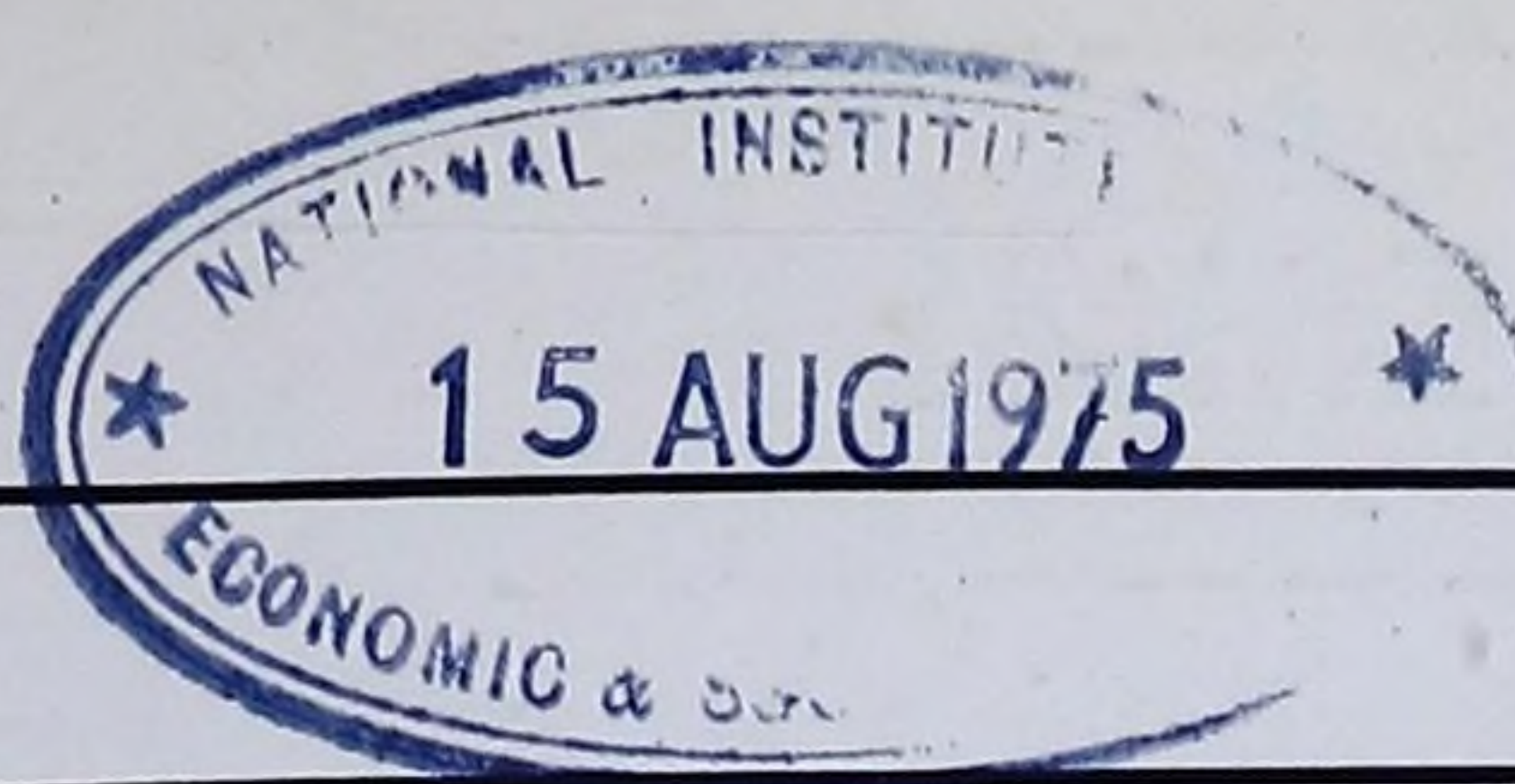


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AUGUST 1974

HMSO 30p net

STATISTICAL NEWS

**Developments
in British Official
Statistics**

A publication of the Government Statistical Service

Note by the Editor

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.

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AUGUST 1974

Statistical News

No. 26

Developments in British Official Statistics

LONDON

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The use of statistics in health planning

W. Rudoe, *Director of Statistics and Research,*
Department of Health and Social Security

Introduction

A recent article in an American journal had for its title 'Muddling through: Planning for Health Care in England'. Surprisingly, perhaps, this description was not intended to be pejorative. Although it is recognised that the methods used over the past twenty-five years could be improved, the system which has grown up over that period has involved many channels of information and advice and has not been ineffective. This article indicates the part that statistics are likely to play in the new central planning system for the National Health Service (NHS) which is under discussion at present.

The planning processes used hitherto, in the National Health Service and the Department, may not have been formalised. But rather than 'muddling through' they could be described with a little more precision as 'disjointed incrementalism', that is a strategy of successive small changes primarily within existing structural arrangements. As such it can stand respectable comparison with the alternative of 'comprehensive rationality', since the latter may make unrealistic assumptions about human capabilities and may not make proper allowance for the costs and difficulties of securing comprehensive information and of introducing major changes based on it. There are however deficiencies in the existing system. There is a lack of any systematic means of seeking and finding 'deprived' and possibly 'over-provided' areas; there is a tendency to develop solutions with insufficient attention to resource implications; the services are not necessarily developed in relation to each other; and so on.

The development of central planning in the Department of Health and Social Security (DHSS) is well advanced but nothing has yet been published. Nevertheless some broad features of the planning system are reasonably clear and there are some published documents which provide a background, although the system which finally develops may not precisely follow these early publications. The White Paper on National Health Service reorganisation⁽¹⁾ said that there would be central strategic planning and monitoring by DHSS and that the planning function in the National Health Service would be exercised at three levels: area, region

and central Department. The central Department would settle national health policies, objectives and priorities. And again 'the purpose of planning is to ensure that major decisions, including resource allocations, are made by statutory authorities in advance in the light of the available facts and after examining alternative courses . . .

The process would consist of an annual planning cycle updating a rolling 10-year plan – a 4-year plan based on notified financial targets and a less detailed projection for a further 6 years'.

More details are given in *Management Arrangements for the Reorganised National Health Service*⁽²⁾ and also in NHS Reorganisation circulars HRC(73)3 and HRC(73)8, the latter concerned specifically with the development of planning in the reorganised National Health Service. The management study describes briefly the changes in the organisation of the DHSS and refers to the proposal to introduce a planning system which will help the Department, in association with health authorities and local authorities, to assist the Secretary of State decide national objectives and priorities. One of the six organisational commands, the Services Development Group, will be primarily responsible for developing national policy to improve health and personal social services and to play a major part in the planning process. The document also lists the Support Services – including the Statistics Division – which will all have an important role to play in relation to central planning.

The basis of the new procedures is to be a series of planning statements for staff, client groups and services. These will be grouped together under broad heads, for example, primary care, disease detection and prevention, health service specialist clinical services, the elderly, mental illness, NHS and social services manpower. These statements, for example, for a client group will identify the coverage and size of the group, estimates of its needs and present utilisation of services, private sector provision and existing policy objectives. They will then go on to make forecasts, for five or ten years ahead, of the size of the group, and of changes in the provision and costs of services on present policies. Forecasts will be made of future demand for and

pattern of services and an indication will be given of new objectives and policies for consideration at the top of the Department. Finally the statements would highlight any changes in requirements for information – statistical or other – and for research and development. The group statements involve some duplication (because they cover both clients and services), but this is not necessarily a fault, and the breakdown is not necessarily the best; it is expected that much will be learnt from experience. They will be consolidated to produce an overall conspectus for the NHS and the personal social services as a whole and the exercise will be repeated each year. The substantive shape will be settled after a trial run. This is not the place to enter into a discussion of the system from the point of view of the formulation of policy, nor of its links with the planning work which will be going on in the field. But enough has been said to indicate the main parts that statistics will be called upon to play – with a reminder that some at any rate of these are not new.

Population

One of the first basic requirements is population and demographic data, the basis for which is the census of population. The United Kingdom has traditionally had a full census at intervals of ten years, although in 1966 there was a 10 per cent sample census between the full censuses of 1961 and 1971. The feeling is growing, however, that owing to the accelerating pace of social change, full censuses every ten years – with the inevitable delay in publication of the results – and nothing for the years between are unsatisfactory and what is required is some continuous measurement of population backed up by benchmark counts at perhaps intervals of five years. It is felt to be important for the purposes of health planning (and of course for many other uses) to have a total count of the population and its distribution by age and family groupings with reasonable accuracy, since these numbers are the basis of resource allocations and form the denominators of the various indicators relating to need, performance, etc. To get the necessary degree of accuracy is likely to involve a total count of the population more frequently than every ten years. The reason for this is that while births and deaths are accurately known, there is no satisfactory means at present for measuring internal migration and this is now substantial with changes in employment, new town developments, etc. Intercensal estimates of the populations of city areas have been as much as 10 per cent in error. A number of countries run population registers and these are worthy of consideration although they raise very serious questions about privacy. But even such registers would require

checks at intervals which ought probably to be less than ten years.

