistical Organisation of the Commission of the European Communities*

The Statistical Office of the European Communities (SOEC) is a service organisation within the Commission, whose task is to co-ordinate the output of the various national statistical services to ensure that the Commission has at its disposal whatever statistical information it needs as background for its policy decisions and to produce a body of consistent data across the Nine. There is no denying the size and complexity of this task. It means that the SOEC must, on the one hand, lead the national offices towards harmonized data in general, and that it must, on the other, continuously monitor the adequacy of data in relation to Commission requirements and try to fill important gaps.

Participation of the Statistical Office in forecasting and in assessment of the current position is limited. It is clear from the early part of this paper that we regard analytical interpretative and forecasting work as part and parcel of the statistician's role, and this applies as much in the international sphere as nationally. We do not want to suggest that the importance of links between users and data providers is not appreciated in the Commission organisation; but in our view the relationship might be improved by greater statistical office participation in analysis, assessment, commentaries on developments and forecasting. Experience in the GSS suggests that the initial requirements for information specified by potential users are often greatly sharpened and clarified, and these users better served, if there have been thorough exchanges of opinion between statisticians and would-be users.

During the past fifteen years the SOEC has made very great strides in the harmonisation of statistical data from the member states and in carrying out important statistical enquiries on a consistent basis in each member country. Recently, like many national statistical services, it has been faced with large increases in the demands for statistical information and is trying to find better procedures for assessing and balancing priorities for statistical projects. As an important ele-

ment in this process, the Heads of national statistical services of the Community countries meet at least twice a year under the Chairmanship of the Director-General of SOEC and develop an agreed statistical programme looking several years ahead. Their meetings, which review progress with the current year's programme of work as well as plan for future years, are important not primarily because they enable individual statistical projects to be co-ordinated, but above all because they can enable the direction and broad content of the work of the various government statistical services to be planned in concert. It is to the development of these meetings that we look for major advance in rationalisation of the Communities' statistical work.

#### **The likely development of statistical programmes**

##### *Broad subject balances*

The statistical programme of the Communities encompasses many of the subject areas in which the Government Statistical Service is engaged. It naturally does not cover all of them, and there are a few cases where it goes beyond them. The content of the programme will often arise because of the establishment of common policies and their implementation, thus:

##### *The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)*

CAP is a complex arrangement which differs substantially from any previous United Kingdom agricultural policy. Inevitably, the subjects hitherto treated by the agricultural statistics of the United Kingdom have come under intensive scrutiny. The GSS is currently involved in joint work with the Communities concerning, for example, trial commodity balance sheets and trial analyses of farm accounts and of economic accounts for agriculture and forestry. A large-scale survey of agricultural structure is due to be carried out in 1975.

##### *External trading policy*

By 1978 it is proposed to make the official United Kingdom external trade nomenclature consistent with NIMEXE and United Kingdom officials are taking part in Community discussions which should lead to the adoption throughout the Nine of a uniform methodology for external trade statistics.

##### *Transport policy*

This is a field in which existing and proposed requirements are very detailed. The Statistical Office has a basic voluntary programme of transport statistics (currently in course of revision) supplemented by existing and proposed items of secondary legislation which prescribe in detail particular surveys regarded as important for a common transport policy. The 'programme' in total covers statistics of inland transport by road, rail and inland waterway.



To the content of the 'voluntary' programme must be added the data called for by two pieces of secondary legislation – Regulation 1108/70 on data on the use of transport infrastructure and Directive 69/467 on statistics of the international transport of goods by road. Regulation 1108/70 requires member states to set up machinery for recording detailed statistics of the expenditure undertaken on the infrastructure of each mode of transport and of the use made of it by trains, road vehicles, etc. The data on goods vehicles are particularly voluminous.

Directive 69/467 asks for annual data on the weight of goods carried by road vehicles on international journeys, analysed by region of loading within the country of origin and of unloading within the country of destination. There are in fact serious difficulties in implementing the Directive, principally because there is as yet no common transport document for the Nine which would carry the necessary information.

#### *Regional policy*

Regional policy could present the single most important area for improvement in the United Kingdom statistical system. In general terms we do not yet have sufficiently coherent regional data in the United Kingdom; the standard regions are under scrutiny, they are not used for all regional data analysis; and there will be a need for basic structural data as well as for statistical indicators to help identify areas to be assisted by the Communities Regional Development Fund and other regional policies. These indicators must be designed to assess the relative position of United Kingdom regions in the wider Community.

#### *The range of data available*

In the previous section we discussed broad balances between different fields of statistics. In this, we ask in particular whether joining the Communities will add significantly to the range of data available to users in the United Kingdom. It seems clear to us that Community membership will provide for users of official statistics outside government, as well as within Government itself, a wider range of statistics than is available now. This is not only because the United Kingdom is faced with new challenges to policies but because the whole idea of co-operation over common problems should bring greater openness and public debate about major issues, which will in turn generate requirements for information.

#### *Industrial statistics*

For industrial statistics the main current GSS concern is with the implementation of Directive 72/211/EEC – co-ordinated statistics on the business cycle in industry

and small craft industries – and Directive 72/221/EEC – co-ordinated annual surveys of industrial activity. There is also a third Directive 64/475/EEC – co-ordinated annual surveys of investment in industry – but this will not present great difficulties. The Statistical Office have also formulated proposals for collecting monthly volume information, using standardized definitions, for three hundred and eighty separate industrial products, although this would be a voluntary exercise and does not now seem to have priority within the Office's plans, in part because the requirements for detailed industrial statistics will be reviewed when the Communities' standard classification of industrial products (NIPRO) is finalised shortly. However, quarterly information arising from existing United Kingdom industrial enquiries will be supplied regularly for the SOEC quarterly publication *Industrial Statistics*, which covers nearly four hundred industrial products produced by member countries, although not always comprehensively or uniformly.

#### *Social statistics*

Two major surveys will be undertaken for 1973, a survey of labour costs and a labour force survey. The former will produce information similar to that collected in a labour costs survey in the Six for 1972, designed to provide data comparable between the member states and will relate not just to the wage and salary bill but include fringe benefits, training costs, recruitment costs, etc.

Recently, The Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, the Registrar General for Scotland and the Ministry of Finance, Northern Ireland, carried out a sample survey of the labour force in the United Kingdom, covering 100,000 households and collecting information about age, sex, nationality, area of residence; for those employed or self-employed, the kind of employment, hours worked in main and subsidiary jobs, occupation a year ago, training for the present job; for those unemployed, the duration of unemployment, methods of seeking work, previous employment and details of their position twelve months earlier. This is our first such enquiry in this country and it will be interesting to see how much it contributes to improving understanding of the labour market, particularly through possibilities of comparing the various characteristics of those employed and unemployed.

#### *Regional statistics*

Not so easily achieved, but of very great importance, is the expansion of regional statistical data from the United Kingdom. The Communities' emphasis on regional questions will undoubtedly help us to improve regional United Kingdom data, but just how basic



regional units should be defined and the extent to which they should be uniform for different surveys is a major current issue. Although SOEC already compiles an annual regional abstract – for which full United Kingdom data cannot yet be provided – and although there are plans for setting up a system of United Kingdom regional national income data, the immediate GSS preoccupation will be to ensure that there are sufficient regional indicators to support domestic and Communities regional policies. This means giving priority to data, at least at regional level and most likely below, on:

- population and population density;
- migration;
- employment structure (distinguishing agriculture, industry and services and reflecting trends in employment as an indicator of industrial change);
- unemployment (in absolute and relative terms);
- income per head (not necessarily GDP per head);
- fixed investment;
- aid payments under existing United Kingdom regional policies;
- social indicators (including social wellbeing as well as social infrastructure: schools, roads, hospitals, doctors, etc.).

Estimates of job requirements at regional level are also being examined. These make use of predictions of working population – population growth, migration and activity rates – combined with forecasts of job availability independent of any regional measures (that is, taking a view on the ‘natural’ growth and decline of jobs and employment multiplier effects of the creation of new jobs by domestic policies). Subsequently these statistical estimates must be looked at in the context of decisions about desirable or acceptable population densities, levels of migration, etc. and relative unemployment.

### *Continuity*

These illustrations of likely developments convey the magnitude of the task, especially when one considers that they must be achieved with minimum disruption to existing statistical series. In particular, the GSS is determined that the quality and usefulness of current statistical series and publications shall not suffer. What is inevitable is that there will be breaks in time series as the GSS adjusts to changed definitions and classifications. There will be major difficulties in splicing time series and it will be necessary to operate some dual analyses of data to try to overcome this. Users of United Kingdom data will face problems, but we believe that the gains from comparability with statistics of the rest of the Nine will outweigh these.

## **Collecting and compiling information**

### *Problems in collection*

In the short term the amount of information to be collected from individuals, firms and businesses in the United Kingdom will probably increase as a result of our joining the Communities. Some of the regular surveys already being conducted and others well along the pipeline will inevitably increase calls for data. The GSS is anxious to extend ways of using national administrative data to meet Community statistical requirements, but this may not get far, at least in the short term. Quite apart from obstacles to the use of such data within individual countries, there is as yet too little harmonization of administrative arrangements to lead to nationally comparable data; and the harmonization of administrative records itself will not progress until there are more common policies.

### *Confidentiality*

Another way in which the GSS will be at pains to protect the interests of respondents is in the confidentiality of data relating to individual businesses or persons. SOEC shares this concern. Information on individual units received by the Office is subject to statistical secrecy, in the sense that it may be used only for strictly statistical purposes and not, for example, for tax purposes or administrative controls. The Statistical Office will in no circumstances publish or otherwise reveal results which would permit the individual firm or person to be identified or which refer to less than a minimum number of statistical units without the special authorisation of those concerned. However, national statistical offices will sometimes be asked to supply such data, though always under strict terms of confidentiality.

## **Conclusions**

It will be clear from the earlier parts of the paper that the GSS is undergoing substantial change. Organisationally, it has moved from a decentralized to a mixed system which differs from the arrangements prevalent in most of the other member countries. The main relevance of the different organisational arrangements in the United Kingdom is the point stressed earlier – that the GSS prizes closeness to and relevance to the policy uses of statistics very highly, and will stress this in its approach to Community work. Certainly we see the GSS continuing to develop along the lines, in the first place, of greater user orientation and, in the second, of an increasing involvement of statisticians in analysis and interpretation. Other countries are also heading in the same direction and we see this development as very much to the advantage of the Communities. There are signs that the member states are largely of one



mind in wishing to assess priorities in the Commission's statistical plans from the point of view of their usefulness for Community policy purposes.

It seems clear that successful collaboration in statistics will require a fair degree of flexibility both at the Communities and nationally. Fortunately, the working channels are well established. Government Statistical Service statisticians will (indeed already do) take part in the numerous working parties on specific statistical subjects, and will thus work out their responses to new proposals in collaboration with their colleagues from the eight other countries and from the SOEC itself. The statistical programme as a whole will be discussed similarly at the Conference of Heads of national statistical services. To be effective, this process of discussion and negotiation will, amongst other things, demand of us a truly non-insular approach to statistical work. The GSS will want to get closely familiar with statistical practice in the other member countries, both in general and in detail. Each has particular strengths and the Commission statistical programme, through close collaboration between the Nine, has a great opportunity to raise standards to what is best in individual countries. The GSS can only benefit by the close acquaintance its statisticians will gain with other national practices.

There will also be a need for flexibility in the form in which individual projects of the statistical programme are agreed. These will range from projects to be covered by Regulations to those which represent general aspirations but are not mandatory. There will be a need for Regulations in certain cases, but we think that there could be a useful degree of flexibility so that countries can work towards desired and agreed goals in the ways most suited to their national circumstances. In short, flexibility is most important not in laying down *what* should be done, but in specifying *how* it should be done. Turning to ways in which the GSS will be affected, any list might give a wrong impression, the more important fact is that *all* parts of GSS work will be affected to a greater or lesser extent. And although many aspects of the GSS output will change, we believe they will do so in a way which will bring great gain to their users in the United Kingdom. But there is a great need to be watchful of the burdens on respondents, and especially business firms, involved in the surveys requested. The CSO's Survey Control Unit will keep a close eye on possibilities for reduction in the scope of questionnaires and cut-off points so that small businesses in particular are not burdened more than is unavoidable.

The main message of this paper is straightforward. The GSS has been and is undergoing considerable change. Membership of the European Communities will not lead to a change of course organizationally or in the scope of work undertaken. As regards the statistical work programme, there will be changes in many ways, some major and many minor, but mainly fitting in well with what would have been done anyway and most of them of great benefit to the users of data. But this does not mean, for the GSS any more than it has for the statistical services of the original Six, automatic adoption of all that is asked. There will be, as there always has been, a good deal of negotiation. From now on too, the United Kingdom has a voice in deciding what is demanded. All in all, we have no doubt that the results will be an improved statistical system for the United Kingdom, as well as for the Communities generally, and we look forward with enthusiasm to the tasks ahead.



# Developments in statistics at the Department of Trade and Industry

L. S. Berman, *Director of Statistics, Department of Trade and Industry*

*Paper read at the 25th Annual Conference of the Institute of Statisticians held at Kings College, Cambridge on 5-7 July 1973.*

## Organisation and objectives

The collection and analysis of statistics in the Department of Trade and Industry is centralised in the Department's Economics and Statistics Divisions, and the Business Statistics Office at Newport. These bring together the economic and statistical work previously carried out by the Board of Trade and Ministry of Technology before they were merged to form the DTI in 1970. They comprise a division concerned with energy and steel economics and statistics; another with regional, industrial and commercial economics; a third with manufacturing industry and with providing a service to the Industrial Development Executive; a fourth with macro-economics and statistics, and statistics of the distributive and service industries; a fifth with overseas trade and payments; and a sixth division concerned with financial statistics, research and development and shipping and aviation statistics and economics. The work of these six divisions reflects the responsibilities and organisation of the Department. Together with the Business Statistics Office, they form the DTI part of the Government's Economic and Statistical Services, and are headed by the Department's Chief Economic Adviser and the Director of Statistics.

The BSO occupies a special position in the Government Statistical Service as it is becoming the main Government agency for collecting and processing industrial and commercial statistics. Most of the work of this nature now carried out at DTI headquarters in London, and much of that now carried out by other Departments, is being transferred gradually to the BSO at Newport. The programme of work of the Office is determined largely by a system of inter-departmental official committees, although, of course, Ministers have the final say on broad policy issues.

About six hundred people are employed at present in the Economics and Statistics Divisions and a further thousand at the BSO. Included in the grand total are

thirty professional economists (members of the service-wide Economist Group) and ninety professional statisticians (members of the service-wide Statistician Group). DTI accounts for nearly a quarter of the total numbers employed in the Statistician Group and for one-sixth of those in the Economist Group.

DTI is responsible for collecting a very wide range of economic statistics, partly to meet the specific policy and decision making requirements of the Department, and partly to provide a statistical framework for its functions as a sponsor of industry and trade. For example, the Department is concerned with monitoring energy production and consumption, in appraising and monitoring the investment programmes of the various nationalised industries and in measuring production and the state of the order books of, for example, the shipbuilding and machine tool industries. In addition, statistics are collected by the Department for use by Government generally in connection with the general 'management' of the economy.

The statistics collected by DTI provide a large part of the data base for building up the national income and balance of payments accounts and for compiling the monthly Index of Industrial Production. For example, the Department collects information on capital expenditure and stock building, which are very important elements in changes in total demand, and the Department's figures of retail sales cover about one-half of all consumers' expenditure. The Department provides monthly estimates of overseas trade, and information on invisible transactions such as tourist expenditure, shipping and investment overseas.

In addition, to satisfying the needs of the Government, DTI statistics provide a great deal of information for those outside Government concerned with economic and industrial affairs. It has always been the policy of the Statistical Service to be as helpful as it can be to outside users of statistics (actual and potential), in-



cluding economic commentators and market research workers. It makes good sense for the Government Statistical Service to collect, in some cases, more detailed information than the Government itself requires if it can thereby help meet the needs of some others, including many of those who provide the raw material on which the published statistics are based.

However, the main purpose of the DTI Economic and Statistics Division and the BSO is to provide an efficient information and advisory service to the Government. This includes more than just collecting, processing and publishing statistics; statisticians and economists play an important role in interpretive and forecasting work and with advice in the formulation of policy. For example, they are very much involved in the formulation of industrial and regional policies and energy policy. Also, they play a major part in the forecasting exercises required as a background to the central economic management of the economy.