There are three continuous surveys – the National Food Survey, the Family Expenditure Survey and the General Household Survey (GHS). Only the latter includes questions about health, although the National Food Survey yields basic information in relation to nutrition and the Family Expenditure Survey is valuable for getting estimates of the size and composition of the population in various income ranges, including in particular those in poverty. The General Household Survey is of considerable importance. In addition to providing information about the incidence of sickness, smoking habits, etc., it gives information concerning utilisation of the main services and enables all the data to be linked with information about income, housing etc. Nevertheless, all these samples are small and it is for consideration whether there should not be a continuous sample survey of a greater size, perhaps as large as 1 per cent, which would provide an up-to-date demographic framework for a wide variety of social information. Of course, censuses and even sample surveys are expensive, but it can be argued that if they play an essential role in helping the correct allocation of the large resources used in health and personal social services, the cost is well repaid. For the purposes of health planning, population projections are also required. The difficulty here is to formulate valid assumptions or, at any rate, a not too wide range of assumptions which may include the true value. In addition to the difficulties about internal migration already mentioned, there are the assumptions about fertility and these become more significant the further into the future one attempts to look. There is a long way to go before it is known how, for example, a Family Interactions Survey of a regular kind would help in this area.

Morbidity

The Hospital In-Patient Enquiry (HIPE), based on a 10 per cent sample, gives valuable information on the incidence, among hospital in-patients, of different diagnoses throughout the country, the variations in length of stay in different areas, time between referral and admission, etc. For some years now, the DHS with the co-operation of the field authorities has been developing a 100 per cent system of recording for the same kind of data, known as Hospital Activity Analysis (HAA). Its main purpose is as a tool of local management since it will enable planners to study, for example, the variations in length of stay between hospitals in their area and other areas and even within a given hospital between different consultants treating the same diagnoses. It might be possible to link such data (on

ample basis) with data about the use of resources both staff and physical resources) and hence arrive at listings of various treatments. There have been criticisms of the inaccuracy of HAA data, but overall the level of accuracy is high, and sufficient accuracy will be ensured as local management learns to make use of the information instead of regarding it as a duty imposed by the centre but of no value to them. The centre will clearly be able to base its 10 per cent HIPE sample on HAA, and occasionally to call for fuller information, for example, in regard to certain rarer diagnoses than HIPE is able to provide. Outside the area of hospital in-patients, information about morbidity is relatively sparse. The DHSS is experimenting with the collection of hospital out-patient data but the sheer size of the operation is formidable, even on a sample basis. The importance of information relating to cases treated other than as hospital in-patients is increasing with the emphasis on this form of care, both for cost and other reasons. There has been a morbidity survey carried out by the Royal College of General Practitioners linking GP consultations and referrals. There is the health information in the General Household Survey. All this information is relevant to central planning, since it not only gives a fuller picture of the 'client groups' but it also rounds out the story of how the resources of the NHS are at present being spent. In this connection, mention must be made of the Social Survey's study of the Handicapped and Impaired. This was designed to give reliable estimates of the number of handicapped people aged sixteen and over living in private households and to examine what local authority health and welfare services were being made available to them to assist them to overcome their disablement as far as possible. There are substantial difficulties of definition in this area and the report deals in some detail with these.

Record linkage

The Health Memorandum H.M. (69)79 recommending the establishment of HAA refers to the desirability of keeping identification data on the individual forms in case it becomes possible to introduce some form of record linkage in the future. Without this, repeated admissions of the same patient cannot be distinguished and the relation of outcome to treatment – of importance both for current management and epidemiological research – cannot be truly established. This reference to individual identification has caused concern, although the safeguards employed by the Department have satisfied the great majority of hospitals. It is clear that any system for linking medical records on a national scale would need to meet the most stringent requirements for safeguarding privacy and that any

major advance in that direction will need detailed consultations with the medical professions and public support. A related topic is that of 'Master Registers'. Registers already exist in some areas for the purposes, for example, of recall of children for vaccination and immunisation and in effect such registers exist for people over sixty-five because of the different GP capitation payment. Ideas are still fluid, but the concept appears to be emerging that a master population register for an area, with an indication against each individual of the health and personal social services that he was receiving would be of value, not least for the purposes of recall which are already recognised, but also for helping to achieve the full integration of all the health and local authority services which is one of the principal aims of NHS reorganisation. Here again one would have to balance costs against benefits and find a generally acceptable solution to the questions of privacy that could arise. The Department is in the early stages of considering this topic which was raised in the report of the Working Party on Collaboration. If such a system is set up, it will not only satisfy a service need – which would be primary – but it might also provide valuable information about the totality of treatment and a basis for the estimation of its cost, in relation to particular conditions and their outcome.

Planning, Programming and Budgeting System (PPBS)

The purpose of a PPBS system is to set out aims and objectives and relate resources to them and to the outcome of the activities. Instead, for instance, of classifying expenditure as is usually done on staff, buildings, equipment, etc., estimates are made of expenditure on, for example, the mentally ill or groups of surgical specialties so that the expenditure is related to the objectives of the Health Service rather than to 'inputs'. Some institutions are identified with specific purposes and for these, suitable statistics may be available, but over a wide area this is not so; an institution may serve several purposes and the same purpose may be pursued in different types of institution. There is consequently a need to collect new data or to analyse existing data in new ways. Relating health expenditure to 'client groups' is an advance but does not go far enough, since 'outputs' ought also to be measured, that is, the effect on health of the services provided. This is clearly a difficult problem, and 'intermediate outputs' such as number of cases treated, may have to serve as first approximations. Numbers of cases are derived mainly from activity statistics, with some additional information on deployment of community services from the GHS. Costs can be allocated on the basis of activity statistics. For hospitals, unit costs for psychiatric and

maternity cases can be derived from specialist hospitals and regression techniques can be used to estimate the relative costs of different specialties in general hospitals. These estimates can be refined to distinguish hospital and treatment costs for in-patients and to examine how length of stay varies by specialty, age and sex. The programme budget, imprecise though it may be, should help to describe how services have been developing in the past. There is general agreement that major blocks of activity such as the acute services have a very strong momentum and that therefore big changes are not generally possible in the short-term. One can therefore project forward recent trends in the value of input and output and unit costs and then seek to modify these projections in the light of known factors such as medical technology or agreed changes in policy. It will then be necessary to relate future plans to resources – capital and manpower – where there are very complicated problems in forecasting supply and demand, which will itself be affected by any changes in policy for the various client groups.

The sort of issues that the planning process is bound to throw up, and which statistics will help in analysing, are of the following kinds:

- (a) the balance between hospital and community services and whether the latter are being given increased functions without increased resources;
- (b) the priorities between different groups, for example, children, elderly and physically handicapped. It is probably not possible to reduce resources for one group in order to provide more for another, but it may be possible to make changes in relative growth rates;
- (c) future supply of doctors and nurses and the effect of variations in numbers on expenditure and output; are shifts possible in their relative responsibilities or in the efficiency with which they are used?
- (d) relationship between resources, output and waiting lists (recognising the well known difficulties of the last-named as an indicator); and
- (e) the balance between up-grading, replacing and expanding capital provision.

The attack on all these problems must be multi-disciplinary, involving administrators and the health professions as well as statisticians, economists and operational research workers.

Operational research

This term is often used to mean studies of health services in action, but it is used here in the narrower and more specific sense of the construction of mathematical models to describe processes, which models

can then be manipulated to cast light on the probable outcome of alternative courses of action. A classical operational research (OR) problem which has been studied in many fields is that of optimum size, and the Department's OR unit has made a detailed study of the optimum size of a district general hospital. The arguments in favour of large district general hospitals such as the economies of scale and the value of the concentration of different specialties are well known but there may also be disadvantages in terms of accessibility (for both patients and staff), possible diseconomies of scale in management and further problems arising out of the long time of construction. Many of these factors can be satisfactorily quantified and relationships derived which show costs of various kinds as a function of size, but also related to the nature of the area in which the hospital is to be located (urban or rural). While there will still be many factors on which subjective judgment will be required, the range of uncertainty in decision-making should be narrowed. It is not necessary to believe that matters expressed in numbers are more important or more accurately measured than those which are not, but neither is it desirable to throw away analysis which is soundly based. OR needs to be regarded as an aid to decision-making and as such it has much to offer; judgment is required in applying it to health matters (where many things are not quantifiable), as indeed in applying it in any field.

Another application of OR is to the balance of care where studies are considering those conditions where treatment in a hospital or treatment in the community are genuine alternatives, with outcomes that are either effectively the same or that can be related to each other. A relatively simple example that has been explored is the treatment of a number of types of surgical patients (for example, appendicectomy, cholecystectomy, herniorrhaphy, etc.) by two methods – (1) the patient retained in hospital until fully recovered and (2) the patient sent home 'early' and put under the care of a district nurse at home. The alternatives are then of the following type, for example, for appendicectomy, the first alternative is 10.1 bed days and no visits from a district nurse, while the second alternative is 5.8 bed days and 4.2 visits by the district nurse at home. OR can then cost the hospital bed day and the district nurse visits and specify the constraints on the system such as the total number of bed days and district nurse visit hours available. The problem then becomes one in linear programming, that is, to minimise the total cost subject to the constraints, given the number of patients to be treated and the resources available. Efforts are being made to expand this technique to take in a wider spectrum of types of case.

Manpower accounts for two-thirds of NHS costs and the need for good information has long been recognised. Because of the length of time it takes to train a doctor, and the crucial position of medical staff in the NHS, medical manpower planning is of the highest importance. Nevertheless, in the early post-war years the need for doctors in England was underestimated – partly because of the lower estimates of population growth which were current at that time and partly also because of lack of knowledge about the migration of doctors. Since then the Royal Commission on Medical Education has reported and a significant expansion of students in medical schools has taken place. At the same time as this planning for a general increase, there are questions of the appropriate distribution between specialties and between regions. The Department tries to assist career planning by publishing tables showing in effect the opportunities for promotion to consultant in the various specialties. There are also differential payments to GPs in the under-doctored areas of the country. As far as the rest of NHS manpower is concerned, involving in total much larger numbers of staff than doctors, the opportunity afforded by the actual and prospective introduction of computers into health authorities is being taken to try to improve and standardise the data base. There is the possibility of eventual standardisation of a wide range of payroll information. This in itself could save much effort and expense by individual health authorities in developing their own software while at the same time having the advantage of making the information immediately comparable between areas and aggregable to a national total. It is the intention to prepare individualised statistics on computer tapes, so that tabulations involving any combination of information can be obtained without difficulty. This should be a great improvement over present procedures where new tabulations of existing information can only be obtained by the analysis of new questionnaires, the completion of which may represent a considerable task for the authorities. A further possible development is the standardisation of 'entry' information such as qualifications and previous employment, which would be relevant to such questions as recruitment and wastage, training needs, etc.