As far as statistical work is concerned, DTI policy, in line with that of the Government Statistical Service generally, is to continue to improve the quality and range of the statistics produced with the minimum of form-filling and to publish them more promptly and in the most useful form. Much of the rest of this paper is concerned with describing some of the ways we are setting about these tasks.

### Range of information collected

I do not propose to provide a complete catalogue of DTI statistics with details of their characteristics and frequency as this would be both tedious and unnecessary. However, it is worth recording that the Department is responsible for compiling and publishing a very wide range of statistics for the 'production' industries and for the distributive and service trades. These include statistics of production, turnover and order books; capital expenditure, stock-building and investment intentions; energy production and consumption; overseas trade, tourism; wholesale prices; and a wide range of financial statistics relating to the home and overseas activities of companies. Practically all these statistics are published either in the weekly *Trade and Industry*, generally with a commentary, or in the *Business Monitor* series and in *Census Reports*. Many, of course, also appear in the monthly and annual publications of the Central Statistical Office either as such or in a further processed form.

Setting up the so-called 'new system of industrial statistics' has been one of the major achievements (and preoccupations) of the Government Statistical Service in recent years. It deserves a special mention,

because much of the work involved has been carried out in the DTI and the system is being operated by the BSO. The system was devised to meet specific criticisms made by the Estimates Committee on the Government Statistical Service in its Report in 1967[1]. The system has been described in detail in various articles in *Statistical News*[2] and elsewhere. In brief, it is designed to put the collection of production and related statistics about manufacturing industry on to a comprehensive and systematic basis. Firms are being asked to provide for each of their establishments, quarterly details of the value of the deliveries of their products, or groups of products, and where it is appropriate, quantity figures as well. Something like four thousand five hundred separate product headings are being distinguished. These quarterly inquiries are being supplemented by annual censuses which collect figures of total sales, total purchases, wages and salaries, capital expenditure and other data. Also by periodic inquiries into the purchases by industry, the first of which will be taken in respect of 1974.

The quarterly inquiries are designed to provide up-to-date figures of sales which, when combined with the structural and small area information obtained from the annual censuses, will provide the kind of information which up to 1968 had only been obtained in the full and detailed five yearly censuses of production. Under these new arrangements the detailed results are becoming available very much more quickly than previously. The new system of industrial statistics has been introduced gradually over the past few years and is now nearing completion.

The general pattern of the statistical inquiries directed to the distributive and service trades is a long-standing one. It follows the pattern recommended by the Verdon Smith Committee in 1954[3] and closely parallels the old system for production statistics. It involves having periodic large scale statistical inquiries, or censuses, to provide detailed structural and small area information for a benchmark year, and summary annual and short period (monthly or quarterly) sample inquiries. The benchmark inquiries are also statistical register proving exercises (that is, designed to identify and classify firms), which provide the basis for subsequent monthly and quarterly and annual sample inquiries.

One problem with this system is that unless the register of firms is kept up-to-date – and it is not possible to do this for the distributive and service trades under present arrangements – the results of the annual and short period inquiries become less firmly based the further they are from the benchmark year.



Another problem is that the results of the detailed censuses take a long time to come out. This delay is inevitable given the problems of getting very large numbers of statistical forms completed and returned – especially by the very small firms. An indication of the problem can be seen from the fact that out of the five hundred thousand or so businesses to which forms were sent in the Census of Distribution taken in respect of 1971, returns were still outstanding, despite reminders, from about one hundred thousand firms (mostly small ones) early in 1973.

Much of the information now collected in the large scale censuses would be more useful if it were obtained at more frequent intervals. One possibility would be to abolish the full and detailed large-scale censuses and to replace them by more frequent sample inquiries. However, this cannot be done without maintaining an up-to-date statistical register of firms. All that can be said at present is that the pattern of statistical inquiries for these trades is being reviewed and we shall be inviting various interested organisations outside government to let us have their views.

#### **Maintaining and improving the quality of statistical series**

The basic work of many of our Statisticians is to improve the quality of the statistical series for which they are responsible. We have to work under two major constraints: first, our manpower resources (in particular, professional staff) are definitely limited in number; and secondly, we do not wish to increase unnecessarily the burden of form-filling. No statistical series should be left on a care and maintenance basis for very long. Series deteriorate over time as the representativeness and basis of samples get eroded. It is essential that Statisticians should keep under constant critical review the effectiveness of the series for which they are responsible. As I indicated previously, DTI provides a very large part of the data base for the national income accounts. The Department accepts its share of responsibility for the discrepancies which appear in them. One of our vital jobs is to improve the data base of these macro-economic statistics.

It is important to keep in close touch with the people who supply us with the raw material on which our statistics are based. We need to know the nature of the information provided, whether the questions we ask have been properly understood and whether they can be answered easily from the information which they keep for their own purposes. This not only helps us to improve the quality of the information we obtain and of the statistics we publish, but it also

helps to reduce the burden of form-filling. A small follow-up inquiry into the first of the new annual censuses of production was successfully carried out in 1971 and provided a useful indication of the problems of those who had to complete the census forms[4]. A similar follow-up inquiry directed to respondents to the Census of Distribution for 1971 will take place this year. Post-enumeration inquiries of these kinds have been carried out as a matter of course following a census of population, but they had never before been carried out in respect of censuses of business. Such surveys, together with the long-standing practice of having continuing discussions with representative organisations of industry, and with professional bodies, will help to improve our statistics by tackling the problems at the grass roots.

A recent investigation of a similar kind among the manufacturing firms who provide us with statistics on stocks has shown that a larger proportion keep records of stocks and work in progress on a standard cost basis than was originally thought. As a result of this investigation, the statistical questionnaire was changed at the beginning of this year, and firms are now asked to provide a breakdown of their stocks and work in progress between those valued at standard costs and those which are not. This change in procedure will lead to more reliable quarterly estimates of the value of the physical change in stocks by manufacturers.

Another example of a statistical series which is being improved is that relating to the turnover of the motor trades. Monthly statistics of the turnover of the motor trades have been collected for a good many years. They provide essential information for compiling the estimates of consumers' expenditure in the national accounts. In 1972 the main trade associations representing the motor trades asked the DTI to collect more detailed information because the resulting statistics would be more useful to motor traders themselves. It is our policy to extend official inquiries at the request of industry, (within limits, of course) if the additional information will be of use to the industry concerned. On the other hand, it would not help either the Government or industry if the additional form-filling were to result in a considerably smaller response to the inquiries. Following the representations made by the trade associations, and after consulting the contributors concerned, a new quarterly return was devised which enables wholesale trade to be distinguished from retail trade and gives much more information about sales of different types of vehicles as well as a breakdown of miscellaneous sales. Motor traders are now asked to complete the detailed form



once a quarter and to provide just a single total turnover figure for each of the other eight months. Unfortunately, one initial result of this change was a fall-off in the rate of response to the inquiry, which like many others is a voluntary one. Thus we have both lost and gained some information. However, I am pleased to say that most of the contributors who dropped out have now been replaced by others following one of our periodic recruiting drives.

Wholesale price indices is another area in which improvements are being sought. These indices relate to the prices of goods sold on the home market. Practically no information on prices is collected on sales of goods for export. This is a serious limitation as something like one-third of manufacturing output is exported and if we are interested (as indeed we are) in revaluing manufacturers' sales at constant prices, allowance must be made for possible differences in the movements of prices of goods sold for export and on the home market. Under present arrangements the DTI obtains regularly eleven thousand price quotations from about two thousand five hundred firms. Indices of wholesale prices are published for some one hundred and seventy commodities or groups of commodities and a further five hundred are available on request. A further eight hundred are constructed but not published because they are either confidential or inadequately based. I think it is fair to say that the system of wholesale prices which has been built up in the DTI is among the best in the world. However, the system does have the limitation of not separately identifying the prices of goods exported. One way of resolving it would be to ask firms to provide information on the prices they charge for goods exported. The information would have to be provided not only for different commodities, but also for different countries of destination. This would involve a rather large and complex additional form-filling burden on industry which at present we are not willing to contemplate until we have tried alternative methods. The alternative is to make as much use as we can of information on quantities and values in the overseas trade accounts and in the Customs documents underlying them. This is being investigated.

Another example of an improvement to our statistics is the extension of the inquiry into expenditure on research and development by industry to include the associated expenditure on patents, royalties and so on. Also, questions have been added so that research and development expenditure can be analysed by size of firm.

Other examples include the publication from May 1971 of index numbers of the total volume of imports

and exports on a balance of payments basis as well as on an overseas trade basis. Later this year, when the re-based (1970=100) series of volume and unit values for overseas trade are published, figures will be shown to one decimal place instead of rounded to the nearest whole number. A small but significant improvement.

An important problem is the matching of related series. One example of this work is the recent introduction of a new quarterly inquiry directed to shipping companies. A major objective here is the preparation of consistent estimates of capital expenditure, imports of ships, and the associated changes in international trade credit.

The discovery of a significant under-recording of exports several years ago is, of course, well known. Following this, the system for submitting export documents was overhauled and a continuing checking procedure introduced. This we believe has resulted in exports now being recorded in full and also in a speedier submission of documents[5].

### **Improving timeliness**

It is important to compile and publish Government statistics as quickly as possible. In recent years there has been a good deal of emphasis in this area. In brief, the various methods being pursued include speeding up the response from industry; tightening up administrative procedures and computerising existing procedures; developing imputation techniques for missing or late returns; and experimenting with leading indicators. Although much has been done, I am sure that more could be done. I would like to see, for example, the publication of preliminary estimates of retail sales within three weeks of the month to which they relate. Also, the publication of provisional figures of unit value and volume indices of exports and imports with the monthly overseas trade figures, as this would help considerably in the interpretation of the figures. Furthermore, it should be possible to produce earlier provisional estimates of the quarterly changes in manufacturers' stocks based on the monthly figures provided by a limited sample.

Preliminary estimates based on incomplete data will, of course, be subject to a wider margin of error than the more firmly based figures now published. But providing the user of the statistics is fully aware of the status of the preliminary or provisional estimates, he will certainly be better off. The more complete final figures would, of course, be unaffected.

### **Improving the usefulness of statistics**

It is very important to improve the usefulness of the statistics we produce. We go some way towards this



objective by seasonally adjusting series and converting them into constant prices where appropriate. A further step in this direction is the publication of measures of variability (that is, I/C and MCD ratios and the like) for a number of series in the August 1972 issue of *Economic Trends* [6]. These show, for example, that three or four months figures are usually required before the underlying movement in exports and imports can be discerned. These measures of variability need to be developed further and used wherever possible in the articles introducing and commenting on the regular statistical series. Users of statistics need to be given an assessment of the reliability of the statistics they are using. A comprehensive assessment is usually difficult to make. But it is a simple matter to produce a table from time to time (for example, when series are re-based) to show the differences between the old and the new series. Also, it is often straightforward to calculate the average revision made in the past to preliminary or provisional estimates so that the reader can have some idea of the likely error in the various statistical series. The reliability of the series set out in this way are of use not only to the user of the statistics, but also to the compiler.

An effort is being made to improve the presentation of DTI statistics. One example is the new style Business Monitors produced by the BSO. Another is the new series of monthly articles on energy statistics published in *Trade and Industry* [7], which now bring together conveniently and more timely information previously published in several places. A third example is the revised presentation of the monthly overseas trade figures which now seeks to place them in the context of the balance of payments on current account.

One difficulty which has to be faced in meeting new requirements for forms of analysis not at present published, or amendments to current arrangements, is that a computerised system of statistics is inevitably somewhat inflexible. It often takes a relatively long time (at least it seems so to the user) to introduce amendments to computer programs and even longer to introduce new programs, and to implement them successfully. Users usually have to decide well in advance how they require data to be processed and what tabulations they want. However, this is a problem which will be reduced as a better range of general purpose programs now in course of development at the BSO, become available.

### Publicity

Another problem is where to find the statistics. Too often for comfort one hears about people who just do not know that a particular series exists. Sales of some

*Business Monitors* are extremely small, although they contain valuable information which I personally would have thought would be of interest to a great many more people. DTI statistics appear in processed form in CSO publications, for example, *Monthly Digest of Statistics*, *Annual Abstract of Statistics*, etc., and also in the weekly *Trade and Industry* and in *Business Monitors*. It is not always easy for people to know what is available. The CSO and DTI statisticians have put a good deal of work into thinking up ways of helping potential users of our statistics. The CSO publication *List of Principal Statistical Series and Publications* goes some way towards achieving this end. So far (June 1973) six thousand copies have been sold. *Statistical News*, which has sales of three thousand copies each quarter, also helps. Mention should also be made of the highly successful 'give-aways' – the plastic card *United Kingdom in Figures*, the leaflet *Government Statistics for Industry*, the pamphlet *Profit from Facts*, and the booklet *The 1971 Retail Census and You*.

Both the Press and Information Service of the Central Statistical Office and the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library (SMIL) at Hillgate House of the DTI are pleased to help outsiders to find the statistics they want, or the right officer to deal with any statistical query. SMIL, which is very much the larger of the two, carries the most complete and up-to-date collection held in the United Kingdom of overseas trade statistics and of general and economic statistical publications from all over the world. It also carries a comprehensive range of official economic statistics. Unlike the CSO Press and Information Service, SMIL is open to the public and has a large public reading room, and facilities for typing, calculating and photocopying. Last year it had twenty-five thousand visitors, of whom over half came for the first time. I believe that it is not sufficiently widely known that Business Monitors can be purchased at SMIL (and also at the DTI Central Library at 1 Victoria Street, SW1).

As I mentioned previously, we keep in close touch with representatives of industry and professional bodies. This helps us to maintain and improve the quality of the information we collect and publish. It helps to make more people aware of the information that is available, and it enables us to ascertain more clearly the requirements of non-government users and potential users of statistics. We very much value our links – both formal and informal – with outside individuals and organisations.

I think it is important to know that our policy is to publish, so far as possible, all the information we collect. But we must not reveal any information given



to us in confidence; we must not reveal anything which would endanger national security; and we must ensure that the figures we publish are sufficiently accurate for the purpose. On the latter point, it is sometimes not easy to decide whether an additional month's figures represents additional information. A different type of constraint is the availability of resources. This sometimes means that we cannot carry out the analyses for which there is only a relatively limited demand.

### **The European Communities**

This section looks briefly at the impact on DTI statistics of the statistical requirements of the European Communities. A full account was given recently by Sir Claus Moser and Mr Ian Beesley in a paper presented to the Royal Statistical Society [8].

#### *Industrial statistics*

In the area of industrial statistics there are three statistical directives (that is, Community laws) with which we have to comply. The first is concerned with providing monthly statistics on indices of industrial production, turnover and of orders for home and export markets; and statistics initially quarterly and in due course monthly on salaries and wages, employment and hours offered by employers. The statistics are required for twenty-nine separate industry groups, but exclude construction. Wherever possible we will make use of existing statistics instead of collecting additional data, but in some cases it will be necessary to collect additional information from firms to meet our new obligations.

The second directive is concerned with providing annual information on industrial activity. There are several kinds of problems here. First of all, rather more information is required by the Statistical Office of the European Communities (SOEC) than we collect at present in our annual censuses of production. Secondly, the reporting and statistical units we use are not quite in line with those specified by SOEC; thirdly, the cut-off point in the annual census will have to be reduced from twenty-five employees to twenty employees (except in a small number of industries where the cut-off point has been eleven employees and this will be raised to twenty). Enterprises with one hundred or more employees will have to provide rather more information than they do under present arrangements, but a simplified questionnaire will be sent to those employing between twenty and ninety-nine. One result will be to increase the number of forms issued in the annual census from thirty-two thousand in 1973 to thirty-eight thousand in 1974.

The third directive on industrial statistics is concerned with collecting annual figures of capital expenditure by industry. We are required to provide figures of capital expenditure on a strict calendar year basis. Up to now we have asked firms to provide this wherever possible, but have accepted figures for the firm's year of account. Ideally, we would like firms to return their figures of capital expenditure (and for stockbuilding also) on a strict calendar year basis, but we have always felt that it would be impractical to do this on a statutory basis. However, in future, we will ask establishments of enterprises employing one hundred or more employees to give calendar year totals for net capital expenditure and possibly also of their opening and closing figures for total stocks. This will not only enable us to meet our new obligations, but will provide us with very much better estimates of these two important components of national expenditure.