The information obtained is required for a variety of purposes. For instance, in order to formulate and operate successful pay policies, up-to-date information is needed about current earnings, overtime and allowances received by NHS staff and the hours that they work. For manpower planning generally one needs detailed numerical descriptions of the size and characteristics of the workforce, such as length of service or age distributions and turnover. High wastage or par-

career progressions established to consider whether these are satisfactory. (This knowledge needs to be fed in to other parts of the system; it is no use building a new district general hospital in an area where for reasons of transport, competition from other employments, etc. it is going to prove impossible to recruit the staff to run it.) Information on qualifications is required to provide additional knowledge of the characteristics of staff, to plan the long-term development of a class of staff and to facilitate the development of good career structures linked to qualifications.

References

- (1) *National Health Service Reorganisation: England* Cmnd 5055 (HMSO 1972) (Price 68p net).
- (2) *Management Arrangements for the Reorganised National Health Service* (HMSO 1972) (Price 75p net).

Reorganization of work on aid statistics

A. Finkle, *Statistician, Ministry of Overseas Development*

There can be few areas of statistical data that are as great a source of perplexity as those pertaining to flows of economic aid to developing countries. Confusion starts from the existence of the internationally recognised target for flows from wealthier to poorer countries of 1 per cent of Gross National Product. Achievement against this is often loosely referred to as 'aid' performance. In fact a major component of the relevant flows is private, whether on market terms (export credits and overseas investment) or as voluntary grants. To describe such transactions as 'aid' is a clear misuse of words.

But taking official flows alone does not resolve the situation. Some financial transactions from governmental agencies in donor countries, even though directed to the developing world, have objectives other than the economic advancement of the recipients (even leaving aside the obvious case of military assistance). These should also surely be excluded from coverage. Having identified the character of the flows, there is the question of whether the acceptance of the legal commitment or the disbursement itself is what should be given attention in particular circumstances. If the latter, then should only new flows be considered (to produce a gross figure), or the repayment of past loans also set against them (to produce a net total)? And, for that matter, should any allowance be made for receipts of interest on amounts of debt outstanding? Again, ought standard international definitions to be used in presenting information or categories relevant in the domestic context? If internal purposes should prevail, then are transactions to be considered in relation to the public expenditure of which they form part or as recorded in the balance of payments?

All the above concepts appeared in the various United Kingdom official publications providing statistics of economic aid. Sometimes these were reconciled within the same publication at either the aggregate or the detailed level. But there are other instances where figures that appeared in one publication have had no obvious connection with figures that superficially might have seemed to relate to the thing but which appeared in a different publication. This hardly made for enlightenment on the part of uninitiated persons seeking to make use of the data.

For some time the central idea that underlay all presentations of statistics of United Kingdom aid was that there was an identity between the domestic concept of the 'aid programme' and the international concept – used by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development – of 'official development assistance'.

This harmonious state of affairs has however accorded less and less closely with reality. Even at the period of greatest similarity there were certain anomalies. DAC, for example, treated the cancellation of a debt as constituting at the same time full and immediate repayment of the total amount outstanding in association with the issue of a new grant. In United Kingdom government accounts however, the fact that no cash transaction occurred meant to say that nothing at all was recorded. While the net flow arising from the process described was unaffected, it did produce divergent gross figures for 'official development assistance' and 'aid programme' respectively. Moreover for the purposes of international reporting the convention was used of treating part of the anticipated interest receipts foregone as an additional grant of 'official development assistance' whereas domestically this was simply a shortfall in respect of anticipated future revenues that did not feature in the 'aid programme' itself. Figures reported to DAC as 'official development assistance' for the years from 1972 onwards also included an element of subscriptions to the general budgets of various international bodies in respect of the estimated co-efficients of the total proportions of such budgets that were used to finance projects in developing countries – an item which had no counterpart in the United Kingdom 'aid programme'. A further complication has been the application of the new DAC terms recommendation from the beginning of 1973. Under this the concessionality of flows (as measured by the estimated grant element that their terms reflected as compared with normal commercial terms) had to exceed 25 per cent at the stage of outflow from donor to recipient country in order to qualify as 'official development assistance'. The threshold has relevance to the United Kingdom mainly in the context of the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC), and the amounts derived from the procedure described are likely to differ from the size of the ne

Exchequer advances to CDC which represent the part of its various operations that are charged to the 'aid programme'. Lastly, with respect to European Economic Community food aid, to which the United Kingdom has contributed since 1973, the figure reportable to DAC is calculated in a different way to the sum which features in the 'aid programme'.

The solution proposed for this situation is to abandon the attempt to square the circle that is involved in producing figures which, even at the detailed level, simultaneously meet the requirements of international reporting and accounting for United Kingdom government expenditure. Rather, for DAC purposes, the categories relevant in that context will be used; and for domestic presentation, categories having internal financial and administrative significance will be used. At the same time, the basic annual document *British Aid Statistics* (BAS) will reconcile the two approaches in its opening introductory table.

The main concepts in regard to international reporting are as follows:

- (a) 'Official development assistance' (oda) – grants and long-term capital transactions to developing countries and multilateral institutions each of which meets all the following tests:
 - (i) is it official (that is, made on the responsibility of the public sector)?
 - (ii) is it developmental in purpose?
 - (iii) is it sufficiently concessional (that is, with a grant element of 25 per cent or more)?
- (b) 'Other official flows' (oof) – grants and long-term capital transactions to developing countries and multilateral institutions that are clearly of an official nature but fail to meet either or both the tests in respect of being developmental in purpose (although, even so, excluding the finance of military equipment or services and certain other categories) and sufficiently concessional.

These together constitute 'total official flows'.

In the domestic context, the main categories are to be identified by reference to the standard public expenditure classification where terminology is somewhat confusing.

- (a) 'Aid programme' is that part of United Kingdom outlays on overseas aid financed from the central government budget.
- (b) 'Other overseas aid' is that part of United Kingdom outlays on overseas aid financed from elsewhere in the public sector (in practice consisting at present of other investment by the CDC).

These together constitute 'public expenditure on overseas aid'.

The whole of the outlays covered by the United Kingdom 'public expenditure on overseas aid' is embraced in the DAC 'total official flows', together with certain additional amounts, both 'official development assistance' and 'other official flows', that come from public expenditure programmes other than overseas aid.

It is the range of transactions covered specifically by 'public expenditure on overseas aid' that will henceforward be the framework in which statistical data will be presented in official publications, except when reference is made to performance against international targets or comparisons made with the activities of other donors. This will facilitate integration of data with such other areas of United Kingdom statistics as balance of payments and public expenditure. It will at the same time enable statistical information compiled to be of more direct relevance to the management of British overseas aid in the most effective way.

The change in approach has many ramifications. The one most readily evident to the general public will be the new format of *British Aid Statistics*, the main source document on flows of United Kingdom economic aid to the developing world and of which the issue covering the period 1969 to 1973 is expected to appear in December. Moreover an illustrated supplement is proposed for this making the essential information available in a more readily digestible form. Other official documents giving regular data on aid transactions also reflect the new situation. The tables relating to overseas aid in the next edition of the *Annual Abstract of Statistics* (expected in December) will set out some of the key series in the more comprehensive BAS, and *Financial Statistics* now (since June 1974) presents similar information in summarized form but on a quarterly basis. It is expected that the table on official aid in the *United Kingdom Balance of Payments* (Pink Book) will be modified likewise in the next issue due in September. And if the precedent established last year is maintained of inserting an article in *Economic Trends* on flows to developing countries⁽¹⁾, this will also be given attention in that context. (Meanwhile the statistical annexe in OECD's annual *Development Cooperation: Efforts and Policies of the Members of the Development Assistance Committee*⁽²⁾, based on internationally reported data, will continue to show the United Kingdom's role in the aid field in the global context).

Other aspects of the change in approach (putting as it does emphasis on presenting figures in a way which can more easily be related to administrative categories)

area offering great scope to the use of improved techniques and application of these will be facilitated. Country programming, planning aid to each recipient with the deliberate intention of giving support to particular sectors of its economy or assisting in respect of specific objectives, will also be more readily achievable. In the field of technical assistance, the use of standard categories for data both on manpower and financial outlays will enable unit costs for various categories of personnel in different countries to be known with greater accuracy, helping to facilitate a rational deployment. Increased attention is to be given to the effects of price changes. This is a matter of more than usual significance when undertakings to finance projects in countries overseas are embodied in legal agreements expressed in money terms that may be quite unrealistic by the time that disbursements do in fact take place. Connected with this are steps which are in hand to obtain fuller information on the actual goods and services upon which aid funds are spent. And systematic consideration of the volume and nature of overseas aid in relation to such indicators of recipient countries as population, per capita income and economic growth rates will be conducive to the most effective implementation of the broad strategy of aid policy.

Hitherto there has only been very limited use made of computer facilities in aid statistics work. This was not altogether inappropriate where efforts were largely geared to international reporting which served to produce records of performance on an annual basis, rather than keeping track of activities as they occur over the course of each year. The handling of work described above, related as it is to various needs of aid management, inevitably puts heavier reliance on computerization. There are plans for major developments in this direction over the next couple of years.