#### *Intentions surveys*

All countries of the European Communities are asked to carry out business conditions surveys. These are similar in nature to those conducted quarterly by the CBI. However, the EEC Commission are interested in obtaining the results of monthly surveys, similar to those which have been in operation in the European Communities since 1962. Survey information of this kind should help in assessing the immediate position and future prospects. In some ways they can provide more up-to-date information than regular statistical series. The development of these monthly business surveys could become in time an additional powerful tool for economic analyses and forecasting.

The EEC Commission is also concerned with investment intention inquiries. One major difference between the surveys carried out by other European countries and ourselves is that they are able to provide an analysis of the results for six industry groups within manufacturing, whereas up till now we have had little confidence in providing a breakdown for these industries.

The EEC Commission has been carrying out trials of consumer surveys in several Member countries and proposes to finance experiments in the United Kingdom. The questions included in these surveys are concerned with views on the general economic situation, prices, finance, unemployment income, saving and so on. In the United Kingdom such surveys have been used mainly in the context of market research. However, there are possibilities for using this source as an advance indicator of consumers' expenditure and in



short term forecasting. It will be interesting to see how useful these surveys prove to be.

#### *Overseas trade statistics*

A draft regulation on the concepts, methods and definitions for compiling overseas trade statistics is now being considered by a committee of Permanent Representatives in Brussels. (Regulations are binding in every respect and have direct force of law in every member State.) This would involve some changes (and problems) for the United Kingdom. For example, data will be required on the special system of trade rather than the general system. In other words, trade will have to be recorded at the customs frontier instead of at the geographical border. Also, trade by country will be required in terms of country of origin and destination rather than country of consignment. These changes may be required from next year. It is our intention to maintain figures on the existing basis as well as the new basis, for at least an overlap period, so as to avoid major breaks in the series.

#### *Classifications*

The systems we used for classifying industries and overseas trade will need to be revised to bring them into line with the practice of the European Communities. NACE (the Nomenclatures générale des activités économiques dans les Communautés Européennes) is the Communities' industrial classification; NIMEXE is the Communities' overseas trade classification. Moving over to these new classifications will involve us in a great deal of work. An inter-departmental official committee has been established to revise the Standard Industrial Classification in the light of the NACE. It has begun work by examining the detailed product classification (NIPRO) and its relationship to existing detailed production inquiries in the United Kingdom. Also, trade associations and individual experts familiar with particular industries have been invited to help. A new classification is bound to involve some breaks in statistical series and create difficulties in making comparisons over time, but it is hoped to keep these to a minimum. The great advantage will be that all national and international statistics in the European Communities will be on a comparable basis. We plan to adopt a classification corresponding as closely as possible to NACE by 1976 and to complete the adoption of NIMEXE by 1977.

#### *Value added tax statistics*

Future developments in DTI statistics will be affected by the introduction of value added tax. It is expected that the administration of this tax by HM Customs and Excise will yield as a by-product a rich new source of statistics. Firms registered for VAT have to make

quarterly returns about their turnover, as well as other information, which the Customs and Excise computer at Southend will aggregate and classify by some two hundred different industry groups and also by status (self-employed, company, etc.). The information will be published as statistical series.

The three monthly figures of turnover will not be comprehensive – they will exclude businesses with a taxable turnover of less than £5,000 a year and other exempt traders. Also, the figures will not necessarily relate to calendar quarters, as firms are required to make returns for staggered three monthly periods.

It is hoped that when we have had some experience with using the new statistics, the information available for a wide range of distributive and service industries will be much improved. We hope that it will provide a basis for better estimates of output for these industries and of consumers' expenditure on them. In due course it may be possible to use the VAT statistics of turnover as a substitute for several of our existing statistical inquiries. An account of the statistics of value-added tax was given in a recent article by M. R. Noyce (9).

A recently tabled clause in the Finance Bill for 1973 now before Parliament seeks to enable HM Customs and Excise to pass to the BSO certain information obtained as a by-product of the administration of VAT. The information relates to the name and address, industrial classification, status, VAT registration number and figures of annual turnover of individual businesses registered for VAT. This information could be passed to the BSO in computer-readable form at little cost.

The proposal would enable the BSO to reduce considerably the burden of form-filling on industry and trade. It would do this in two ways. First, very many small firms could be exempted from statistical inquiries if the BSO knew the nature of their business and their turnover from VAT records. Secondly, an up-to-date list of names and addresses of businesses combined with figures of turnover, would permit the BSO to introduce rotating sampling schemes into its statistical inquiries. The proposal would save the Government and industry money. Furthermore, it would provide the speediest and most economical way towards establishing and maintaining a central register of businesses to which the Government Statistical Service attaches considerable importance (10).

It is important to emphasise that the VAT information obtained by the BSO from Customs and Excise would be treated as strictly confidential and would be used only for the purpose of taking statistical surveys and for compiling a central register of businesses. Individual



information would not be published separately, but only in aggregated form.

### Technical developments at the BSO

No account of developments at the DTI can be complete without referring to technical developments at the BSO. The centralisation of the collection of economic statistics will take advantage of the many economies which a large computer and organisation can offer. But to exploit them fully requires a great deal of work in developing statistical methods and techniques. Some examples of this work, all of which are concerned with the quarterly inquiries into sales by manufacturing industry, are described in this section.

In principle, these new quarterly inquiries are complete censuses down to a certain threshold size or cut-off point. However, failure to respond, or simply slow response, means that they are in practice sample inquiries and it is necessary to estimate for the missing returns. Various methods have been considered, including ordinary and orthogonal regression estimators, but the method actually used is the ratio method as it is considered to be the most robust. The imputation program includes a routine which reduces the weight given to observations identified as 'atypical' (that is, those which show a change from the previous period very different from the mean change) to avoid them having undue influence on the results.

It would reduce both the pressure of work at the BSO and the form-filling burden on industry if some form of sampling scheme could be introduced for the quarterly inquiries. A major difficulty is that many products distinguished in these inquiries are made by relatively few firms. The direction in which the BSO is working, therefore, is to identify 'key respondents' – that is establishments whose sales of a product are large compared with those of other producers. These key respondents would be sent a form every quarter, but other establishments would be covered by a rotating sample. A good deal of work remains to be done before we can decide whether such a system would both significantly reduce the number of forms and produce reliable estimates. There is also the risk that response will be slower when quarterly returns are required for (say) one year in every four rather than as a routine matter once every three months.

Experience at the BSO has confirmed that there is a correlation between the length and complexity of statistical questionnaires and the difficulty of getting them completed and returned. There is also evidence that lengthy forms include many questions which are not relevant to any individual respondent. The average

quarterly inquiry form has about fifty headings on it, whereas the typical establishment may make ten products or less. One possible development would be to introduce more than one form type for each industry, bringing together on each form those products which typically are made by a single firm. The BSO has developed a computer program to measure the conditional probability that an establishment which makes product X also makes product Y, which may help in examining whether this would be practicable. They are also testing a form of cluster analysis. However, it is difficult to forecast the results of this investigation. Since industries are defined by their principal products, the answer may prove to be that the present industry forms are reasonably close approximations to an economical form design. On the other hand, the investigation may show that the average number of headings could be significantly reduced, at the expense of proliferating the number of forms. This is something a statistical office avoids if it can, so the balance of advantage will need to be judged carefully.

### Conclusion

In bringing this fairly wide ranging paper to a close, I think it is worthwhile repeating the broad guidelines followed by the Statisticians at the DTI and by the Government Statistical Service generally. These are to continue to improve the quality and range of the statistics we produce, to publish them wherever possible more promptly and in the most useful form and to minimise the burden of form-filling. We aim to be user-orientated and will continue to improve our statistics to satisfy, as far as we can, the ever changing and increasing demands of our users, who now include the European Communities. There remains a great deal of interesting and useful work to be done.

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# Eleven years of childhood

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Last year saw the publication of a report(1) which scanned the first seven years of life and revealed a large number of important – and at times surprising, even disturbing – facts about the development of British children. The report included information about the children's ability, attainment and adjustment in school, their health, physical development and home environment. In addition to the descriptive data, analyses were carried out to investigate the often complex relationships between various facets of the children's development and particular aspects of their environment.

## **The National Child Development Study**

The report was based upon a wide-ranging, interdisciplinary study of a national sample of children, which comprises every child in Britain born in one week of March, 1958. The National Child Development Study, as the project is called, has been mounted by the National Children's Bureau and is a follow-up study from birth to maturity of this nationally representative group, which numbered some seventeen thousand at birth. In the first follow-up at seven years information was gathered from three main sources: teachers, who completed an educational assessment for each child and administered a number of tests; health visitors, who interviewed the mothers using a structured schedule; and school medical officers who carried out a specially standardised medical examination of each child. It proved possible in this follow-up to trace and gather information on 92 per cent of the original sample of children.

## **The longitudinal approach**

The value of the study derives from a number of factors. First, the representative nature of the sample means that one can generalise with some confidence from the results. Secondly, the comprehensive nature of the information gathered at birth is unique for any national study. Thirdly, the follow-up data cover all the major aspects of the children's development as well as their home environment. Fourthly, the study is longi-

tudinal in character; that is to say, it charts the progress of the same group of children over a long period.

This last factor is particularly important in that the longitudinal approach makes it possible to answer a number of questions which would be difficult if not impossible to tackle in any other way(2). For example, the Department of Education and Science has for a number of years carried out national reading surveys which have yielded important information about national standards of literacy for various ages of children(3). In doing so, the Department has taken representative samples of a cross-section of children. However, only a longitudinal study can identify the individual children who remained backward in reading over a period of time, and this information is essential if we wish to know, for example, the extent to which we are dealing with a 'hard core' of backward readers.

Using the longitudinal approach, it is also possible, for example, to single out for study those children who at the end of their school careers were 'successful' or 'unsuccessful' and then look back through their lives to investigate factors which may have influenced these outcomes. In this looking back, an important advantage is that the retrospective information was gathered at or near the time it occurred and is thus less likely to be subject to distortions of memory.

## **'Child-centred statistics'**

In addition to the longitudinal analyses which emerge from the National Child Development Study, each follow-up also reveals valuable cross-sectional data. Furthermore, these data not only yield information which is often not available from 'official' sources but they also complement published national statistics because of the particular perspective which a sample of children gives. For example, it was found(1) that some 15 per cent of the children in the study at the age of seven years were living in overcrowded conditions at home (more than 1.5 persons per room). However, the overcrowding figure for Great Britain from the



1966 census was reported to be only 3.2 per cent(4). Part of the discrepancy is related to the definitions of overcrowding, which need not concern us here. An additional reason for the discrepancy is that the General Register Office (GRO) figure was related to all 'persons', which includes, for example, single people and childless couples – two categories which are much less likely to be overcrowded. A special analysis carried out by the GRO confirmed that among children aged five to ten years in England and Wales the extent of overcrowding was twice as high as for all persons.

Quite apart from the question of the perspective which 'child-centred statistics' give, the overcrowding figure of 15 per cent for British seven-year-olds was disturbingly high. It is some comfort to know that at 11 years there is a small reduction to 12 per cent(5).

**The Perinatal Survey**

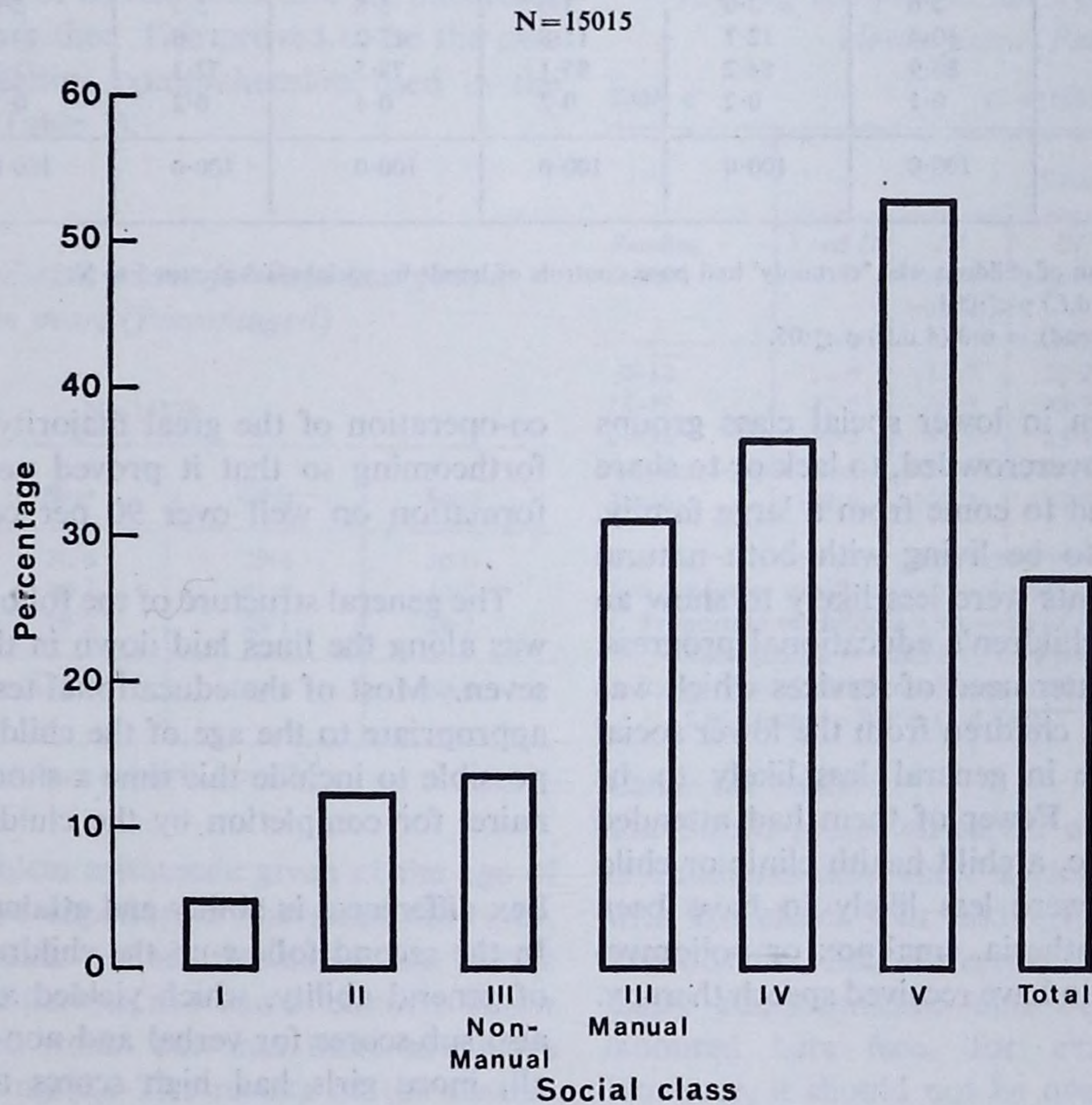
The initial focus of interest in studying the children was to review the administration of British maternity services and to investigate the causes of perinatal death (stillbirths and deaths in the first week). This

birth survey, the 1958 Perinatal Mortality Survey of the National Birthday Trust Fund, highlighted the increased perinatal mortality risk associated with certain clearly defined antenatal, social and obstetric circumstances(6). For example, the risk of a perinatal death where a mother was having her fifth or subsequent baby was 50 per cent higher than average. Similarly, increased risk was associated with unskilled occupational status of the father (30 per cent greater than average); maternal age over forty (100 per cent greater) and heavy smoking by the mother during pregnancy (30 per cent greater). When these circumstances occur together the risk is commensurately increased.

**Sex differences**

A particularly interesting feature of the findings from the first follow-up was the vulnerability of boys to various kinds of developmental and other difficulties at the age of seven. The proportion of boys who were backward in reading at this age was twice as high as that for girls. For every five boys who were described as 'avid readers' by their teachers there were eight girls. Proportionately more boys than girls were also judged

Figure 1. Percentage of children with below average 'awareness of the world around' (teachers' ratings).



Test for linear trend: Proportion of children who have below average 'awareness' by social class groups I to V.  
Chi-squared (trend) = 1444.6 (1 d.f.)  $p < .001$   
Chi-squared (departure from trend) = 90.4 (4 d.f.)  $p < .001$ .