It is expected that efforts in the statistical field may thus contribute, by the use of a systematic approach to the monitoring of activities in the complicated area of overseas aid, to the resources the United Kingdom makes available being allocated to best advantage in the changing world situation.

References

- (1) 'United Kingdom official and private flows to developing countries, 1972' *Economic Trends* No. 241, November 1973 (HMSO Price 63p net).
- (2) This is distributed in Britain through HMSO, the 1973 review published last December being priced at £3.20 net.

Notes on current developments

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

1971 Census of Population

England and Wales – new local authority areas

The population and housing tables for the new (post-April 1974) local authority areas referred to in the May issue of *Statistical News* (25.20) are intended to fill the gap until a new set of county reports can be published. The material is of two kinds:

- (1) The standard small area statistics for all new districts with sheets on households, population and 10 per cent sample topics at the cost of 36p per sheet. The household and population sheets are also available for all new counties at the same price.
- (2) Summary statistics on households and population for both counties and districts. They are based on the small area statistics. The cost is £15 for two volumes covering England and Wales, or £10 for a microfilm copy.

Contact:

Customer Services Section,
Office of Population Censuses and Surveys,
Titchfield,
Fareham,
Hampshire, PO15 5RR
Telephone: Titchfield (032-94) 42511 ext. 231.

Scotland

The Scottish population, usual residence and birthplace tables were published earlier this summer. The first volume of migration tables should be published shortly; covering the age, sex, marital condition and birthplace of migrants within Scotland and migrants between the regions of Scotland and those of England and Wales.

Housing and household composition tables, and tables on the Gaelic language in Highland areas, are scheduled for publication over the next few months.

A series of ten choropleth maps of Scotland has been produced from the 1971 census series of county reports as an addition to the presentation of census data in tabular form. Further details are available from the address given below.

The standard 'small area' statistics are now available in aggregated form for local authority areas, old and new parliamentary constituencies, civil parishes, and

the new local government regions and districts. They have also been re-aggregated within each region for an urban/rural classification based on continuous urban development of 1 to 10 thousand, 10 to 100 thousand, 100 thousand to 1 million, over 1 million population and a residual classification of areas with no town of 1,000 population or over.

Enquiries and orders for these aggregated sets of 'small area' statistics should be addressed to:

Customer Services,
General Register Office for Scotland,
Ladywell House,
Ladywell Road,
Edinburgh,
EH12 7TF.

Northern Ireland

In April 1974 the county reports for Counties Down and Londonderry were published. This completed the series of county reports for Northern Ireland. The tables gave figures for counties, local authority areas, wards, district electoral divisions and towns and villages with fifty or more houses. The subjects covered were population and area (hectares); sex, age and marital condition; birthplace; religion; private dwellings, households, tenure and amenities; private motor cars and garaging; economically active persons and their sex and occupational status. A summary report giving summaries of the information contained in the county reports for Northern Ireland is in process of preparation. Additionally this report will contain statistics covering the same subjects included in the county reports for the new local authority areas which became functional on 1 October 1973. Subject reports covering education, economic activity, fertility, housing and household composition, workplace and transport to work, religion and migration are also in process of preparation.

References

Census of Population 1971, County Report – Down (Price £1.20 net).
County Report – Londonderry (Price 90p net).
(HMSO Belfast April 1974).

Response to the 1974 census test

England

A major test of census methods was held in April 1974, (see *Statistical News* 24.13). Completed forms were returned by 78 per cent of householders in the test areas, a response rate similar to that achieved in the 1972 test (see *Statistical News* 22.26). It was not pos-

sible to contact 5 per cent of households, 6 per cent refused to accept a form and 11 per cent accepted a form but declined to complete and return it. Response varied widely between areas and was some 8 per cent lower in South-west England (Bath and Woodspring) than in the North-west (Allerdale and Burnley). First tests of results are designed to compare response to the conventional forms, used in Bath and Allerdale, and the optical mark readable forms used in Woodspring and Burnley, but so far no significant differences are evident.

Further analyses of forms delivered, response rates and data collected are in hand and will be reported.

Further information can be obtained from:

Mr K. Childs,
Office of Population Censuses and Surveys,
St Catherines House,
10 Kingsway,
London,
WC2B 6JP.
Telephone: 01-242 0262 ext. 2029.

Scotland

The voluntary test census carried out in Grangemouth and part of Wigtown county in April was well received by the public. Census forms designed for optical mark reading and for conventional coding and punching were tested in each area, and an overall response of about 85 per cent was achieved. The detailed evaluation and comparison of response quality is still proceeding.

Mid-1973 based population projections

Some key figures from the mid-1973 based population projections for England and Wales, Great Britain and the United Kingdom are published in the *Registrar General's Quarterly Return No. 501*. The projections incorporate changed assumptions on fertility, mortality and migration as compared with last year's projections, and a summary of the changes for England and Wales is included in the *Return*. Full details of the projections for the United Kingdom, Great Britain, England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland will be published in the forthcoming volume, *Population Projections No. 4, 1973-2013*.

Further details can be obtained from:

Mr David Pearce,
Office of Population Censuses and Surveys,
St. Catherines House,
10 Kingsway,
London,
WC2B 6JP.
Telephone: 01-242 0262 ext. 2178.

References

Registrar General's Quarterly Return for England and Wales No. 501
Quarter ended 31 March 1974 (HMSO) August 1974 (Price 23p net).
Population Projections No. 4 1973-2013 (to be published in autumn 1974)

Sub-national population projections

A set of 'natural increase' projections (allowing for birth and deaths but not migration) for regions, subdivisions, and pre-April 1974 counties and local authority areas of England and Wales has been produced. The projections are based on the final 1971 mid-year estimates of population and have been produced in five year steps to 2001. Results will also be available for the post-April 1974 county districts, counties and regions. The projections will not be published but will be circulated by the Department of the Environment.

Further information can be obtained from:

Mrs S. H. Knight,
Regional Demography Unit,
Office of Population Censuses and Surveys,
St. Catherines House,
10 Kingsway,
London,
WC2B 6JP.
Telephone: 01-242 0262 ext. 2181.

Scottish statistics

The Registrar General's first quarterly return for 1974 was published recently. In addition to the quarterly tables it contains projections of the population of Scotland, the new local government regions and the health board areas to 1991; and migration estimates for the second half of 1973.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Hospital In-patient Enquiry (HIPE)

Following the issue of the booklet of Preliminary Tables in November last the main report of the Hospital In-Patient Enquiry for the year 1972 has now also been published. A brief description of the Enquiry was given in *Statistical News* 17.20.

The report shows a continued increase both in the actual number of persons discharged from NHS non-psychiatric hospitals in England and Wales in 1972 and in the discharge rate although the increment in the latter is small. Nearly half of the 5.1 million discharges from NHS non-psychiatric hospitals were assigned to four main diagnostic groups, namely maternity (including abortion) (19 per cent) diseases of the digestive (10 per cent) and respiratory systems (9 per cent) and injuries (10 per cent). Road traffic accidents accounted for some eighty-six thousand of the last group six thousand less than in 1971 and 40 per cent were assigned to head injury.

The mean duration of stay was nearly two weeks, the same as in 1971, whereas for some years prior to this the mean stay was decreasing at the rate of 4 per cent per year. The elderly, who occupied almost one half of the beds daily, spend one to two weeks longer in hospital than younger people but the average length of stay for both geriatrics and the younger disabled tend to be biased by very long stay cases. Two new annual tables on the older patients have been included in the 1972 volume. The standard section on surgical operations is augmented by three new tables, scheduled for biennial publication, a system now adopted for much HIPE output.

References

Report on Hospital In-Patient Enquiry for the year 1972: Preliminary Tables (HMSO) November 1973 (Price 34p net).
Report on Hospital In-Patient Enquiry for the year 1972: Part 1, Tables (HMSO) June 1974 (Price £2.70 net).

Working of the Abortion Act

The report of the Committee on the Working of the Abortion Act was published on 3 April 1974 and concluded that (a) careful assessment and counselling is essential for every woman for whom abortion is considered, (b) abortion should be within the main stream of general and specialist medical care, (c) there should be greater equality of opportunity for women to obtain abortion, and resident women should not need to seek abortion outside the National Health Service (NHS), and (d) there is a need for continuing research into contraception and unwanted pregnancy.

Apart from statistics included in the Report (Volume I), Volumes II and III are purely statistical, summarising both official statistics, such as abortion notifications and Hospital In-Patient Enquiry data, and specific surveys conducted specially for the Committee such as the Department of Health and Social Security study of NHS hospitals and patients. Volume III concentrates on the Institute for Social Studies in Medical Care survey of abortion patients, but Volume II also summarises much evidence based on local studies.

Abortion, including therapeutic abortion, was an established feature of gynaecological work prior to the Act; in 1967 there were some 75,000 in-patient abortions 9,000 of which were therapeutic, and a further 51,000 miscarriages were treated at home, while comparable 1971 figures are 115,000, 55,000 and 51,000 respectively. In 1971, NHS terminations spent some five days on average, in hospital, whereas in the private sector only some were retained for two or more nights, probably due to the relative rarity of complicated cases in the latter; for example under 1 per cent were sterilised compared to 27 per cent in NHS hospitals. The

median waiting time for NHS terminations was just under two weeks in 1971 varying regionally from eight and a half to eighteen days, and waiting times for other gynaecological work do not seem to have been adversely affected, nationally or regionally. Waiting lists seemed to have improved and exceptions are not regions with high NHS therapeutic abortion rates.