This figure is reproduced from *From Birth to Seven* published by Longman(1).



by their teachers to be below average in oral ability and 'creativity'. Not surprisingly, perhaps, the behaviour and adjustment of the girls in school was more often conforming and 'stable'. The differences, however, were by no means confined to school performance. There were more male perinatal deaths and the boys more often had speech difficulties; accidents outside the home (including road accidents); a history of tics or habit spasms, breath holding, head banging or 'rocking'; hernia; and delayed bowel or bladder control. It might be said that to be born a boy is to be born 'at risk'.

### Social class differences

One of the most striking and disturbing findings from the first follow-up was the marked and consistent

relationship between the occupational status ('social class') of the children's fathers(7) and most aspects of the children's behaviour, development and ability. For example, over half of the children whose fathers had unskilled occupations (social class V) were judged by their teachers to have below average general knowledge ('awareness of the world around'). This compared with less than one in twenty of the children from higher professional families (social class I); see Figure 1.

Social class differences in the same direction were also found in relation to all other measured abilities and attainments in school as well as to social adjustment in school, speech difficulties, dental health, height, bowel and bladder control and also physical co-ordination (see Table 1).

*Seven-year-olds with poor control of hands (teacher's report) by social class*

N=14997

Table 1

Poor control of hands	Social class groups						Total
	I	II	III (non-manual)	III (manual)	IV	V	
Certainly applies	2.6	3.0	3.0	3.8	5.5	5.9	4.2
Applies somewhat	10.4	12.7	11.8	17.2	17.0	20.2	16.0
Doesn't apply	86.9	84.2	85.1	78.5	77.3	73.3	79.5
Don't know	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.7	0.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Test for linear trend: proportion of children who 'certainly' had poor controls of hands by social class groups I to V.

Chi-squared (trend) = 30.2 (1 d.f.)  $p < .001$

Chi-squared (departure from trend) = 6.0 (4 d.f.)  $p < .05$ .

At home the children in lower social class groups were more likely to be overcrowded, to lack or to share household amenities and to come from a large family. They were less likely to be living with both natural parents; and their parents were less likely to show an overt interest in their children's educational progress. Finally, despite the greater need of services which was often apparent amongst children from the lower social class groups, they were in general less likely to be receiving such services. Fewer of them had attended a dentist or dental clinic, a child health clinic or child guidance clinic. They were less likely to have been immunised against diphtheria, smallpox or poliomyelitis and no more likely to have received speech therapy.

### The second follow-up

In 1969 a second follow-up of the children was mounted. Once again the active support of every local authority education and health department in Britain was sought and generously given. Once more, the

co-operation of the great majority of the parents was forthcoming so that it proved possible to gather information on well over 90 per cent of the children.

The general structure of the follow-up at eleven years was along the lines laid down in the first follow-up at seven. Most of the educational tests were changed, as appropriate to the age of the children, and it was also possible to include this time a short 'Pupil's Questionnaire' for completion by the children themselves.

### Sex differences in ability and attainment at eleven years

In the second follow-up the children were given a test of general ability, which yielded an overall score and also sub-scores for verbal and non-verbal items. Overall, more girls had high scores and fewer had low scores (Table 2). This pattern was also evident on the sub-score for verbal ability. However, in non-verbal ability, although more boys had low scores there was no sex difference in the high scoring children.



**General ability scores for boys and girls at eleven years (Percentaged)**

Table 2 N=14139

General ability total score	Boys	Girls	Total
0-33	33.3	26.5	30.0
34-53	39.3	41.9	40.6
54-80	27.4	31.6	29.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Test for difference between boys and girls:

- a. Proportion of children with score of 33 or less  
Chi-squared = 78.2 (1 d.f.)  $p < .001$
- b. Proportion of children with score of 54 or more  
Chi-squared = 30.4 (1 d.f.)  $p < .001$ .

The results on sex differences from general ability tests, sometimes referred to as 'intelligence tests', should be viewed with caution since they are related to the specific tests used. The same holds true for sex differences in reading attainment. It is known that the gap between the sexes universally found at younger ages on any representative samples is in the girls' favour. It is also known that the gap narrows considerably by the age of eleven years and on particular tests disappears altogether. This proved to be the case with the test of reading comprehension used in the second follow-up (Table 3).

**Reading comprehension scores for boys and girls at eleven years (Percentaged)**

Table 3 N=14138

Reading score	Boys	Girls	Total
0-12	30.6	29.4	30.0
13-19	40.1	41.5	40.8
20-35	29.3	29.1	29.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Test for differences between boys and girls.  $p > .05$ .

On a test of problem arithmetic given at the age of seven the boys were superior to the girls. However, the judgements of their teachers indicated that at this age there is no sex difference in terms of children below average in 'number work' but that there are more boys with high ratings(8). The results of the mathematics test given at eleven years paralleled the picture given by the teachers at seven. Thus, there was no sex difference amongst low-scoring children but there were rather more boys with high scores.

**Social class differences in ability and attainment at eleven years**

The general ability test referred to above showed wide social class differences. For example, 53 per cent of the children in social class V had a low total score on this test whilst only 12 per cent of social classes I and II had such scores. This pattern was also evident in the verbal and non-verbal sub-scores. As was found at seven years on all measures of ability and attainment at school, the social class results show a sharp differentiation in performance between the children whose fathers have non-manual ('middle class') occupations from those whose fathers had manual ('working class') occupations.

This finding is exemplified in Table 4, which shows the reading comprehension tests results for the different social class groups. Thus, although for children with high scores (20-35) the proportion drops quite appreciably from social classes I and II (50.5 per cent) to social class III non-manual (43.5), the subsequent fall in the highest of the working class groups (social class III manual) to only 23.1 per cent shows the immense gulf between these two major social groupings.

**Reading comprehension scores by social class at eleven years (Percentaged)**

Table 4 N=11961

Reading score	Social class					Total
	I and II	III (non-manual)	III (manual)	IV	V	
0-12	12.0	15.7	33.2	41.8	52.2	29.5
13-19	37.5	40.8	43.7	40.4	35.6	40.9
20-35	50.5	43.5	23.1	17.8	12.2	29.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Test for linear trend across social class groups I and II to V:

- a. Proportion of children with score of 12 or less  
Chi-squared = 1103.8 (1 d.f.)  $p < .001$ .
- b. Proportion of children with score of 20 or more  
Chi-squared = 970.4 (1 d.f.)  $p < .001$ .

**Cause for concern**

The results presented earlier on social class differences in children's attainment at seven years taken together with the eleven-year findings give cause for concern. Reasons for these differences have been discussed by many educationalists and others and will not be laboured here (see, for example, Donnison (9)). However, it should not be overlooked that in a sense the educational system itself contains a built-in 'bias' in favour of middle class children; and, therefore, tests to predict or assess progress in that system will mirror this 'bias'. The term 'bias' merits quotation marks in



this context because no malevolence on the part of individual teachers, schools or, indeed, the system itself is imputed. Nevertheless, schools tend overwhelmingly to reflect the values, norms and expectations of the middle class, professional men and women who staff them. Some may feel that these values and expectations embody 'the good life' and that the task of schools is to help all children to aspire to, and if possible to assimilate, these values. Others may feel that the values represent a sub-culture within our society. Whatever one's view, however, it is clear that children who come from homes which espouse basically the same outlook and life-style as that adopted by teachers will in general be at a decided advantage in terms of their educational attainment and their adjustment to school.

Notwithstanding these considerations, many will feel that in relation to literacy at least – if not also to numeracy in our increasingly technological society – the size of the gap in attainment between the social class groups represents a challenge which the schools must meet. The situation as early as seven years looked bleak. The situation at eleven years looks no better and indeed may well be worse.

### The educational burden

If this gap is to narrow, it seems clear that schools and indeed the whole world of education must subject their policy and practice to some re-appraisal. Designated educational 'priority areas' have been with us for a few years but as yet there is no definitive evaluation of their efficacy. Other strategies of 'positive educational discrimination' have also been suggested; and there are reports that plans from local authorities to increase their nursery school provisions give priority to areas felt to be in highest need.

However, it seems unlikely that any educational initiative will by itself succeed. We have seen from results quoted earlier that social class differences extend to health and physical development, to environmental factors and to the use of services. The initiative, then, must surely match the dimensions of the problem not only in the overall allocation of resources but also in terms of the spread of these resources over a wide range of services. To expect education to carry this burden alone is at best to invite limited success.

### References

- (1) *From Birth to Seven* by R. Davie, N. R. Butler and H. Goldstein (Longman) 1972 (Price £2, with full statistical appendix £10).
- (2) 'The Longitudinal Approach' by R. Davie *Trends in Education* 1972 No. 28 October 1972 (HMSO Price 18½p net).
- (3) Department of Education and Science Pamphlet No. 50 *Progress in Reading 1948 to 1964* (HMSO) 1966. (Price 10p net).
- (4) *Sample Census 1966, England and Wales, Housing Tables Parts I and II* (HMSO) 1969 (Price Part I £2.87½ net, Part II 87½p net).
- (5) Housing for Children: a second look' by D. Parrinder *Housing Review* Volume 21 No. 3 May-June 1972 (Journal of Housing Centre Trust Price 35p net.)
- (6) *Perinatal Problems* by N. R. Butler and E. Alberman (Livingstone) 1969 (Price £3).  
*Perinatal Mortality* by N. R. Butler and D. Bonham (Livingstone) 1963 (Price £1.50).
- (7) *Classification of Occupations 1960* (HMSO) 1960 (Price £1.37½ net).
- (8) *11,000 Seven-year-olds* by M. L. Kellmer Pringle, N. R. Butler and R. Davie (Longman) 1966 (Price £1.25).
- (9) *A Pattern of Disadvantage* edited by David Donnison (National Foundation for Educational Research in England and Wales) 1972. (Price 30p net).



# The General Household Survey—Introductory Report

R. Barnes, *Principal Social Survey Officer, Social Survey Division,  
Office of Population Censuses and Surveys*

The first report on the General Household Survey (GHS) was published in July this year. This survey, which was described in *Statistical News* 16.7, is a continuing multi-purpose enquiry covering all persons resident in private households throughout Great Britain. Since the first results were produced in 1971 it has been used by a wide range of government departments to measure changing social conditions in order to assist in the formulation and examination of social policies.

Chapter 1 of the report gives background information on the aims of the survey, its design and procedures. The objectives are: to provide more information on a continuous basis on many aspects of public policy and services, to help fill the gaps between population censuses and, because of the multi-purpose character of the survey, to examine relationships between the main areas of social statistics. Chapter 2 describes some multi-purpose surveys carried out in other countries and shows how they differ in objective and therefore content from the GHS.

Chapter 3 gives a detailed account of the sample design, sampling error calculation, response rates (in 1971 the overall response rate was approximately 83 per cent), and the way in which the GHS results compare with those from the 1971 Census for demographic variables.

Chapters 4–8 contain for each of five main subject areas, a description of the concepts and methodology used, a selection of the 1971 results with commentary, comparisons where possible of these results with data from other sources, and suggestions for further development of particular lines of enquiry. The first of these chapters relates to population and gives a demographic profile of British households, data on the size and composition of families, the distribution of household income and some analyses of the population by colour. It shows for example that 23 per cent of persons aged fifteen or over born in New Common-

wealth countries were white, and, of persons aged fifteen or over whose parents were both born in New Commonwealth countries, 9 per cent were white. These findings, based on the interviewer's assessment of the informant's colour, are further evidence that country of birth cannot be equated with colour.

The housing chapter describes housing (as measured by tenure, number of rooms, basic amenities, etc.) of different sub-groups of the population and shows how the situation has changed over the years. For example the proportion of households living below the bedroom standard (a measure of over-crowding that relates the number of bedrooms in the accommodation to the number required according to the age, sex and marital status of the household members) fell from 11 per cent in 1960 to 6 per cent in 1971, and the proportion with rooms to spare rose from 50 per cent to 61 per cent over the same period. The chapter also describes some aspects of migration and the underlying reasons for changes of location. The survey shows very different rates of mobility for different socio-economic groups; overall about one household in three had moved during the previous five years but among professional people one half had moved.

The chapter on employment divides the population into three major sectors in terms of economic activity, that is, the employed, the unemployed and the economically inactive, and examines each of these groups separately. For example the employed are looked at according to some preliminary analyses of job satisfaction scales and also the extent of multiple job-holding (fractionally over 3 per cent of all those in employment had more than one job in the reference week – this compares with a figure of just over 5 per cent in the USA in May 1971). The unemployed are examined to show the proportions who were not registered at employment exchanges and who therefore do not figure in the official unemployment returns: between one-fifth and one-quarter of those looking for work in the reference week were not registered as unemployed persons (roughly 7½ per cent of men and 54 per cent



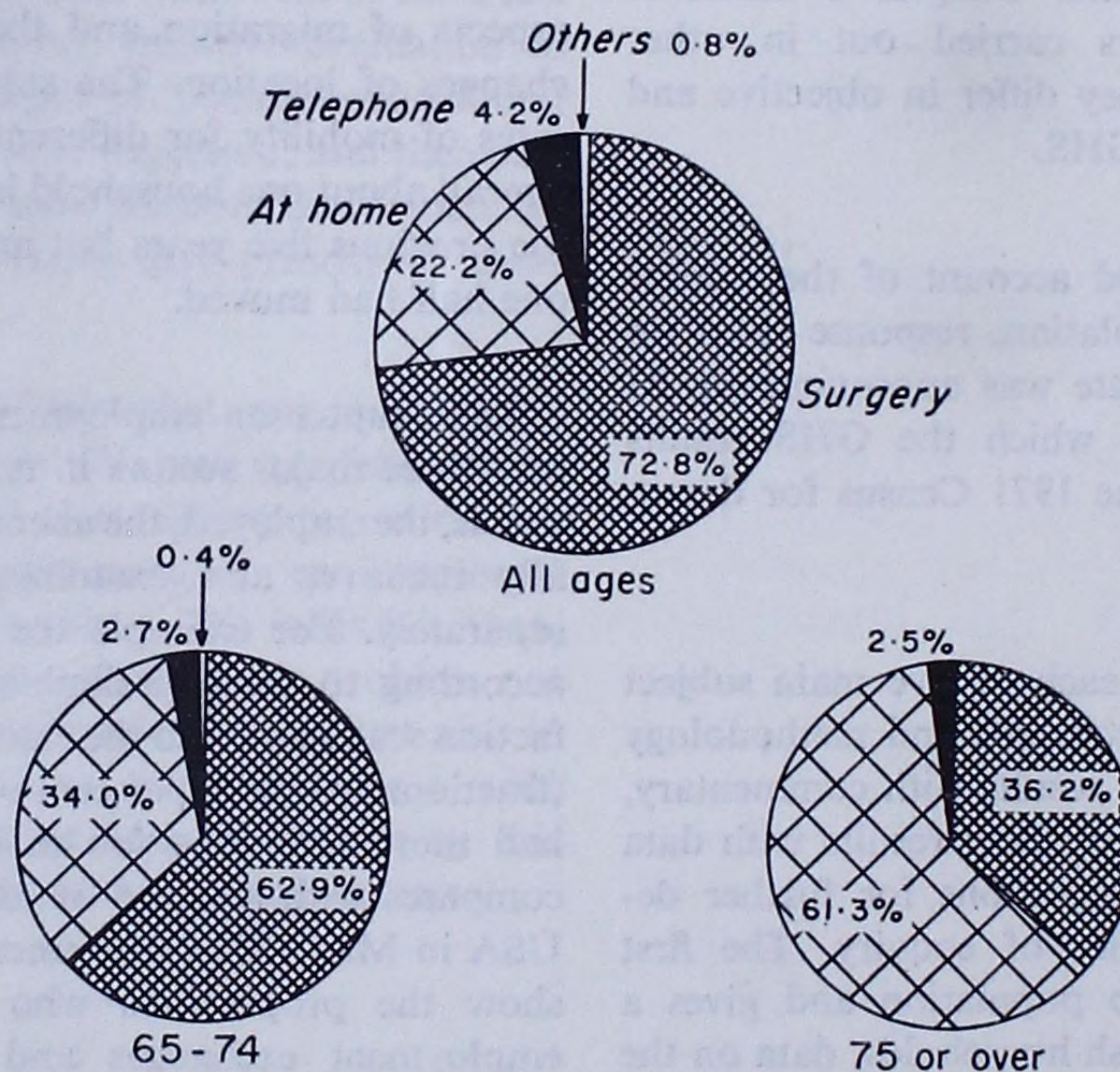
of women). Over half the unregistered unemployed were married women and nearly half the unregistered were in the intermediate and junior non-manual socio-economic groups. The economically inactive were analysed according to whether they intended to work in future and, if so, the reasons for not working currently: of those women who intended to work but were prevented from working currently because they needed to look after their children, 61 per cent said they would not work currently even if satisfactory arrangements could be made to look after their children.

The education chapter examines type and level of attainment (as measured by the kind of school or college attended and the level of qualifications received, if any) against socio-economic background and against the subsequent level of earnings. Charts and tables also show for the full-time employed the extent to which the level of annual earnings tends to rise with the level of qualifications. The charts for males and females are reproduced opposite.

The last subject chapter deals with health and

health services. Here there is a detailed description of problems in evolving usable and measurable concepts and possible ways of overcoming them. The first section deals with chronic and acute sickness and restriction of activity. It shows that the semi-skilled and unskilled of both sexes had above-average rates of chronic illness in all adult age groups and that unskilled men of working age were about three times as likely to say they suffered from chronic illness as professional men of the same age group. The average number of days lost due to short-term sickness or injury amongst unskilled men was almost five times the number lost by professional men. The second section covers medical services: that is, consultations with doctors and visits to hospital both as in-patients and as out-patients. The report shows that in 1971, 12 per cent of all informants had consulted a doctor (apart from visits to a hospital) on one or more occasions during a two week reference period and that 95 per cent of all these consultations were with a general practitioner under the National Health Service; a chart, reproduced below, shows where these consultations took place.

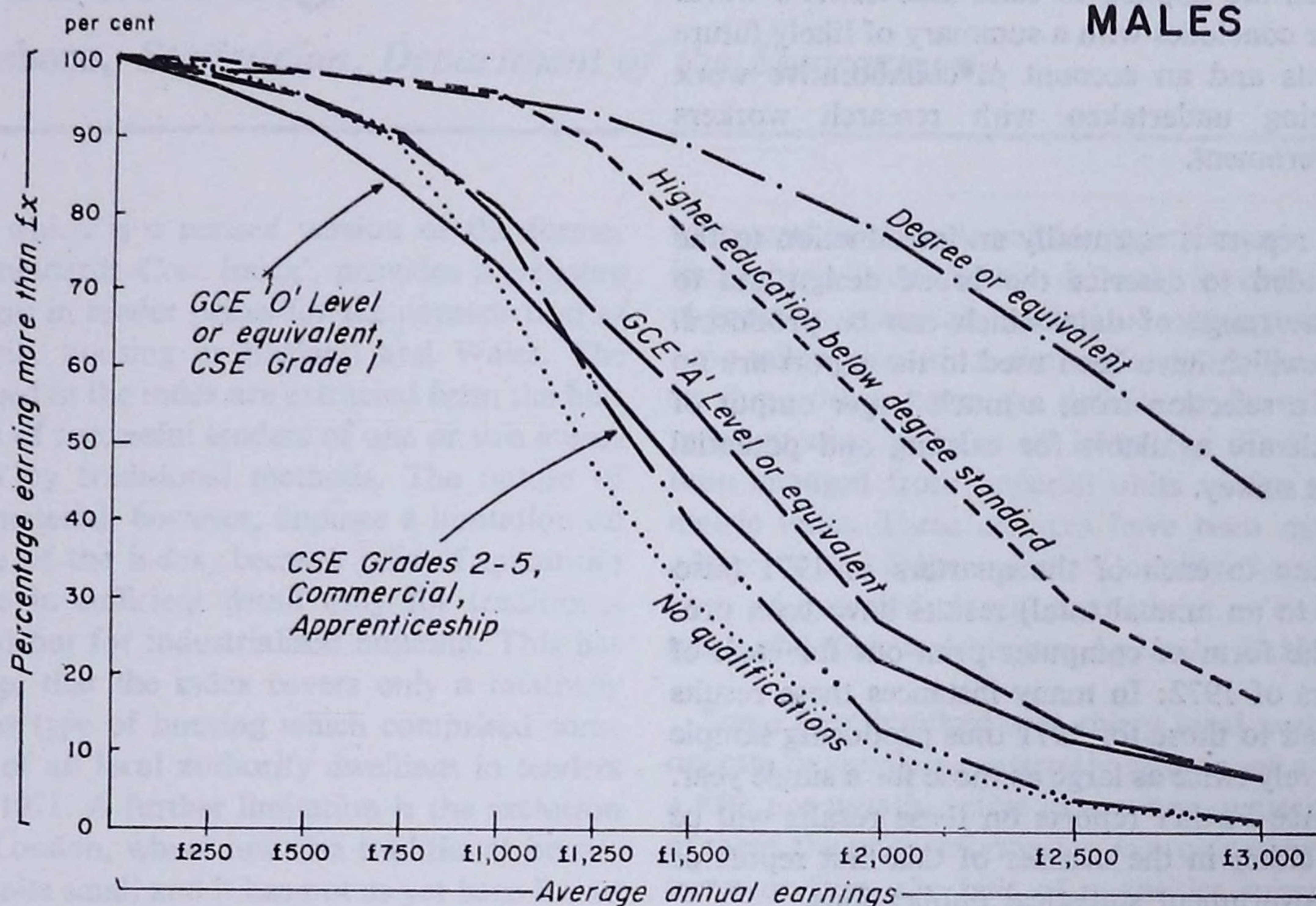
### CONSULTATIONS WITH GPs (NHS) IN TWO-WEEK PERIOD IN GREAT BRITAIN



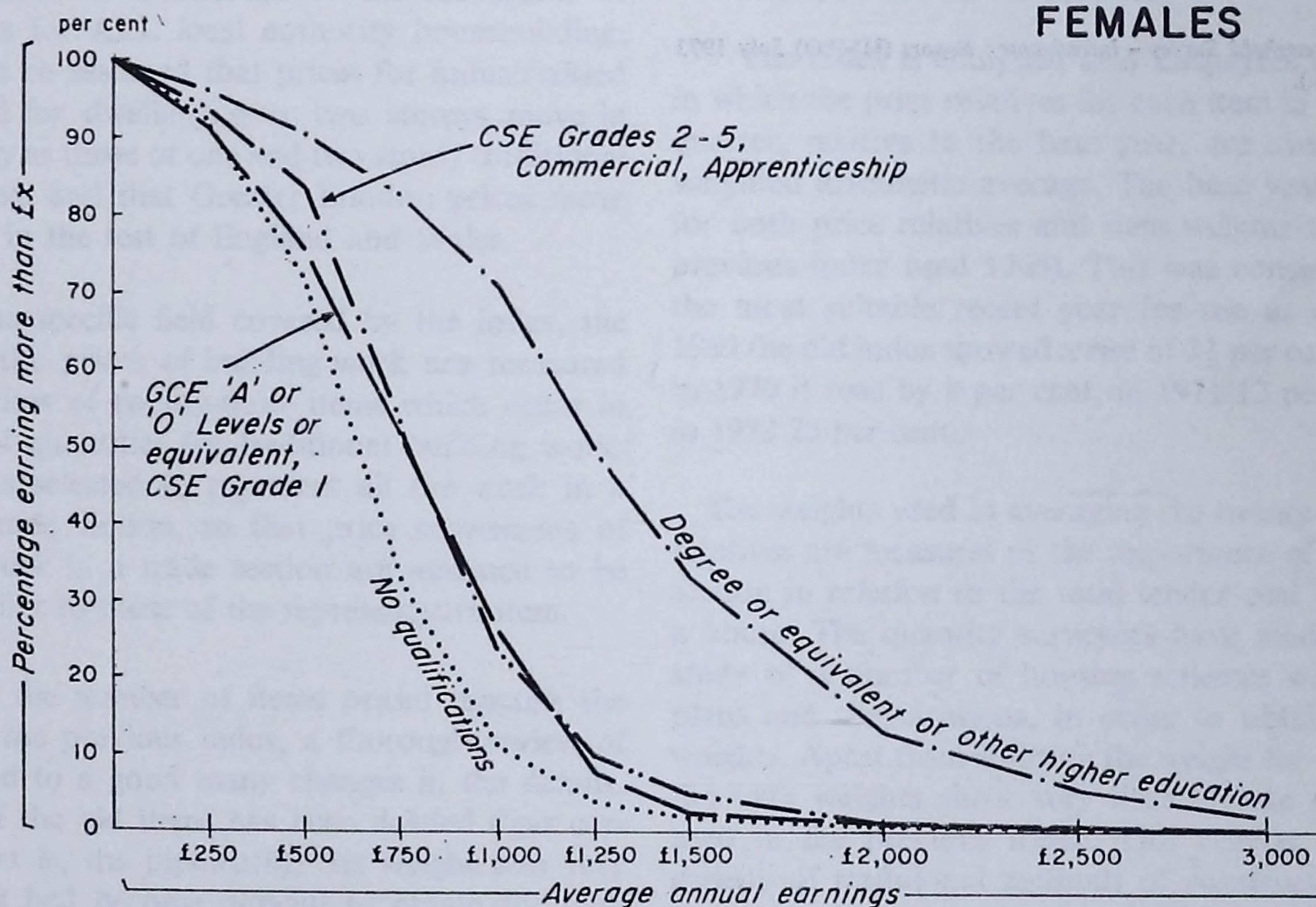


# ANNUAL EARNINGS OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYED\*, BY HIGHEST QUALIFICATION ATTAINED

## MALES



## FEMALES



\* 31 hours or more per week



The ninth and final chapter of the report discusses the main control procedures which have been established to ensure as far as possible the quality of the survey material. It includes an account of the way in which the interviewing force is managed and the quality checks which are applied to each interviewer's work. The chapter concludes with a summary of likely future developments and an account of collaborative work already being undertaken with research workers outside government.

The first report is essentially an introduction to the GHS, intended to describe the broad design and to illustrate the range of data which can be produced. The results which have been used in the report are no more than a selection from a much larger output of tables which are available for existing and potential users of the survey.

In addition to each of the quarters of 1971 (also aggregated to an annual total) results have been produced in the form of computer print-out for each of the quarters of 1972: In many instances these results can be added to those for 1971 thus producing sample sizes effectively twice as large as those for a single year. In due course further reports on these results will be published, either in the manner of this first report or in other Government statistical publications.

#### Reference

*The General Household Survey - Introductory Report* (HMSO) July 1973  
(Price £1.80 net).



# The Price Index of Local Authority Housebuilding

W. T. Osborn, *Statistician, Department of the Environment*

This index, which is a revised version of the former 'Constant Standards Cost Index', provides a measure of the changes in tender prices for the construction of local authority housing in England and Wales. The price data used in the index are extracted from the bills of quantities of successful tenders of one or two storey houses built by traditional methods. The nature of this source material, however, imposes a limitation on the coverage of the index, because bills of quantities are available in sufficient detail only for traditional building, and not for industrialised building. This has the advantage that the index covers only a relatively homogeneous type of housing which comprised some 40 per cent of all local authority dwellings in tenders accepted in 1971. A further limitation is the exclusion of Greater London, where low rise traditional housebuilding is quite small and it has not as yet been found practicable to obtain returns. Thus the index cannot strictly be used as a measure of the movement of tender prices for ALL local authority housebuilding, unless it can be assumed that prices for industrialised building and for dwellings over two storeys move in the same way as those of one and two storey traditional housebuilding, and that Greater London prices move as do those in the rest of England and Wales.

Within the specific field covered by the index, the changes in the prices of building work are measured from the prices of twenty-three items which occur in most bills of quantities for traditional building work. Each item is selected to represent all the work in a particular trade section, so that price movements of the other work in a trade section are assumed to be broadly similar to those of the representative item.

Although the number of items priced remains the same as in the previous index, a thorough review of them has led to a good many changes in the details. Only one of the old items has been deleted ('gas car-cassing', that is, the pipework). Its weight was very small and it had become difficult to obtain the data separately. On the other hand, 'brickwork' was such an important item (weight of  $21\frac{1}{2}$  per cent) that it has been split in order to give separate representation

to general brickwork and facing brickwork. Four other items have been freshly defined, in order to reflect changes in materials, technique or organisation that have taken place since the earlier index began in 1964. In three other items the definitions have been made more precise, and for all items the dimensions have been changed from imperial units to the appropriate metric units. These changes have been made on the advice of the Department's Quantity Surveyors, who have co-operated closely throughout. (For a list of items and their weights, see Appendix Table B.)

Some four hundred and thirty local authorities co-operate in supplying quarterly returns, of which about a fifth are usually active in any one quarter. For each of these, the price information is provided by a quantity surveyor from the bills of quantities submitted by a successful tenderer for one contract for the appropriate dwelling type during the quarter.

The index is compiled as a Laspeyres price index, in which the price relatives for each item in the current quarter, relative to the base year, are averaged by a weighted arithmetic average. The base year now used for both price relatives and item weights is 1969 (the previous index used 1965). This was considered to be the most suitable recent year for use as a base. In 1969 the old index showed a rise of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent, whereas in 1970 it rose by 8 per cent, in 1971 12 per cent, and in 1972 25 per cent.

The weights used in averaging the twenty-three price relatives are measures of the importance of each trade section in relation to the total tender cost of building a house. The quantity surveyors have made a special study of a number of housing schemes with varying plans and specifications, in order to obtain the item weights. Apart from splitting the weight for brickwork, the item weights show very little change from those used in the previous index. This reflects the homogeneity of traditional methods of construction, which have not been altered substantially by all the recent developments in materials and organisation of work.

A further complication, which needs attention, is the



variation between different regions and types of locality. A careful study of the basic data over a number of years confirmed that not only does the amount of building vary greatly from one region to another, but that both price levels and the rate of change in prices vary too. A meaningful price index for the country as a whole must, therefore, incorporate a fixed regional weighting pattern. The appropriate weights to use for a tender price index would normally be the base year relative values of each region in the total value of tenders accepted in the country as a whole. A study of several recent years emphasised the instability of some of these values from year to year, in view of the changing geographical pattern of housebuilding activity. It was therefore decided to use, as regional weights, the relative values in the three years 1969-71 of each region in the total national value of tender costs of one and two storey traditional houses in those years. The 'regions' used here are Economic Planning Regions in England and Wales (excluding Greater London), identifying as separate 'sub-regions' the total of County Boroughs in each of four regions - Northern Yorkshire and Humberside, North West and West Midlands - in which the County Boroughs represented a substantial part of the total housebuilding activity of the region. A list of the regional weights is given in Appendix Table C.

The new index is being calculated quarterly from the beginning of 1973, but additional returns have been collected and processed for 1972 in order to provide analysis for an overlap period. As a result of this, it is clear that the break in continuity between the old index and the new index is slight. So the old index items have been used to estimate the 1969 base prices for each of the present items. There is some indication that the revision of the index has made it easier to collect the basic data, and this increases confidence in the new index as a satisfactory measure of the changes in tender prices for this most important category of local authority housebuilding.

The previous 'Constant Standards Cost Index' was first calculated in 1965, using for its foundation data collected by a pilot survey undertaken in 1964. The scope and objective were very much the same as the new index, although it was naturally rather experimental at first. Some minor revisions were incorporated on one or two occasions, but only recently has it been possible to undertake any comprehensive study of the full range of data collected. The constant standards index was published spasmodically in *Housing Statistics* (issues Nos. 10, 16 and 23) and then quarterly in *Housing and Construction Statistics* from issue No. 1.

In this latter publication it has been shown (for ease of comparison with other indices) scaled to 1966=100. In issue No. 5, the new index is shown for the first time, and the whole series is scaled to 1970=100, again for ease of comparison with other indices.