The committee noted 'it is a matter for satisfaction that the statistical data received from different sources and collected in widely differing ways . . . were largely in agreement. This agreement strengthens the validity of conclusions drawn from this material'.

References

Report of the Committee on the Working of the Abortion Act (Chairman, the Hon. Mrs Justice Lane DBE) Cmnd 5579-1-11 (HMSO April 1974).
Volume I Report (Price £1.80 net).
Volume II Statistical Volume (Price £2.15 net).
Volume III Survey of Patients for the Committee on the working of the Abortion Act (Price 79p net).

Diet and coronary heart disease

Simple dietary changes cannot with certainty reduce the likelihood of an individual getting coronary heart disease. This is the conclusion of a report from a Panel of the Chief Medical Officer's Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy. The Report does, however, give advice which, if taken, would benefit the health of the population.

The Panel was set up in June 1970 under the chairmanship of Professor Sir Frank Young, FRS, to advise on 'Diet in relation to cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease in the United Kingdom' and included in its membership doctors and scientists who are experts in nutrition.

The Report lists the many risk factors for coronary heart disease. Only some of these are dietary. None can be regarded as causing the disease in the sense that, for example, tuberculosis is caused by tubercle bacilli, and the Panel conclude that no single dietary factor can be regarded as predominant in determining susceptibility to the disease. Any claim that eating a particular food will lower the risk of an individual getting coronary heart disease is unjustified in the context of the United Kingdom diet.

The report includes useful summaries of the annual death rates in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland from Ischaemic Heart disease for broad age groups for the period 1951-71. It also contains information provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on per capita consumption of the main components of energy, that is, protein fat and carbohydrate. These were prepared by two different methods firstly from records of food moving into consumption in the United Kingdom and secondly

from the National Food Survey which since 1950 has recorded food intake for an annual sample of households.

Reference

Reports on Health and Social Subjects No. 7 *Diet and Coronary Heart Disease. Report of the Advisory Panel of the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy on diets in relation to cardio-vascular and cerebro-vascular disease* Department of Health and Social Security (HMSO) June 1974 (Price 50p net).

Psychiatric case registers

The latest report in the Statistical and Research Report Series, published in August, outlines the organisation and methods of psychiatric case registers in Great Britain. The report contains papers read at a two day conference on this subject attended by those responsible for managing the registers and medical, administrative and research staff to whom registers can be of assistance in their work. A psychiatric case register serves a defined geographical area and provides information which includes all records of treated psychiatric illness organised on a person basis and accumulated over time. At the moment considerable thought is being given to the establishment and organisation of efficient records and information systems for psychiatry, as well as other health fields, and registers are an excellent method of obtaining comprehensive statistics covering not only in-patient care but also the increasing numbers of patients being treated by out-patient and day patient services and some forms of community care.

The origins and methods of the different registers are described and examples of the use to which the statistics provided by the registers are used in research are given. The research studies included cover the subjects of epidemiology, linked family records and general practitioner referral patterns.

Reference

Statistical and Research Report Series No. 7 *Proceedings of the Conference on Psychiatric Case Registers at the University of Aberdeen March 1973* (HMSO) August 1974 (Price 85p net).

Sickness absence

In an article in *Social Trends No. 2* about certificated sickness absence under the National Insurance scheme, it was shown that, although the total number of days of incapacity from all causes except influenza increased for men by 40 per cent between 1954/55 and 1969/70, one-third of the increase was due to changes in the age distribution and size of the male population insured for sickness benefit and the increase resulting from increases in rates of incapacity occurred almost entirely during the later 1960s. For women, the number of days of incapacity fell by 18 per cent, the decrease being considerably less than one would have expected from changes in the age distribution or size of the female insured population.

Statistics for 1970/71 and 1971/72 are now available and are shown in Tables I and II opposite. Between 1969/70 and 1971/72, the number of days of incapacity from all causes except influenza decreased by some fifteen million for men and five million for women. The decrease for men was mainly a result of decreases in rates of incapacity but changes in the female insured population contributed to the decrease in the case of women.

Table III on page 26.14 is a revision of Table X in the article in *Social Trends No. 2*. Although the original rates of incapacity were understated, the pattern is virtually unchanged in that, generally speaking, there is little difference in the rates for men with children and those without children but, for men with children, the rates for men of a given age tend to increase with the number of children in the family.

Further information can be obtained from:

Statistics and Research Division,
Department of Health and Social Security,
10 John Adam Street,
London,
WC2N 6HD
Telephone: 01-217 3051.

Days of incapacity

Great Britain

Table I

	All causes		All causes except influenza			
	Millions		Index 1954/55 = 100			
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Period June to May:						
1954/55	187	90	176	86	100	100
1955/56	188	88	178	84	101	98
1956/57	180	83	174	81	99	94
1957/58	203	90	178	79	101	92
1958/59	199	84	183	78	104	91
1959/60 (1)	195	80	188	78	107	91
1960/61	200	79	185	75	105	87
1961/62 (2)	201	79	192	77	109	90
1962/63	213	76	202	73	115	85
1963/64	212	75	204	73	116	85
1964/65 (1)	222	77	215	75	122	87
1965/66	235	76	222	73	126	85
1966/67	229	72	224	71	127	82
1967/68	251	77	239	73	136	85
1968/69	255	74	242	71	138	83
1969/70	267	75	246	70	140	82
1970/71 (1)	245	69	239	68	136	79
1971/72 (3)	239	67	231	65	131	76

- 1) 53 weeks.
- 2) Estimated.
- 3) Including days of incapacity attracting invalidity benefit.

Days of incapacity per person at risk in relevant sex and age group
All causes except influenza

Table II

Great Britain

	Days per person at risk					Index 1962/63 = 100		
	1954/55	1962/63	1969/70	1970/71 (1)	1971/72	1969/70	1970/71 (1)	1971/72
MEN:								
Under 20	4.9	4.7	6.1	5.9	5.8	131	127	124
20-24	6.3	5.5	7.1	6.8	6.3	127	123	113
25-29	6.3	5.7	7.5	7.4	7.1	130	129	123
30-34	7.0	7.0	9.1	8.9	8.1	130	127	116
35-39	7.8	8.1	10.0	9.9	9.6	124	122	119
40-44	8.8	9.7	12.0	11.5	11.0	124	118	113
45-49	10.8	11.1	14.8	14.3	13.9	134	129	126
50-54	15.4	15.2	18.8	18.3	18.0	123	120	119
55-59	24.4	23.0	26.8	26.0	25.0	117	113	109
60-64	37.6	39.5	45.3	44.6	44.3	115	113	112
Age standardised rate (2)	12.2	12.8	15.8	15.5	15.0	124	121	118
WOMEN:								
Under 20	6.4	6.2	7.6	7.6	7.2	121	123	115
20-24	9.7	8.2	8.8	8.9	8.7	107	108	106
25-29	12.7	9.6	10.9	10.5	10.3	113	109	107
30-34	16.5	13.4	15.4	15.5	14.9	115	116	111
35-39	17.0	17.4	19.5	18.7	17.9	112	107	103
40-44	19.4	21.1	21.9	22.1	21.2	104	105	100
45-49	22.8	23.8	25.3	24.6	24.0	106	103	101
50-54	28.4	30.4	35.1	34.9	32.9	116	115	108
55-59	38.6	36.0	42.8	43.2	43.2	119	120	120
Age standardised rate (2)	15.9	15.6	17.7	17.7	17.2	113	113	110

- (1) 53 weeks.
- (2) These rates are standardised to the age distribution of the population at risk in 1954/55.

Table III

Great Britain

	Claimants without children	Claimants with children					
		All claimants with children	Number of dependent children				
			1	2	3	4	5 or more
25 to 29	6	8	6	6	9	11	24
30 to 34	8	8	6	6	9	12	18
35 to 39	9	9	7	6	8	12	19
40 to 44	11	11	8	8	11	15	25
45 to 49	14	13	11	9	13	17	31
50 to 54	18	17	14	13	19	19	43
55 to 59	26	28	19	19	29	32	77

Social work in Scotland

Scottish Social Work Statistics 1972, the second annual digest of statistics for the social work services in Scotland, was published on 3 July 1974. It is expected that the third issue, relating to 1973, will be published about the end of 1974.

The digest contains one hundred and fifteen tables, a considerable increase. These illustrate various aspects of social work services, including services for children, families, the physically handicapped, the mentally disordered, the elderly, persons on probation and those released from penal detention. The publication contains detailed analysis of the first full year of operation of the children's hearings system, which in April 1971 replaced juvenile courts in Scotland. There are figures also concerning staffing, training and finance. Most of the tables show national figures, but a section on local statistics provides figures for each of the fifty-two social work authorities, arranged as nearly as possible in the regions which will become responsible for social work on 16 May 1975.

Where possible, comparisons are made with the corresponding figures for 1971 and in some cases historical figures are given for 1962 and the five years 1968-1972.

For further information please contact:

Mr D. F. Goda,
Social Work Services Group,
York Buildings,
Queen Street,
Edinburgh,
EH2 1HY.
Telephone: 031-556 2491 ext. 173.

Reference

Scottish Social Work Statistics 1972 (HMSO) July 1974 (Price £1.20 net).

Access to data in the National Child Development Study

An article by Peter Wedge, Deputy Director (Research) at the National Children's Bureau in the May 1974 issue of the *SSRC Newsletter* outlined the information gathered by the National Child Development Study (NCDS), the uses to which it has been put and the possibilities of exploitation by researchers of the data tapes.

In 1958, the National Birthday Trust Fund sponsored a perinatal mortality survey in the course of which information was gathered on all the seventeen thousand children born in England, Scotland and Wales in the week 3-9 March of that year. An estimated 98 per cent response was obtained and information included not only details of the medical condition of child and mother during pregnancy and at birth, but also details of the mother's family and social circumstances and her educational background.