# APPENDIX

## Price Index of Local Authority Housebuilding England and Wales (excluding Greater London)

Table A

Index numbers

1969=100

	Annual	Quarterly			
		I	II	III	IV
1969	100.0				
1970	108.1	106	106	108	112
1971	121.8	116	120	123	128
1972	147.6	134	143	149	164
1973		176			

### Weights used for trades and operations

Table B

Percentage

Item	Weights used	Item	Weights used
1. Excavation and hardcore	2½	13. Copper plumbing	2½
2. Concrete work	5½	14. Hot and cold water tanks	1
3. Brickwork – general	13½	15. Sanitary fittings	3½
4. Brickwork – facing	8	16. Central heating	7½
5. Partitions	2½	17. Electrical installation	3
6. Roof tiling	4½	18. Plastering (walls)	7
7. Carpentry	7½	19. Ground floor covering	2½
8. First floor boarding	2	20. Plastering (ceilings)	2½
9. Manufactured joinery – doors	7½	21. Glazing	1
10. Windows	4	22. Wall and ceiling paint	2
11. General joinery	5	23. Oil painting	3½
12. Soil and vent piping	1½		

### Weights used for geographical areas and types of local authorities

Table C

Percentage

Region	Weight
Northern – County Boroughs	4.5
– Other Local Authorities	9.1
Yorkshire and Humberside – County Boroughs	5.5
– Other Local Authorities	3.0
North West – County Boroughs	11.5
– Other Local Authorities	5.1
<b>Total North</b>	<b>38.7</b>
East Midlands	6.2
West Midlands – County Boroughs	5.1
– Other Local Authorities	4.7
Wales	7.1
<b>Total Midlands and Wales</b>	<b>23.1</b>
East Anglia	6.2
Beds–Essex–Herts	9.9
South Eastern Counties	4.6
Southern Counties	11.5
South West	6.1
<b>Total South (excluding Greater London)</b>	<b>38.2</b>
<b>England and Wales (excluding Greater London)</b>	<b>100.0</b>



# Notes on current developments

## POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

### Mid-1972 based population projections

The main features of the mid-1972 based population projections appear in the *Registrar General's Quarterly Return No. 497* (which includes a short note and gives figures for England and Wales, Great Britain and the United Kingdom) and in the June issue of the *Monthly Digest of Statistics* (figures for the United Kingdom only).

The projections differ from those made a year ago (the mid-1971 based set) in two respects. First the new starting point, the mid-1972 population estimate, embodies additional information from the 1971 Census about the size and structure of the population at census date; and it takes into account data on population changes in the twelve months to mid-1972.

Second the fertility assumptions for the next decade have been modified. There was a further fall in 1972 in the numbers of births. An important factor in this is thought to be the continuing tendency to defer births in the early stages of marriage. Accordingly a lower number of births up to 1981 has been assumed as compared with last year's projection. No new evidence has become available to suggest a change from the assumptions made last year about fertility in the longer term, namely a completed family size for England and Wales of about 2.3 liveborn children. Numbers of births from 1981 onwards reflect this assumption.

Full details of the projections will be published shortly in *Population Projections No. 3 1972-2012*. For further information please contact

Miss D. Pace,  
OPCS,  
Somerset House,  
Strand,  
London, WC2R 1LR  
Telephone 01-836 2407 ext. 8258.

### Testing new census techniques

The voluntary field tests of census methods, carried out by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys in October 1972 (see *Statistical News* 19.20) achieved an overall response rate of 77.8 per cent. A new method of field sampling was tried out. By this method, the households in the test areas were divided into ten samples, each sample receiving one of ten different forms. The forms contained a common core of basic

demographic questions together with two or three questions on other topics, the latter varying from form to form. Two methods of delivery were used for the sample forms; and in certain test areas, used as 'controls', 'basic' forms containing only the demographic questions and 'full' forms containing all the questions were tested. Response to the ten sample forms was higher than that to the full forms and lower than that to basic forms.

Preliminary analysis of field records and of some characteristics of responding households shows no bias in the samples to which the ten different forms were delivered, so that on present evidence the method of field sampling appears satisfactory. Further analysis is being undertaken.

New field procedures, including extended facilities for return of forms under cover and a free telephone query answering service worked satisfactorily but further experiment will be necessary.

A full report will be published when the evaluation of the tests is complete.

For further information please contact  
Mr A. Myers at OPCS, tel. 01-836 2407 ext. 423.

## 1971 Census of Population

### *Publications (England and Wales)*

Information about the publication programme was given on 30 April 1973 in a written answer to a Parliamentary Question:

Already published and complete are:

Preliminary Report: Published August 1971.  
County Advance Analysis (59 leaflets): Published March 1972 to July 1972.

Great Britain Advance Analysis: Published November 1972.

The County Reports (published in 3 volumes for each county). The first county report was published in May 1972 and . . . Reports for the remaining . . . counties will be published between now and August 1973.

The publication of the county tables will be followed by a series of volumes summarising the results at regional and national level and including some additional analyses of population, housing and country of birth.



Reports analysing results by the present and new constituencies are expected to be published between September and December 1973.

Finally a series of volumes on specified topics based on a 10 per cent sample will be published. The expected publication dates are as follows:

<i>Topic</i>	<i>To be published</i>
Housing (4 volumes)	September/November 1973
Car ownership	October 1973
Demography	September 1973
Non-private Households	November 1973
Country of Birth	October 1973
Usual Residence	September 1973
Persons of Pensionable Age	October 1973
Economic Activity	September 1973
The Welsh Language in Wales	September 1973
Migration (25 volumes)	November 1973–May 1974
Household composition (3 volumes)	November 1973–December 1973
Occupation, Industry and Socio-economic class (3 volumes)	March 1974–April 1974
Occupation and Industry by County (59 leaflets)	January 1974–April 1974
Workplace and Transport	May 1974
Fertility (6 volumes)	November 1973–March 1974
Qualified Manpower	June 1974

*Hansard*, Volume 855, columns 252–3.

During May the last of the County Reports went to the printer and all should be published by the end of this month. Unpublished versions of tables appearing in subject volumes will be available at the same time as the particular volume is published.

By July a volume of tabulations based on a one per cent sample of households (and persons in institutions), and including 'hard to code' topics, was ready for submission to the printer, and publication can be expected shortly.

#### *Small area statistics*

Reference was made in *Statistical News* 20.26 to the production of small area statistics or 'Ward Library' from the 1971 Census. At the time of writing tables covering the '100 per cent topics' are expected to be complete by the end of June 1973 and the tables covering the '10 per cent topics' by the end of October 1973. The production of special tabulations for particular customers has begun. The Workplace/Migration

analysis for particular local authorities and Regional Standing Conferences, is expected to be complete by about June 1974. Further details on all these tables may be obtained from:

Customer Services,  
OPCS,  
Titchfield,  
Fareham,  
Hampshire, PO15 5RR  
Telephone Titchfield (032 94) 42511 ext. 231.

#### **Population and vital statistics: Scotland**

The Registrar General's first quarterly return for 1973 was published earlier this month. In addition to the usual quarterly tables it contains overseas migration estimates for the second half of 1972 and projections of the population of Scotland, planning and hospital regions to 1991.

#### **SOCIAL CONDITIONS**

##### **Abuse of social security benefits**

The Committee on Abuse of Social Security Benefits (under the chairmanship of Sir Henry Fisher) reported in March 1973.

The report contains various departmental statistics relating to fraud and abuse of benefits and it repeats some tables which originally appeared in *Social Trends* (No. 2, 1971) in an article entitled 'Trends in certificated sick absence'.

In considering possible measures to determine the extent of abuse, the Committee deal with the general considerations, the various forms and the economics of surveys and also the ways in which surveys may be used to determine the relative efficiency of administrative procedures.

##### **Reference**

*Report of the Committee on Abuse of Social Security Benefits* (HMSO) March 1973 (Price £1.65 by post £1.76).

##### **Social work in Scotland**

*Scottish Social Work Statistics 1971*, the first issue of an annual digest of statistics for the social work services in Scotland, was published on 2 July 1973. The second issue, relating to 1972, will be published about the end of 1973. It is intended that later issues will be more comprehensive and provide more detailed analyses of some topics.

Nearly one hundred tables illustrate the various aspects of social work care, including care of children, the family, the physically handicapped, the mentally disordered, the elderly, persons on probation and those



released from penal detention. The publication includes the first detailed figures to be published on the operation of the children's hearings system which came into operation on 15 April 1971, replacing the juvenile courts. There are national figures also concerning staffing, training and finance in the social work services in Scotland. Local analyses are given in addition for some of the services.

Where possible, comparisons are made with the corresponding figures for 1970. The unified local authority social work departments set up under the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 came into being on 17 October 1969. Thus these comparisons cover the first two full years of operation of the new system. In some cases historical figures are given for the five years 1967-71.

#### Reference

*Scottish Social Work Statistics 1971* (HMSO) July 1973 (Price 82p net).

## HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION

### Revisions to construction output statistics 1963-1972

The Department of the Environment (DOE) has recently completed a wide-ranging series of revisions to the series of construction output statistics as published in the quarterly *Housing and Construction Statistics*. It is hoped to publish a detailed description of these revisions in *Economic Trends* later this year. The purpose of this present note is to draw attention to the revised figures and briefly to explain the main reasons for the changes.

First, the series for the output of the direct labour departments of public authorities have been amended to exclude the output of authorities not classified to Construction in the Standard Industrial Classification (1968).

Secondly, the series for contractors' output has been adjusted in the light of the October 1971 and October 1972 DOE Censuses of Output. These revisions principally affect the series for 1972.

Thirdly, evidence on small firms from a special 1972 DOE census, and on self-employed workers from the 1971 Census of Population and other sources, has enabled a series of estimates to be made in broad terms of the amount of output not at present covered by the regular quarterly output inquiries sent by DOE to firms on their Statistical Register. The inclusion of these estimates in total output provides a more comprehensive assessment of both the level of Construction output and the trends in output over the years. These estimates of total output are being published in index form (at constant prices) in Table 1 (Activity indicators) of *Housing and Construction Statistics*.

Further work is proceeding to enable more reliable and regular estimates to be made of the output of small firms and other sub-contractors at present excluded from the regular DOE statistical inquiries.

### Housing surveys

Housing Survey Report No. 9, containing the results of the House Condition Survey 1971 in England and Wales, has now been published and is available from the Department of the Environment. A description of the survey and of the contents of the report was given in *Statistical News* 21.19.

#### Reference

Housing Survey Report No. 9, *House Condition Survey, 1971 England and Wales* (Obtainable only from the Department of the Environment, 83/91 Victoria Street, London SW1 0JP) June 1973 (Price 65p).

## MANPOWER AND EARNINGS

### Qualified Manpower Survey

The Office of Population Censuses and Surveys and the General Register Office (Scotland) launched a Qualified Manpower Survey on June 13, following two pilot surveys, one last autumn and one in April of this year.

This voluntary survey, which is entirely postal, is a follow-up to the 1971 Census of Population, and will expand the information obtained then about education and jobs. The Survey is addressed to a sample of fifty thousand people falling into two categories: people with academic, professional or technical qualifications and people working in professional, technical, administrative or managerial occupations in 1971 who lacked such qualifications.

The survey takes place against a background of expanding numbers of people passing through further and higher education, and will obtain information about the relationship between the education that people have had and the jobs they do. This will help Government, employers and educational institutions to plan their policies on career development, job training and higher and further education.

The interest in the survey is interdepartmental with the Department of Employment taking the role of main sponsor.

For further information please contact

Mr R. Beacham at OPCS, tel. 01-836 2407 ext. 8271.

### Trends in earnings 1948 to 1972

Trends in average earnings from 1948 to 1972, as measured in Department of Employment annual (October) surveys, were shown in both graphical and



tabular forms in the May 1973 issue of the Department's *Gazette*. They illustrate, for example, how the earnings both of non-manual and of manual women have moved overall in parallel with each other and with the earnings of men; also how manual men in various industry groups have maintained their relative earnings position with great consistency. The article also gives the trends in normal and actual hours, the dispersion of earnings and the relationship between labour costs and prices.

#### Reference

*Department of Employment Gazette* May 1973 page 442 (HMSO Price 52½p).

### Low pay and changes in earnings

The main results of the New Earnings Survey from 1971 onwards have included changes between successive surveys in average earnings of matched groups of individuals included in the samples in both years. Some new results were published by the Department of Employment in the April 1973 issue of the Department's *Gazette*, based on analyses of the changes in the earnings of such individual employees. They show for example that those in the lowest range of earnings are a changing group; that manual men with lower-than-average earnings have tended to receive higher-than-average increases; and that the pattern of changes for manual men differs from the patterns for non-manual men and for women.

A technical appendix to the article includes joint distribution of weekly earnings for the matched samples in successive surveys; the characteristics of the regressions of the logarithm of earnings in April 1971 on the logarithm of earnings in April 1970 for manual and for non-manual males by age; and the correlations between the earnings of individuals in successive years for full-time men and women by occupation.

#### Reference

*Department of Employment Gazette* April 1973 pages 335 to 348 (HMSO Price 52½p).

### British Labour Statistics: Year Book 1971

The Year Book, in which the main labour statistics for 1971 compiled by the Department of Employment are brought together, was published in June; it is the third in a new series. Together with the *British Labour Statistics: Historical Abstract 1886-1968*, these year books from 1969 onwards constitute a convenient source of reference for British Labour Statistics. More recent figures are to be found in the Department's *Gazette*.

The Year Books cover wages rates, earnings, hours of work, retail prices, employment, unemployment,

vacancies, family expenditure, industrial disputes, trade union membership, industrial accidents, labour costs and output per person employed. Time series for up to ten years up to 1972 are given where appropriate. Articles describing new series and development are included as appendices.

#### Reference

*British Labour Statistics: Year Book 1971* (HMSO) June 1973 (Price £7.20 by post £7.41).

### Survey of characteristics of the unemployed

A survey was made recently in local offices of the Department of Employment to obtain information about the characteristics of unemployed adults. The survey covered a sample of one in thirty of those on the register on 26 June in each local office. The information sought was mainly factual and based on local office records, together with some assessment of factors affecting individual placing prospects. The information was recorded on a survey form which did not identify individuals and will be used for statistical purposes only.

## INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS

### Census of Production

#### *Census of Production 1968*

As the separate parts of the Report on the Census of Production for 1968 have become available, they had been listed in *Statistical News* (see 15.17, 16.22, 17.25, 18.28, 19.26, 20.35 and 21.23). Copies of these separate parts are available from Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

Since the last issue of *Statistical News* the following part has become available.

Report Part No.	Description
156	Summary Tables: Industry analyses

#### *Annual Census of Production, 1970*

It was announced in *Statistical News*, 21.23, that publication in the Business Monitor Census Series for the Census of Production, 1970 had begun and a list appeared of the Business Monitors which had been published and were available from Her Majesty's Stationery Office. The following table gives details of a list of further Business Monitors which have been published in recent months.



*Available Business Monitors of the Report on  
the Census of Production for 1970*

<i>Business Monitor No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Standard Industrial Classification Minimum List Heading</i>
C4	Chalk, clay, sand and gravel extraction	103
C7	Grain Milling	211
C16	Vegetable and animal oils and fats	221
C20	Soft Drinks	232
C22	British wines, cider and perry	239(2)
C27	General chemicals (inorganic)	271(1)
C29	Miscellaneous general chemicals	271(3)
C32	Paint	274
C33	Soap and detergents	275
C36	Fertilizers	278
C37	Polishes	279(1)
C38	Formulated adhesives, gelatine, etc.	279(2)
C42	Surgical bandages, etc.	279(6)
C43	Photographic chemical materials	279(7)
C46	Iron Castings, etc.	313
C50	Agricultural Machinery (other than tractors)	331
C56	Mechanical handling equipment	337
C57	Office machinery	338
C58	Mining machinery	339(1)
C59	Printing and book-binding machinery	339(2)
C60	Refrigerating machinery (except domestic)	339(3)
C61	Space-heating, ventilating and air-conditioning equipment	339(4)
C63	Miscellaneous (non-electrical machinery)	339(9)
C67	Photographic and document copying equipment	351
C72	Insulated wires and cables	362
C76	Electronic computers	366
C78	Electrical appliances primarily for domestic use	368
C88	Hand tools and implements	391
C89	Cutlery, spoons, forks and plated tableware, etc.	392
C91	Wire and wire manufactures	394
C94	Metal furniture	399(1)
C99	Spinning and doubling on cotton and flax systems	412
C102	Jute	415
C103	Rope, twine and net	416
C107	Narrow Fabrics	421
C109	Canvas goods and sacks etc.	422(2)
C111	Asbestos	429(1)
C112	Miscellaneous textiles	429(2)
C115	Fur	433
C116	Weatherproof outerwear	441
C118	Women's and girls' tailored outerwear	443
C119	Overalls and men's shirts, underwear etc.	444
C121	Hats, caps and millinery	446
C122	Corsets and miscellaneous dress industries	449(1)
C123	Gloves	449(2)
C128	Cement	464
C129	Abrasives	469(1)
C135	Wooden containers and baskets	475
C138	Cardboard boxes, cartons and fibreboard packing cases	482(1)
C139	Packaging products of paper and associated materials	482(2)
C144	Manufactures of Rubber	491
C146	Brushes and Brooms	493

Further information on these Business Monitors and on the Census generally can be obtained from:

Business Statistics Office,  
Cardiff Road,  
Newport,  
Monmouthshire,  
NPT 1XG  
Telephone Newport (0633) 56111 ext. 2455.

### Reorganisation of industrial statistics

The introduction in the third quarter of 1973 of a new inquiry into the miscellaneous mining and quarrying industry (MLHs 109/2 and 109/4) will bring the total number of inquiries operative in the new system of quarterly sales statistics to 161. Details of previous developments in the new system have been fully reported in earlier issues of *Statistical News*.

The new inquiry will cover all establishments with twenty-five or more employees. The results will in due course be published (subject to safeguards on confidentiality) on a regular basis in the Business Monitor series.

Further information on this inquiry can be obtained from:

Business Statistics Office,  
Cardiff Road,  
Newport,  
Monmouthshire,  
NPT 1XG,  
Telephone Newport (0633) 56111 ext. 2415.

### ENERGY

#### Energy statistics

As part of a general review of the collection and publication of energy statistics the Department of Trade and Industry has introduced a new series of statistics, entitled *Energy Trends*, which will be published regularly about the third week of every month in *Trade & Industry*. The use of *Trade & Industry* as the vehicle for this information (the first of the new series appeared on 24 May) will ensure that a number of monthly and quarterly statistics will be published several weeks earlier than previously. Each issue will present an up-to-date commentary on, and broad coverage of, the principal statistics of all forms of energy and will include from time to time articles on various matters of interest in the energy sector. As the tables in the new series will contain most of the information previously issued in the *Weekly Statistical Statement* and the *Monthly Statement* on electricity, these two Press Notices have been discontinued and the statistics hitherto published on a weekly basis now appear as a monthly series.

The review of energy statistics has also resulted in a decision to discontinue with effect from April 1973 the collection of information from coal merchants of their receipts, stocks and disposals of solid fuel. This decision has relieved coal merchants of a considerable burden of form-filling and the Department is satisfied that trends in this sector can now be monitored adequately from



information supplied by the National Coal Board and the secondary fuel producers of their disposals for the domestic market.

### **Electricity Supply Industry Annual Reports**

The 1972-73 Annual Reports of the Electricity Council, the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) and the twelve Area Electricity Boards in England and Wales will be published on 11 September.

The Report of the Electricity Council will, for the first time, be issued in two volumes. The first volume will contain a description of the progress of the whole industry in England and Wales during the year including the main accounts statements. The second volume will contain a full range of accounts statements and statistics.

A general description of the contents of the Electricity Supply Industry's reports was given in *Statistical News* 19.28. The contents this year will cover the same subjects as in previous years except that the second volume of the Electricity Council's Report will give additional details of sales under restricted-hour and day/night tariffs for each Area Board.

The first volume of the Electricity Council's Report will be available from the Council's offices at 30 Millbank, London SW1P 4RD. (Telephone 01-834 2333). The second volume will be for sale through Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Enquiries relating to Reports of the Electricity Boards should be made to the Head Offices of those Boards.

## **AGRICULTURE AND FOOD**

### **Economic accounts for agriculture**

The May 1973 issue of *Economic Trends* contains an article by E. L. Snowdon and W. N. T. Roberts describing the origin and development of the concepts and framework used in constructing the economic accounts for agriculture. In particular, the article shows how the current and constant priced accounts evolved separately and independently of each other, with resulting conceptual discrepancies, and how, over recent years, steps have been taken to remove the anomalies and harmonise the principles underlying the two accounts.

The first of four appendices gives a detailed history of the growth of economic accounts for agriculture in the United Kingdom since 1908; the other three reproduce the earliest official account of Farming Net Income (published in 1951), and the latest published fully-harmonised accounts at current and at constant prices.

### **Sources of supply**

Detailed information relating to the main sources from which supplies of food and feedingstuffs in the United Kingdom are derived and presented annually in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food series of *Food Facts* releases. Quantities imported, including details of the main countries of consignment, are shown together with home production, and each is expressed as a percentage of total new supplies.

The latest information, which was published in *Food Facts* No. 50 on June 14, 1973, covers the periods 1964-66, 1971 and 1972. Additionally, it shows the volume of imports from the European Economic Community. Copies are available from the Ministry's Press Office at Whitehall Place West, London SW1A 2HH, as well as statements for earlier periods, including comparisons with pre-war supplies.

### **Agricultural censuses and surveys (England and Wales)** *March 1973 Sample Livestock Enquiry*

The results of this enquiry – the second in the new series of special livestock enquiries held in March and September and derived from a stratified random sample of holdings – were published on 30 April 1973 (1). They show a continued expansion of the cattle herd, both beef and dairy, as well as more pigs. Only the egg laying flock and growing pullets were down in numbers compared with March 1972.

### *The Biennial Sample Enquiry on Glasshouses*

The results of the Biennial Sample Enquiry about the age of glasshouses, methods of heating, watering, ventilation, etc. held in March 1973, were published in July 1973 (2).

### **References**

- (1) Press Notice No. 204 issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.
- (2) Statistical Information Notice (Stats 185/73) issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

## **TRANSPORT**

### **Index of traffic and transportation surveys**

An Index of traffic and transportation surveys has been compiled by the Department of the Environment for use as a source of reference by government departments, local authorities, universities and all other organisations concerned with transport policy or research.

The Index was started some six years ago with the main object of keeping the Ministry of Transport in closer touch with survey work undertaken outside



central Government. Organisations sponsoring surveys were asked to complete, in respect of each survey carried out during the preceding two years, a detailed questionnaire about the survey methods used and the subject matter of the research. Details were received for some five hundred surveys.

The Index is now being re-organised and updated. It is expected that a further 500/600 surveys will be included. At the same time the method of storing data has been changed to permit continuing up-dating of information and more rapid retrieval of existing information.

With the aid of an 'Optical Feature Card' system it will be possible readily to identify surveys which have covered any particular topic or combination of topics or which have employed particular techniques in sampling or analysis. Reference to a microfilm record of the appropriate completed questionnaires will give full information about the nature and coverage of the individual surveys and details of the sponsoring organisations. Where access to survey results is required, enquirers will be referred to the organisation (government department, local authority, university, etc.) responsible for the work. Access to survey results will be entirely at the discretion of the organisation responsible.

The Index has been set up as a service to all interested organisations and the Department wishes to see it fully used. Requests for details of surveys or for a list of the main headings under which the information is stored should be made to:

Mrs J. S. Andrews,  
Department of the Environment,  
Statistics A Division,  
Room 4/08,  
St. Christopher House,  
Southwark Street,  
London, SE1.  
Telephone 01-928 7999 ext. 2610.

### Forecasts of vehicles and traffic in Great Britain 1972 revision

A TRRL report containing forecasts of numbers of vehicles and volumes of traffic revised in the light of 1971 data on vehicle licences and traffic flows and of the latest population forecasts was published in June.

It is estimated that the number of vehicles in Great Britain is likely to rise from fifteen millions in 1971 to twenty-two millions in 1980, twenty-seven millions in 1990 and thirty-three millions in the year 2010. The forecast for the year 2010 is three million lower than the previous estimate. Most of this difference is due

to the downward revision of the population forecasts. The forecast of volume of traffic in the year 2010 is four hundred and seventy-eight thousand million vehicle kilometres, slightly lower than the previous figure, and just over double the figure for 1971.

Copies of this report may be obtained from:

The Director,  
Transport and Road Research Laboratory,  
Crowthorne,  
Berkshire.

Telephone Crowthorne (03446) 3131 ext. 2784.

### Reference

*Forecasts of vehicles and traffic in Great Britain 1972 revision* by A. H. Tulpole, Department of the Environment TRRL Report LR543, June 1973.

## SURVEY CONTROL UNIT

### Surveys assessed

A brief article in *Statistical News* 21.15 described the assessment work of the Survey Control Unit, and the grading system used. The total number of surveys assessed during the second quarter of 1973 was one hundred and forty-one, broken down as shown in the following table:

*Surveys assessed during 2nd quarter 1973*

Type of survey	Initial grading				No grading given	Total
	Un-recognised	Under consideration	Provisionally recognised	Fully recognised		
Small <i>ad hoc</i>	3	1	23	37	5	69
Other <i>ad hoc</i>	1	5	5	21	3	35
Continuous	—	2	1	34	—	37
Total	4	8	29	92	8	141

Since the majority of the continuous surveys assessed this quarter (mostly taken from amongst the many conducted by the Department of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) had been running for several years, the table indicates that the Unit has started to look at all the government surveys currently in the field. The number of *ad hoc* surveys continues to reflect research and other investigatory activity by all the major government departments as well as some of the smaller.

Of the four unrecognised surveys, two have been radically changed and are no longer in this category, and the other two are pending further comments by the respective departments. Two of the eight surveys classified as 'under consideration' have now been given higher gradings, and the two continuous surveys in this category have not yet commenced.



## BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

### Invisible transactions

Developments in the invisible account of the United Kingdom balance of payments in the period 1962-72 are reviewed in an article in the *Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin* for June 1973. The article examines in particular the fast growth in earnings since 1966, considers why they have risen more slowly since 1970, and briefly assesses their prospects over the next few years. A further section describes the United Kingdom's changing position in total world invisible trade and tentatively estimates the territorial distribution of United Kingdom invisible receipts and payments.

Copies of the Bank's *Bulletin* can be obtained, free of charge, from the Economic Intelligence Department, Bank of England, London EC2R 8AH. For further information on this article, telephone 01-601 4280.

## NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

### Rebasing of constant price estimates on 1970

*National Income and Expenditure 1973*, which is to be published during September, will include constant price estimates rebased on the year 1970. The long run of quarterly estimates, published each year in the October issue of *Economic Trends*, will also be on the revised basis. The Index of Industrial Production for July and provisional national accounts estimates for the second quarter of 1973, which will as usual be issued by press notice during September, will similarly be calculated on the new basis.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Anglo/French Manpower Planning Conference

The Manpower Society and the Manpower Section of AFCET (Association Francaise pour la Cybernetique, Economique, et Technique) organised the first Anglo/French Manpower Planning Conference at Le Touquet from 14-16 May, 1973. The English organiser of the Conference, which was mainly concerned with Company Manpower Planning was C. G. Lewis of the Central Statistical Office; two other members of the Government Statistical Service, Dr D. Wishart and E. Ko of the Civil Service Department, gave a paper on their 'Small Group Model - MANSIM', including a demonstration on a computer terminal. Other United Kingdom papers were given by BOAC, the University of Nottingham, and the Foundry Industry Training Board. The four French papers were given by Renault, IBM France, EUREQUIP, and ELF UNION.

This conference was attended by about eighty people and was the first of a series to be held at two-yearly intervals in France and England. Further information on the proceedings can be obtained from:

C. G. Lewis,  
Central Statistical Office,  
Great George Street,  
London SW1P 3AQ,  
Telephone 01-930 5422 ext. 663.

### International symposium: information and industry

A symposium on 'Information and Economic Analysis in the Industrial Field', organised by the Institut de Recherches en Economie de la Production, University of Paris, and sponsored by the European Community Commission, was held in Liège on 4-6 June 1973. About one hundred and thirty people attended the symposium and these included representatives of the Statistical Office of the European Communities, national statistical offices, industry, finance, and academics. Among those from the United Kingdom attending were Mr A. A. Sorrell (CSO) and Mr M. C. Fessey (BSO) for the Government Statistical Service, and Mr R. Husain (NEDO). The symposium ranged widely over the field of industrial statistics and included discussion on the needs and purposes of information about industrial activity, the problems of measurement of activity and performance, consistency between data and comparability, availability, and the constraints on the collection of data. A number of papers were delivered at plenary sessions, followed by discussions in smaller groups. The proceedings of the symposium will be published.

## EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

### Labour force survey

A voluntary survey of a  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent sample of households in the United Kingdom was carried out in May and June 1973 at the request of the Department of Employment and the European Economic Communities. It is one of a continuing series of surveys conducted by member states of the EEC to provide statistics of employment and unemployment which are comparable between countries. Most of the questions asked were those agreed between member states but some additional questions on occupation, occupational mobility and training were included for the Department of Employment.

### England and Wales

The scale of the enquiry was greater than is usually attempted in interview surveys in this country. In



England and Wales interviewers working for the Social Survey Division of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys handled about 10,000 of the interviews. Census Division undertook the remaining 90,000 interviews; this necessitated setting up a temporary organisation of 50 area controllers, each of whom received one week's training, and 9,000 interviewers, each of whom received two days' training.

An area sample of 5,000 of the 1971 Census enumeration districts (EDs) was selected. Interviews listed all buildings and separately identifiable dwelling units within the selected EDs and then interviewed a systematic 1 in 8 sample of the units listed with a random starting point in each ED.

At the time of writing the overall response is almost 90 per cent but this figure is likely to be reduced as interviewing ends and non-contacts are added to the non-respondents.

For further information please contact

Mr A Cushion at OPCS, tel. Titchfield (032 94) 42511.

### *Scotland*

The response to the survey, described in *Statistical News* 21.32 was about 80 per cent of present households, slightly lower than usually obtained from comparable voluntary census tests.

### **Publications of the European Communities**

The following major statistical publications of the European Communities have been received since the last edition of *Statistical News*:

### *Regional Statistics*

(Statistiques régionales)

The 1972 annual publication contains data (mainly for 1969 or 1970) about population and employment, gross domestic product, agriculture, industry, services, standard of living and Community financial participation in investment (through EAGGF, the ECSC and the EIB) in the regions of the Six. Notes to the publication describe

- (a) the territorial units of the Six;
- (b) the relationship of the classification system NACE-CLIO at regional level and NACE;
- (c) the classification of basic administrative units of the Six according to employment by sector (agriculture, industry, services);
- (d) measurements of regional disparities.

### *Social Statistics*

(Statistiques sociales)

1972

No. 6 A study of students and financial aspects of the education systems of the Six.

No. 6b Industrial accidents in the iron and steel industry 1960-1971

Yearbook of Social Statistics 1972:

Demography

Employment and unemployment

Hours worked and labour disputes

Wages

Standard of living

Education

Social accounts, industrial accidents.

### *Energy statistics*

(Statistiques de l'énergie)

Issue number 4 of 1972 is a special issue covering Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom, 1969-1971.

*Foreign Trade: Standard Country Nomenclature - NDP*  
(Commerce extérieur: Nomenclature des pays - NDP)

Issue for the 1973 statistics.

### **Cattle surveys**

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* Number L 153 of 9 June 1973 contains the text of a Council Directive of 15 May 1973 on the statistical surveys to be carried out by the Member States on bovine livestock, on forecasts on the availability of bovine animals for slaughter and on statistics on slaughtered bovine animals (73/132/EEC).

### **Statistical Office of the European Communities**

#### *Appointment*

Mr D. Harris, Chief Statistician in charge of Branch 7 at the Central Statistical Office, has taken up an appointment at the Statistical Office of the European Communities in Luxembourg. Mr Harris will head Directorate C, Demographic and Social Statistics and his is the first British appointment to the Statistical Office.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **United Kingdom Research and Development**

Available estimates of United Kingdom spending on research and development (R&D) from 1961/62 to 1969/70 are presented in *Research and Development Expenditure*, published by the Central Statistical Office as No. 21 in the series Studies in Official Statistics. It corresponds to the section dealing with this topic in



the former publication *Statistics of Science and Technology* but it also includes for the first time, and distinguishes, estimates of central government spending on R&D in the social sciences. The main tables are preceded by a Notes and Commentary section and followed by an Annexe of technical notes.

The summary estimates show that the total amount spent on scientific R&D rose from £658 million in 1961/62 to £1,082 million in 1969/70. But expenditure as a proportion of gross domestic product remained steady at between 2.7 and 2.8 per cent. However, there were significantly divergent trends in the major components of total expenditure. For example, the proportionate share going to R&D for defence almost halved over the period whereas the share of spending on R&D for civil purposes was rising slightly but significantly.