Every four to five years since its inception in 1965 the NCDS has followed up this whole cohort of children - when they were seven, eleven, and now rising sixteen. (Results from this last 'sweep' should begin to appear in about two years or so). In addition, the National Children's Bureau, an inter-disciplinary organisation concerned with children's needs in the family, school and society, have mounted other special intensive studies, related to the NCDS, drawing on its data and in some instances also gathering additional material. Among groups who have been studied in this way are illegitimate, adopted, gifted, physically handicapped, social disadvantaged, mentally handicapped and one-parent children.

A complete list of publications containing information from these studies is available on application to

National Child Development Study,
National Children's Bureau,
8 Wakely Street,
London,
EC1V 7QE

Up to now, material from the perinatal mortality survey and from the first follow up has been lodged on tape at the SSRC Survey Archive at the University of Essex. Further follow ups are to be incorporated in due course.

Anyone wishing to analyse these data should contact the Director of the Archive in the first instance and he will in turn consult with the staff of the NCDS; it is then best if the researcher meets with project staff to discuss use of the tapes. Provided that the applicant agrees to the standard conditions set out in the SSRC's Licence Form No. 1, there are unlikely to be any problems of access and consent would be given.

EDUCATION

United Kingdom subject classification for education statistics

The present classification originated from a 'Classification of University Degree Subjects' evolved by a Working Party, chaired by the Department of Education and Science, which sat during 1965. Parallel with this development a similar subject classification was prepared for courses in further education establishments. Experience gained in using these two systems led to the development of a classification known as the Subject Classification for Education Statistics'. This was first published in 1967 and the latest version was set out in full in the 1971 volume of *Education Statistics in the United Kingdom*.

DES has now written to Departments and other organisations principally concerned asking for their broad views on whether the classification serves their needs or whether it should be reviewed.

PERSONAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The incidence of taxes and social service benefits in 1973
The change in the definition of a child in the Family Expenditure Survey for 1973, and the change-over from purchase tax/selective employment tax to value added tax/car tax during that year, has necessitated additional work in data processing and preparation of the annual *Economic Trends* article, largely in order to provide a reasonable degree of consistency of comparison with data for earlier years. Unfortunately, as a result, publication of the article may be

delayed until the February 1975 issue of *Economic Trends*.

MANPOWER AND EARNINGS

Survey of the characteristics of the unemployed

Further results of the 1973 survey by the Department of Employment of the characteristics of the unemployed (*Statistical News* 25.22) have been published in the May and June issues of the Department's *Gazette*. The May article included analyses by broad occupational groups and the June article further regional analyses, supplementing those in the main article in the March issue.

Reference

Department of Employment Gazette March, May and June 1974 (HMSO Price 52½p net each).

Statistics of unemployment: Royal Economic Society Conference

Mr A. R. Thatcher, CB, Deputy Secretary and Director of Statistics, Department of Employment presented a paper at a Royal Economic Society Conference held in Durham in May on the concept and measurement of involuntary unemployment. An article, based on this paper, entitled 'Statistics of unemployment in the United Kingdom' was published in the *Department of Employment Gazette*.

Reference

Department of Employment Gazette May 1974 pages 379 to 383 (HMSO Price 52½p net).

Annual Census of Employment

The results for Great Britain of the 1973 Census of Employment were published in the May issue of the *Department of Employment Gazette*. An associated article describes the 1972/3 changes in employment and compares these with previous trends. As mentioned in *Statistical News* 23.16, this new series of annual censuses began in 1971.

Reference

Department of Employment Gazette May 1974 pages 400 to 406 (HMSO Price 52½p net).

Labour force projections: 1973-1991

The new national projections of the labour force mentioned in *Statistical News* 25.24 were published in the April 1974 issue of the *Department of Employment Gazette*. Separate estimates were given for males, married females and non-married females by selected age-groups both for Great Britain and for the United Kingdom, for each year from 1973 to 1991. The projections were based on assumed activity rates for these age-sex groups of the population in future years, linked

with past estimates from censuses of population, and on 1972-based projections of the total population.

Reference

Department of Employment Gazette April 1974 pages 304 to 310 (HMSO Price 52½p net).

Employment prospects for the highly qualified

Recent trends and likely future developments in the employment market for those with degrees and equivalent qualifications are examined in *Employment Prospects for the Highly Qualified*, published as No. 8 in the series of Department of Employment Manpower Papers and based on a programme of work by the Unit for Manpower Studies.

The main conclusion of the paper is that, from the mid-1960's, the supply of graduates has been growing more quickly than the number of graduate employment opportunities as these are traditionally understood. This deterioration in employment prospects for the highly qualified, relative to those of other workers, shows up in changes, both in the relative difficulty of finding jobs and in relative earnings, which have affected graduates in most subjects and particularly those obtaining higher degrees.

Some tentative projections suggest that by 1981 about a fifth of women graduates and perhaps one in twenty men graduates will be doing jobs of a kind that, in the past, would not normally have been entered by those with degrees. The paper also identifies new and broader fields of employment for graduates which may emerge as the traditional areas fail to provide sufficient opportunities; for example, executive positions in the branches of banks, insurance companies and retail stores, technicians and computer programmers, nursing and secretarial work.

To inform students, their parents and advisers and employers of these changing and widening employment prospects for graduates, the Department of Employment have prepared a pamphlet *Higher Education and Jobs* which summarises the main points in the paper and puts them into a wider context. This is intended to serve as background to those making educational and career decisions and has been given a wide distribution.

References

Department of Employment Manpower Paper No. 8 *Employment Prospects for the Highly Qualified* (HMSO) May 1974 (Price 39p net).
Higher Education and Jobs – pamphlet available free from Department of Employment local employment offices and job centres.

Articles on manpower planning

Further articles in the manpower planning series in the *Department of Employment Gazette* (*Statistical News* 24.16 and 25.24) were published in July. They related

to the employment of post-graduates, a survey of Scottish university students' attitudes towards nursing as a career for graduates and surveys of unemployed candidates with the Professional and Executive Recruitment Service (PER). The latter followed up an earlier article in the October 1973 issue of the *Gazette* (*Statistical News* 24.16) which had been based on three such surveys. The results of these and two subsequent surveys are outlined in the new article. The surveys provide information on the age and duration of registration of both the graduates and other PER registrants.

Reference

Department of Employment Gazette July 1974 (HMSO Price 52½p net).

British Labour Statistics: Year Book 1972

The Year Book, in which the main labour statistics for 1972 compiled by the Department of Employment are brought together, is to be published in the autumn; it is the fourth in the 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 up to 1972. More recent figures are to be found in the Department's *Gazette*.

The Year Books cover wage 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 and including 1972 are given where appropriate. Articles describing new series and developments are included as appendices.

Reference

British Labour Statistics: Year Book 1972 (HMSO) forthcoming.

London weighting

The Pay Board reported on London weighting allowances on 1 July 1974. This was its fourth advisory report. The Board was asked among its terms of reference: to consider whether the approach in Report No. 44 of the National Board for Prices and Incomes (NBPI) which dealt with the non-industrial Civil Service was still valid and, if not, what principles should replace it; to review the present weighting geographical boundaries and methods of keeping the weightings up to date; there was particular reference to the public sector but the Board was asked to consider these issues in relation to the use of London weighting by both private and public sector employers for manual and other employees.

The main principle adopted by the Board, as by the NBPI, was one of cost compensation to equate the re-



The Rt. Hon. Shirley Williams M.P. was guest speaker at the Annual Luncheon of the Market Research Society on 19 July and is seen with Sir Claus Moser, who has just completed a five-year term as the Society's President, and his successor, Dr. John Treasure. (Photograph, Stanley Salter.)

earnings of those working in London and elsewhere. But the Board interpreted this principle differently in various ways described in the Report and its enquiries were much wider ranging. The main statistical surveys conducted by the Board were a survey of expenditure on housing and travel to work, an examination of relative costs between London and elsewhere of other items making up the Retail Prices Index and a survey of London weighting practices in the public and private sectors.

The expenditure survey covered a stratified random sample of nearly sixty thousand employees working in London and elsewhere in the public sector and in banks and assurance companies. The valid response was about 62 per cent. In addition to details of expenditure of employees on housing and travel to work, information was sought on their characteristics and certain indicators of their standards of housing. The results are given in Appendix IV of the Report.

The survey of other costs was based in part on various published sources and for food on the information collected for the Retail Prices Index. But for most items it was the result of a special study commissioned by the Board on identical 'baskets' of goods and services in different towns. Over twenty-one thousand price quotations were obtained. The results were combined using national weights (Appendix V of Report).

The survey of London weighting practice is described in Appendix III and the proposed methods of updating annually the recommendations of the Board in Appendix VI. The main recommendations were for a flat rate of £400 for those working in Inner London and £200 for those working in Outer London in the public sector, adjusted as necessary to take account of special forms of assistance. London weighting should be excluded in calculating overtime, shift premia, bonuses and incentive payments. London weighting was considered appropriate only in the context of national pay structures.

References

London Weighting Pay Board Advisory Report 4 Cmnd 5660 (HMSO) July 1974 (Price 79p net).

London Weighting in the Non-Industrial Civil Service National Board for Prices and Incomes, Report No. 44 Cmnd 3436 (HMSO November 1967).

Training Services Agency

The Training Services Agency (TSA) came under the direction of the Manpower Services Commission on 1 April (*Statistical News* 24.17). A plan for its activities over the next five years which the Agency had submitted to the Commission was published in May. This plan is concerned with training policies and programmes which are financed by public funds through grant-in-aid to the Commission. In 1975 the Agency proposes to carry out a survey in depth of training in a

reasonably representative sample of firms covered by Industrial Training Boards (ITBs). Outside the ITB sector, the Agency has selected a number of industries for which such Boards have not been established, and which seem to merit priority attention for in-depth studies of training needs.

Reference

Training Services Agency - a Five Year Plan (HMSO) May 1974 (Price 61p net).

INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS

Annual Census of Production, 1971

As the separate Business Monitors of the Census of Production 1971 have become available they have been listed in *Statistical News* (see 24.18 and 25.26). Further Business Monitors have been published and copies are available on standing order from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London, SE1 9NH, telephone 01-928 6977, although they are not included in the global subscription arrangements for the Business Monitor series.

Business Monitor No.	Description	Standard Industrial Classification Minimum List Heading
PA103	Chalk, clay, sand and gravel extraction	103
PA218	Fruit and vegetable products	218
PA273	Toilet preparations	273
PA279.2	Formulated adhesives, gelatine, etc.	279/2
PA279.3	Explosives, fireworks and matches	279/3
PA331	Agricultural machinery (other than tractors)	331
PA334	Industrial engines	334
PA335	Textile machinery and accessories	335
PA339.1	Mining machinery	339/1
PA339.7	Food and drink processing machinery	339/7
PA352	Watches and clocks	352
PA362	Insulated wires and cables	362
PA382	Motor cycle, tricycle and pedal cycle manufacturing	382
PA390	Engineers' small tools and gauges	390
PA393	Bolts, nuts, screws, rivets, etc.	393
PA394	Wire and wire manufactures	394
PA395	Cans and metal boxes	395
PA399.1	Metal furniture	399/1
PA399.5	Drop forgings, etc.	399/5
PA399.6	Metal hollow-ware	399/6 and 7
PA414	Woollen and worsted	414
PA415	Jute	415
PA421	Narrow fabrics	421
PA422.1	Made-up household textiles	422/1
PA431	Leather (tanning and dressing) and fellmongery	431
PA449.2	Gloves	449/2
PA462	Pottery	462
PA463	Glass	463
PA464	Cement	464
PA473	Bedding and soft furnishings	473
PA475	Wooden containers and baskets	475
PA482.1	Cardboard boxes, cartons and fibre-board packing cases	482/1
PA492	Linoleum, plastics floor covering, leathercloth, etc.	492
PA493	Brushes and brooms	493
PA499.1	Musical instruments	499/1

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

Business Statistics Office,
Cardiff Road,
Newport,
Gwent,
NPT 1XG

Telephone: Newport (0633) 5611 ext. 2455.

Other new Business Monitors

Since the last issue of *Statistical News* four 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:

PQ104	Petroleum and natural gas
PQ219	Animal and poultry foods
PQ399.12	Miscellaneous metal goods
PQ416	Rope, twine and net

These publications are appearing for the first time in the Business Monitor Series.

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 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 Business Statistics Office Library which will supply prices on request; the address is:

The Librarian,
Business Statistics Office,
Cardiff Road,
Newport,
Gwent,
NPT 1XG

Telephone: Newport (0633) 56111 ext. 2399.

Index to commodities in Business Monitors

A Business Monitor (PQ1000) is now available giving an index of commodities included in the PQ series of Business Monitors. It has an Appendix which will enable users of the series to link the PQ numbers with the previous P numbers, where one existed, and also to make cross references to the reports on the Census of Production 1968 and to the C series of Monitors which contained reports on the Annual Census of Production for 1970.

Copies of the Monitor may be purchased from Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Further information on this Business Monitor may be obtained from:

Miss M. L. Phipps,
Business Statistics Office,
Cardiff Road,
Newport,
Gwent,
NPT 1XG

Telephone: Newport (0633) 56111 ext. 2874.

Standard Industrial Classification

It was reported in *Statistical News* 21.23 that an interdepartmental committee had been established to revise the present Standard Industrial Classification to a basis closely corresponding to *Nomenclature générale des activités économique dans les Communautés Européennes* (NACE). During the last year work has proceeded to bring about this revision and the stage has now been reached where the draft outline of the new classification is almost complete.

The next stage is for this draft outline to be given detailed scrutiny so that later in the year the committee can prepare the final version. The scrutiny will include discussions, initiated by departments, with industry and with the Statistical Office of the European Communities.

Members of trade associations and others wishing to make representations or offer advice are advised to contact the Department which deals with the industries which they represent.

The joint secretaries of the interdepartmental committee are:

Mr R. A. Bowditch,
Central Statistical Office,
Great George Street,
London,
SW1P 3AQ
Telephone: 01-930 5422 ext. 550
and

Mr J. F. C. Riegler,
Department of Industry,
Dean Bradley House,
52 Horseferry Road,
London,
SW1P 2AG
Telephone: 01-212 5628.

Rebasing on 1970 of the indices of engineering sales and orders

In line with other major series, the statistical base of the volume indices of engineering sales and orders has been

revised from 1963 to 1970. Accordingly, the final series for 1969–1974 on the 1963 base was published as an annex to Business Monitor PM33–36 for March 1974, and a comparable series on the 1970 base should appear as an annex to the April Business Monitor.

There are three main reasons for the rebasing. First, in the period 1963–1970 considerable changes have occurred in some sectors of engineering (Orders VII, VIII and IX of the 1968 Standard Industrial Classification) so that more up-to-date weights must be assigned to the component industries.

Second, rebasing provides the opportunity of improving the methodology of constructing the indices. In particular, computerisation of the calculation of the engineering component of the index of industrial production permits a greater degree of harmony between the index of sales and the index of production.

Finally, the rebasing of the indices of engineering sales and orders brings them into line with other economic time series which use 1970 as their base year; the wholesale price indices which are used to deflate the engineering indices have been rebased on 1970 for some time.

A fuller account of the rebasing will appear in the journal *Trade and Industry*.

References

Business Monitor series PM 33–36 *Engineering (volume indices of sales and orders)* (HMSO) March and April 1974 (available on subscription £1.00 per annum).

Trade and Industry (HMSO) every Thursday (price 10p net).

Ferrous metal manufacture – index of industrial production

More detailed data are now being used in the calculation of that part of the index covering MLH 311 and MLH 312, Iron and Steel (General) and Steel Tubes. The revised index for April is higher than the previous index which probably has underestimated the output of the industry by about 4 per cent. The previous index was based on quarterly weighted final deliveries adjusted for stock changes and for imports of re-rolling material. Monthly interpolation was provided by total monthly tonnage of deliveries.

The revised index is based on the quarterly tonnage of deliveries (net of deliveries between steelmakers), plus steelmakers' stock-build, itemised in thirty product groups. These include ingots and semi-finished products (of which the stock changes may be more important than the final deliveries). The groups are weighted by their separate 1970 added values per tonne, as estimated for normal production from ore and scrap. To allow for loss of value added when production starts from a later stage, deduction is made of the

added value corresponding, in the same weighting scheme, to the tonnages of steel products imported by steelmakers for re-rolling. The quarterly index is interpolated monthly by an index based on crude steel production with adjustments for imports and stock changes of ingots and semi-finished steel for re-rolling.

The wider range of items of output by the industry, now taken into the preparation of the index, provide a more sensitive and accurate measure of the output of Iron and Steel, and of Steel Tubes.

Input-output statistics

A set of input-output tables for the United Kingdom economy relating to 1970 has been compiled by the Central Statistical Office and will be published shortly as a Business Monitor, *Input-output tables for the United Kingdom 1970*, reference number PA1004.

This publication up-dates and complements the volume for 1968 which was published last year as Studies in Official Statistics No. 22 and which contained a detailed account of the construction of the tables and their uses.

As mentioned in *Statistical News* 25.32 some summary tables for this analysis were published in the May issue of *Economic Trends*.

Copies of the Business Monitor may be obtained from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London, SE1 9NH (Price £1.00 net).

AGRICULTURE

Output and utilisation of farm produce in the United Kingdom

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has recently published a new edition of its annual statistical booklet *Output and Utilisation of Farm Produce in the United Kingdom* (price 90p by post 98p, cash with order). It covers the years 1967/68 to 1972/73 and gives details of output and utilisation of farm produce, supply and utilisation of concentrated feeding-stuffs and the utilisations of fertilisers – available from:

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food,
Publications Branch,
Tolcarne Drive,
Pinner,
Middlesex,
HAS 2DT.

Agricultural censuses and surveys

The 1973 December Agricultural Census

The final results of the December census in the United Kingdom were published in a Statistical Information Notice on 1 May 1974 ⁽¹⁾.

The results of the glasshouse census in England and Wales together with the results of the census of agricultural machinery and acreage forecasts for cereals were published in a Statistical Information Notice on 13 June 1974⁽²⁾.

The 1974 March Sample Livestock Enquiry

The raised results of this enquiry in England and Wales were published in a Press Notice on 13 May 1974⁽³⁾. These show that while dairy cows have decreased beef cows have increased in number compared with March 1973. The pig-breeding herd was smaller than in March 1973 and the number of gilts in pig was at the lowest level since 1971. The egg-laying flock increased during the year and growing pullets were up in numbers compared with March 1973.

References

- (1) Statistical Information Notice (Stats: 120/74) issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.
- (2) Statistical Information Notice (Stats: 160/74) issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.
- (3) Press Notice No. 155 issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

TRANSPORT

Road traffic censuses

General road traffic censuses have been carried out periodically since 1922 to yield data for use in highway design, assessing priorities for improvement schemes, programming maintenance work and for miscellaneous purposes such as judging the need for speed limits, pedestrian crossings or road lighting. In 1969 a modified form of census was introduced with counting spread over a four-year cycle in order to provide both a more continuous flow of information and a steadier work-load.