Total expenditure is obtained by aggregating the value of R&D work done by each R&D sector. Perhaps the most revealing of the sets of summary tables is that which shows the interlocking picture of the flow of funds between sectors – the sources of finance aspect – and the work done in the different sectors – the performance aspect. For example, the government sector does about a quarter of total R&D but pays for slightly more than half of the total expenditure; private industry does about 60 per cent of the work and pays for less than 40 per cent.

Expenditure on current account is nearly 90 per cent of total R&D expenditure. An analysis of this current expenditure shows that more than half (57 per cent in 1969/70) goes on salaries and wages, about a quarter goes on materials and equipment and a fifth on other expenditure; but the proportionate expenditure varies considerably between sectors. Current expenditure can also be, largely, analysed by type of work. The estimates show that about one-tenth is devoted to basic research, a quarter to applied research and nearly two-thirds to development. Once again the sector proportions vary considerably; for example, nearly 70 per cent of current expenditure by Research Councils is for basic research whereas the corresponding figure for private industry is less than 4 per cent.

#### References

Studies in Official Statistics No. 21 *Research and Development Expenditure* (HMSO) July 1973 (Price £1.55 net).  
*Statistics of Science and Technology 1970* (HMSO October 1970).

#### Index number construction

A study of the problems of index number construction is published this month as No. 5 in the *Research Series of Studies in Official Statistics*. It is by R. F. Fowler, former Director of Statistical Research at the Department of Employment, who prepared the previous

study on this subject published in the Research Series (No. 3, March 1970).

The present study considers two questions concerned with the effect of variability of the weights on the accuracy of the official General Index of Retail Prices in the United Kingdom. The first question concerns the effect on a chain Laspeyres index of retail prices, with weights changed every year, of using a three-year moving average of weights derived from the results of the continuous Family Expenditure Survey in the United Kingdom. A further section attempts an estimate of the standard error of the Index of Retail Prices due to sampling variability of these weights. In both sections of the paper the methods of analysis used are dependent on the availability of the matrix of revaluations which is an important by-product of the Family Expenditure Survey.

The conclusion of the paper, that the standard error of a chain index due to sampling variability of the weights does not differ significantly from that of a base weighted Laspeyres index for periods of comparison up to ten years, will be of interest to all compilers and users of economic index numbers.

#### References

Studies in Official Statistics: Research series No. 3 *Some problems of index number construction* by R. F. Fowler (HMSO March 1970).  
 Studies in Official Statistics: Research series No. 5 *Further problems of index number construction* by R. F. Fowler (HMSO) August 1973 (Price 50p net).

#### New Business Monitors

Since the last issue of *Statistical News* fourteen Business Monitors have been issued in the Production Series containing results of new quarterly inquiries into sales by United Kingdom manufacturers. The inquiries are being conducted by the Business Statistics Office as part of the new system of industrial statistics.

The reference numbers and titles of the Business Monitors are:

- P 42 Wheeled tractors
- P 81 Telegraph and telephone apparatus and equipment
- P114 Milk and milk products
- P139 Brewing and malting
- P140 Spirit distilling and compounding
- P141 British wines, cider and perry
- P143 Sugar
- P147 Electronic computers
- P148 Electric appliances primarily for domestic use
- P149 Electrical equipment for motor vehicles, cycles and aircraft
- P153 Aluminium and aluminium alloys
- P154 Copper, brass and other copper alloys
- P155 Miscellaneous non-ferrous metals
- P157 Drop forgings



The first two Business Monitors in the above list replace publications with the same reference numbers; the new issue of P42 retains the same title as the previous issues but the title of P81 has been altered from 'Telecommunication equipment'. For the remainder, quarterly sales statistics are being published for the first time in Business Monitors. Supplementary information is given in each Business Monitor covering imports and exports.

The Business Monitors are available on subscription from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, at 37½p per annum for each title. Copies may be purchased over the counter at either the Department of Trade and Industry's Central Library, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET or at the Department's Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4. Copies of specific issues can be ordered by post (payable in advance) from the Department's Central Library, which will supply prices on request (Telephone 01-222 7877 ext. 3038).

#### National Institute Economic Review

The May issue of the *National Institute Economic Review* contained an examination of the implications of the Government's tax-credit proposals and a further section, concerned this time with consumer durables other than cars, of the Institute's reassessment of the medium-term prospects for certain sectors of the British economy. (The opening sections, published in the November 1972 issue, dealt with energy and paper and board – see *Statistical News* 20.46 – and a further section on cars together with a summing-up is now scheduled for November 1973).

'The tax-credit proposals', by G. C. Fiegehen and P. S. Lansley, examines in particular the potential effects on personal incomes of different household types, the cost of the proposals to the Exchequer and how this might be met, and some aspects of the resulting tax and social security system, including implicit marginal rates of tax for the lower paid and dependence on means-tested benefits. The authors conclude that, as they stand, the proposals by themselves would be unlikely to lead to any significant redistribution of income in favour of poorer households.

The study of consumer durables, by R. J. Smith, compares the actual course of sales in the United Kingdom of television sets, vacuum cleaners, refrigerators and washing machines in the last few years with the forecasts published in November 1960 and May 1967 issues. It finds that the 1967 forecasts worked out fairly well for refrigerators and vacuum cleaners but that washing machines have not needed replacement so soon as was expected, with the result that sales have proved to be over-predicted. On the other hand, colour

televisions have spread much faster than was expected. It is suggested that sales of colour sets are probably around their peak and may be halved by the end of the present decade, and that sales of black and white sets are also likely to have fallen away sharply by then, though the decline might not start until the middle of the decade if the spread of colour television is checked by a decline in the rate of growth of the economy. Sales of refrigerators and washing machines are also expected to fall away in a year or two, though for refrigerators there should be some recovery before 1980. Sales of vacuum cleaners may not change much.

Copies of the *Review* are available from the National Institute at 2 Dean Trench Street, Smith Square, SW1P 3HE.

## GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL SERVICE

### Professor Sir Claus Moser

At the end of the twenty-first session of the Economic Commission for Europe's Conference of European Statisticians, held in Geneva in June 1973, Professor Sir Claus Moser was elected Chairman for the twenty-second and twenty-third sessions to be held in 1974 and 1975.

### Central Statistical Office

#### Computer Development for Statistics Unit

In order better to describe its role, both in the CSO and in the Government Statistical Service, it has been decided that the title of the Computer and Data Systems Unit (CDSU) should be changed to Computer Development for Statistics Unit. The initials remain unchanged.

### Appointments and changes

#### CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE

Mr M. J. M. Erritt, Chief Statistician, Board of Inland Revenue, has transferred to the Central Statistical Office to fill the vacancy caused by the move of Mr D. Harris (see 22.34).

Mr P. J. Stibbard, Statistician, has been promoted to Chief Statistician and is Head of Branch 2 in the National Income and Expenditure Division.

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr J. A. Rushbrook, Chief Statistician, has transferred to a new post at the same level as Head of Statistics of Transport and General Division.

Mr F. D. Sando, Statistician, has been promoted to Chief Statistician and is Head of Statistics of Transport A Division, a reorganised post left vacant by the transfer of Mr Rushbrook.



## HM TREASURY

*Mr B. C. Brown*, Chief Statistician, Depart of the Environment, has transferred to the post as Head of GE(2) (Statistics) Division left vacant by the promotion and move of Mr P. M. Rees.

## BOARD OF INLAND REVENUE

*Mr N. Harvey*, Statistician, HM Treasury, has been promoted Chief Statistician to fill the vacancy arising from the move of Mr Erritt.

## DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

*Mr P. Richardson*, Statistician, will be promoted to Chief Statistician on 1 October and will succeed Mr H. C. Stanton as Head of EcS6 Branch A.

## LATE ITEMS

### United Kingdom in figures

The 1973 edition of this folding, plastic-coated card is now available. Designed as a pocket aide-memoire for British businessmen, educationists, trades unionists, etc., the latest edition contains over one hundred and thirty key series spanning the years 1951, 1966, 1971 and 1972. It is prepared on behalf of the Government Statistical Service by the Central Statistical Office and the Central Office of Information; suitable quantities will be made available free on application direct to the CSO.

### Registrar General for Scotland

*Mr W. Baird*, Assistant Secretary, Scottish Office, succeeded Mr A. L. Rennie as Registrar General for Scotland on 11 June 1973.



# List of principal statistical series and publications

## Amendment list no. 5

### Introductory note

It was stated in the CSO's guide, the *List of principal statistical series and publications* (HMSO) May 1972 (price 47p) that amendments and additions to the List would be summarised regularly in *Statistical News* so that users could keep their copies up to date. A list of amendments, covering the period from April to June 1973, is given below. A limited number of off-prints of earlier amendment lists is available and copies can be obtained from the Central Statistical Office, Telephone 01-930 5422, ext. 545.

### Amendments to Part I. List of principal series

#### Social Statistics

##### 3. Health and welfare

Page

4

- (i) Local health authority services and local authority personal social services, including child care

Delete *Social work in Scotland*. Substitute *Scottish Social Work Statistics*.

#### Labour

##### 4. Wages and earnings

8

- (e) New earnings survey

Add *Digest of Statistics, Northern Ireland* to heading.

Add to first sentence of notes, after 'from 1970', 'and in Northern Ireland from 1971'.

Amend third sentence to start 'For Great Britain, main results are first published in the Gazette;'.  
Add at end of notes 'Details for Northern Ireland are published in the *NI Digest of Statistics*'.

#### Transport and Communication

##### 4. Air transport

13

- (a) Airport activity

Delete *Business Monitor CA1*; substitute *CAA Monthly Statistics*

- (b) Air freight and mail carried

Delete *Business Monitor CA3*; substitute *CAA Monthly Statistics*

- (c) Air passengers

Amend heading to read

Monthly and	<i>CAA Monthly Statistics</i>
Quarterly	<i>MDS</i>
Annual	<i>AAS</i>

First line of notes, delete 'The monthly *Monitor*'; substitute '*CAA Monthly Statistics*'

Second sentence, delete 'The quarterly *Monitors*'; substitute, '3-monthly figures'; delete (CA6) and (CA7)

- (d) Airline operations

In heading, delete *Business Monitor CA4*; substitute *CAA Monthly Statistics*

Delete 'Quarterly, *Business Monitor CA5*'.

Amend first sentence of notes to read '(*CAA Monthly Statistics* gives operating statistics (aircraft kilometres flown, etc.) for individual operators'.

#### Distribution and Other Services

##### 2. Retail sales and turnover

14

- (c) Turnover figures of catering and the motor trades

In heading, after Monthly, insert 'and Quarterly'

First line of notes, after 'Monthly index numbers', insert: '(quarterly for the motor trades)'

Last line of notes, before 'figures', insert 'quarterly'.

#### National Income and Expenditure

##### 1. The national product

16

- (e) Input-output statistics

In notes, amend final sentence to read; 'Separate input-output tables in respect of N. Ireland for 1963 were published in March 1973 in the volume *Input-Output Tables for Northern Ireland, 1963*'.

#### Financial and Business Statistics

##### 2. Central Government Finance

21

- (a) Transactions of the Consolidated Fund and National Loans Fund.

Last sentence of final paragraph. Delete *Estimates for Services*; substitute *Parliament of N. Ireland Estimates*.



6. Companies; business statistics 25  
 (e) Securities quoted on the London Stock Exchange  
 In notes, amend final sentence to read; 'For more details, see the quarterly publication, the *Stock Exchange Fact Book*'.
- External Trade**
1. Balance of payments 26  
 (f) UK external banking and money market liabilities in sterling; external reserves in sterling.  
 Delete 'and quarterly' from heading and '; liabilities monthly and reserves quarterly' from first sentence of notes
2. Visible trade 27  
 (c) Trade by air  
 Delete last line of notes; substitute, 'Total cargo handled at each airport monthly is published in *CAA Monthly Statistics*'.

## Amendments to Part II. List of publications

### Note on Business Monitors Production Series

Commencing with the issues giving statistics for the first quarter, or January, 1973, the reference numbers of the Production Monitors are being revised. The Monitors will in general bear the minimum list heading numbers of the Standard Industrial Classification. New numbers are given below, and will be given in subsequent issues of *Statistical News*, for those renumbered Monitors which have been published so far.

### Page 28

#### Annual Report of the Registrar General N. Ireland

Delete (1970) Substitute (1971)

### Page 29

#### Business Monitors Civil Aviation series

Delete entries for all CA Monitors except CA8 Airline financial statistics

#### Business Monitors Production series

##### Food, drink and tobacco

Add following new Monitors:

P139	Brewing and malting	Quarterly
P141	British wines, cider and perry	Quarterly
P114	Milk and milk products	Quarterly
P140	Spirit distilling and compounding	Quarterly
P143	Sugar	Quarterly

##### Engineering (general)

Amend P113 to read PM ENG

##### Mechanical Engineering

Against Monitors P137, P136 and P138 add 'Quarterly'

##### Electrical Engineering

Add following new Monitors:

P148	Electric appliances primarily for domestic use	Quarterly
P149	Electrical equipment for motor vehicles, cycles and aircraft	Quarterly
P147	Electronic computers	Quarterly

Against Monitor P145 add 'Quarterly'

### Page 30

Amend Monitor P81 to read 'Telegraph and telephone apparatus and equipment'

##### Vehicles

P42 Wheeled tractors. Delete 'Monthly'. Substitute 'Quarterly'

##### Metal Goods

Add following new Monitors:

P153	Aluminium and aluminium alloys	Quarterly
P154	Copper, brass and other copper alloys	Quarterly
P157	Drop forgings	Quarterly
P155	Miscellaneous non-ferrous metals	Quarterly

##### Textiles

Amend P73 to read PM423

##### Clothing and footwear

Amend P60 to read PM440

##### Timber, Furniture, etc.

Amend P37 to read PM476, and P38 to read PM471.1



**Page 31**

Paper, Printing and Publishing

Amend P5 to read PM481

Insert, after Business Monitor SD8, Instalment credit business of retailers:

CAA Monthly Statistics <sup>(2)</sup> £25 per annum Civil Aviation Authority

Monthly Page 13, 27

Commonwealth Immigrants Acts: Statistics

Delete (1971) Substitute (1972)

**Page 32**

Estimates for services under the Government of N. Ireland

Delete entry (publication renamed Parliament of N. Ireland Estimates)

Farm incomes in England and Wales

Delete (1970-71) Substitute (1971-72)

Household food consumption and expenditure

Delete £1.58 (1969, with preliminary estimates for 1970)

Substitute £2.05 1970 and 71

Insert (entry for new publication):

Input-Output Tables for Northern Ireland 1963 £1.50 Ministry of Finance, N. Ireland

Page 16

Interest and Dividends upon Securities quoted on the Stock Exchange

Delete entry

Iron and Steel Industry Annual Statistics

Delete (1970) Substitute (1971)

Judicial Statistics, England and Wales, Civil Judicial Statistics

Delete 85p (1971) Substitute 73p (1972)

**Page 33**

National Health Service Acts 1946 to 1968: Accounts

Delete (1969-70) Substitute (1970-71)

National Health Service (Scotland) Acts 1947 to 1968: Accounts

Delete 25p (1969-70) Substitute 26p (1971-72)

Northern Ireland Economic Report

Delete (1971) Substitute (1972)

Insert (entry for renamed publication):

Parliament of N. Ireland Estimates £2.10 (1973-74) Ministry of Finance, N. Ireland

Annual Page 21

Passenger Transport in Great Britain

Delete (1970) Substitute (1971)

**Page 34**

Report of HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary

Delete (1971) Substitute (1972)

Scottish Health Statistics

Delete (1970) Substitute (1971)

Insert (entry for new publication)

Scottish Social Work Statistics

Scottish Education Department

Annual Page 4

82p (1971)

Social work in Scotland

Delete entry

Statistical Review of England and Wales, The Registrar General's

Supplement on Abortion. Amend 1970 to read 1971

**Page 35**

Statistics of Education

Volume 2 School leavers, GCE and CSE

Delete (1970). Substitute (1971)

Statistics Relating to Quoted Securities

Delete entry. Substitute:

Stock Exchange Fact Book <sup>(2)</sup> 40p

London Stock Exchange

Quarterly Page 25

Summary of Health Service Accounts 1971-72:

Part 1, Northern Ireland General Health Services Board

Delete 13p Substitute 18½p

Supply Estimates

Delete (1972-73) Substitute (1973-74).



# Alphabetical Index

The index to *Statistical News* covers the last nine issues. Page numbers are prefixed by the issue number e.g. 19.31 signifies issue number 19, 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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