A new cycle of counts is starting in August 1974 in England and Wales after a one-year interval (in Scotland arrangements are slightly different and a new cycle began there in 1973). Some six thousand five hundred census points on the thirty thousand miles of motorways and 'A' roads in Great Britain will be covered by roadside enumerators recording the numbers of each of ten vehicle classes passing the census points. Additional categories of goods vehicle are being introduced in the new cycle to provide more information about the really large vehicles. As in previous censuses the main counts take place in August, although supplementary counts at one-quarter of each year's list of points are also taken in the spring to give a measure of the seasonal variation in traffic, and additional data are available from a small monthly sample census.

More information about the census can be obtained from:

- (i) Department of the Environment,
Directorate of Statistics - Road Traffic Census Unit,
St. Christopher House,
Southwark Street,
London, SE1 0TE,
Telephone: 01-928 7999 ext. 2260 or 2189
- (ii) Scottish Development Department,
(Chief Road Engineer),
43 Jeffrey Street,
Edinburgh, EH1 1DL,
Telephone: 031-556 8433 ext. 493
- (iii) Welsh Office,
(Director of Highways, Roads Division),
Graham Buildings,
Newport Road,
Cardiff, CF2 1YV,
Telephone: 0222-40751 ext. 85

Copies of the results from the first cycle of counts (1969-73) may be seen at the above offices, or at any Regional Office of the Department of the Environment. They are also available for purchase at a fee of £6 per annual volume.

Road accidents

The latest issue of the Department of the Environment's annual booklet *Road Accidents in Great Britain* contains forty tables and seven charts including detailed analyses of road accidents and casualties in 1972 as well as a number of historical series; amongst the detailed tables separate sections are devoted to statistics of accidents, casualties and vehicle involvement.

This publication which is produced for use mainly by road safety workers, highway engineers, police and administrators (although many research workers and ordinary members of the public also find it of interest) has been expanded to include tables on a number of aspects of current interest. One of these shows the number of deaths and serious injuries suffered by front seat occupants wearing seat belts in cars and light goods vehicles, which increased significantly in 1972 after remaining steady since 1969. This reflects the increased use of seat belts in the second half of 1972.

Two new tables show the number and results of breath tests on drivers involved in accidents between 1969 and 1972. During this period the number of breath tests required by the police after injury accidents involving cars more than doubled to twenty-three thousand nine hundred. Information shown in other

new tables includes the number of fatal and seriously injured casualties in each county and selected large cities, and the accident involvements of vehicles by type of area for different classes of vehicle.

Explanatory notes are included for nearly all the tables and introductory articles provide a review of many aspects of road safety.

Reference

Road Accidents in Great Britain 1972 (HMSO) June 1974 (price 90p net).

Survey of users of motorway service areas

The Department of the Environment sponsored a survey of travellers at motorway service areas in May/June 1973. The survey was part of a review carried out by the then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Mr Keith Speed who toured service areas in Germany, Switzerland and France to look at their operation early in 1973 and later visited service areas in England to examine the facilities offered to the public. The aim of the survey was to obtain information on the travelling public's requirements of service areas, with particular reference to catering facilities. Information derived from the survey will enable users' requirements to be taken into account more fully in the planning of new and existing service areas.

The survey was undertaken for the Department by Research Services Ltd. who were responsible for the sample design, in conjunction with the Statistics Directorate, and the collection and processing of the data. A pilot survey was carried out at two service areas, Toddington (M1) and Knutsford (M6), in order to investigate alternative methods of data collection. In the light of the pilot survey it was decided to collect the data at the main stage of the survey by a mixed personal interview and self completion questionnaire postal return method.

Private travellers, apart from those stopping for petrol only, and travellers in commercial vehicles were interviewed at the service areas as they were returning to their vehicles at the end of their visit. In the pilot survey the response rate was remarkably high at 97 per cent and the interview took about fifteen minutes to complete.

Private travellers stopping for petrol only and travellers in buses and coaches were given a self-completion questionnaire to return by post. Information was collected in this way because to carry out personal interviews with these two groups of travellers would have delayed other people not taking part in the survey. In the main survey the response rates in terms of questionnaires returned were 38 per cent and 44 per cent respectively for the two types of travellers.

The service areas were classified into three broad strata according to the density of the traffic using them. The number of interviews at each service area was then allocated so that all users of service areas had an approximately equal chance of selection. Selection of the sample was also controlled by day of the week and period of the day so that each was represented equally in the final sample.

Interviewing took place at all twenty-nine service areas then open in England. The survey was carried out from May 19 to June 6 omitting the Spring Bank Holiday weekend. The final sample size consisted of three thousand two hundred and fifty-nine travellers of whom eight hundred and nine were in commercial vehicles. Separate results were produced for travellers in private vehicles including buses and coaches and for travellers in commercial vehicles.

The survey showed a high degree of satisfaction among the travelling public, particularly with regard to the catering facilities provided. While the catering facilities were used by 55 per cent of private motorists and 69 per cent of commercial travellers, about a third of the total sample were unaware that motorway service areas offered a twenty-four hour catering service. The survey showed that most motorists had a drink or snack, or both, rather than a full scale meal, and that they spent, on average, around 30p per head.

When asked about the quality of food, general eating conditions and service, the responses were as follows:

Degree of satisfaction with the quality, flavour and presentation of the meal/snack/drink

	<i>Private</i>	<i>Commercial</i>
Very satisfied	22	15
Quite satisfied	57	56
Dissatisfied	19	27
No comment	1	1

Degree of satisfaction with the general conditions of the restaurant/cafeteria

	<i>Private</i>	<i>Commercial</i>
Very satisfied	36	33
Quite satisfied	53	54
Dissatisfied	10	10
No comment	1	3

Opinion of the service received at the counter or table.

	<i>Private</i>	<i>Commercial</i>
Very satisfied	33	35
Quite satisfied	54	52
Dissatisfied	10	11
No comment	3	1

The survey has been the subject of a Departmental Press Notice.

HOME FINANCE

Company finance – Business Monitor M3

The final results for 1971 and the provisional 1972 results of the analysis of the accounts of large industrial and commercial companies operating mainly in the United Kingdom were published in April in this Monitor which has been changed from previous issues.

The sources and uses of funds has been combined into one table, the income and appropriation account is now shown as a separate table and the format of the tables is now presented in portrait style. The size distribution of companies analysed in terms of net assets, the ratio of net income to net assets and of trading profits to turnover is given. In addition there is a separate analysis of overseas controlled companies.

Reference

Business Monitor Series M3 *Company Finance fifth issue 1974* (HMSO April 1974). Available on subscription from HMSO.

Eligible liabilities, reserve assets, reserve ratios and Special Deposits

The regular table in the Statistical Annex of the *Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin* has been extended as from June 1974 to include interest-bearing eligible liabilities (the control figure for the supplementary deposits scheme), the rates of call for Special Deposits, and the amounts of Special Deposits paid, respectively, by banks and finance houses.

Copies of the Bank's *Bulletin* may be obtained, free of charge, from the Economic Intelligence Department, Bank of England, London, EC2R 8AH.

OVERSEAS FINANCE

Overseas transactions – Business Monitor M4

Detailed results of the 1972 Overseas Transactions Inquiry and of the 1971 Census of Overseas Assets were published in July in this Monitor, which has been expanded from previous issues.

The tables covering overseas direct investment and earnings in 1972 give more country and industry detail than was possible in previous years. In addition, tables on overseas royalty transactions and exports and the credit terms of exports, taken from the Overseas Transactions Inquiry, appear in Business Monitor M4 for the first time.

The tables covering the results of the 1971 Census of Assets have been expanded in comparison with the 1968 inquiry which appeared in the Business Monitor M4 in 1971. In addition to giving more country and industry detail, a number of tables have been included which previously appeared only in *Trade and Industry*. New tables are also included giving the size distribution

of direct investing companies and United Kingdom industries' investments in overseas industries.

Reference

Business Monitor Series M4 *Overseas Transactions 1972 Parts I and II* (HMSO July 1974). Available on subscription from HMSO.

Sterling effective exchange rate

An article on 'The 'effective' exchange rate for sterling' appeared in the June issue of *Economic Trends*. The article describes the method used by the United Kingdom Treasury and the Bank of England to calculate the implications of a set of currency changes for the United Kingdom. One theoretical model for evaluating these implications has been set out in a recent article by J. R. Artus and R. R. Rhomberg of the International Monetary Fund, and the present article is based on earlier work by them. The matrices of weights used for the calculations are those developed by the fund.

The effective rate is made available each day by the Bank of England through the news agencies: and is published monthly in *Economic Trends* and *Financial Statistics* and quarterly in the *Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin*.

References

'A Multilateral Exchange Rate Model' *International Monetary Fund Staff Papers* Volume XX No. 3 November 1973. Available from HMSO (Price £1.09 net).

Economic Trends (HMSO) monthly (Price 63p net).

Financial Statistics (HMSO) monthly (Price 95p net).

Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin Copies may be obtained from the Economic Intelligence Department, Bank of England, London, EC2R 8AH

Overseas sterling balances 1963-1973

An article in the *Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin* June 1974 analyses movements in overseas sterling balances during the period 1963-1973. About 70 per cent of the overall rise of some £2,000 million was accounted for by little more than a dozen countries who between them held half of the sterling balances outstanding at the end of 1973.

Copies of the Bank's *Bulletin* may be obtained, free of charge, from the Economic Intelligence Department, Bank of England, London, EC2R 8AH.

The euro-currency market in London: figures for more countries

An article in the *Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin* June 1974 shows outstanding liabilities and claims in overseas currencies at end-1972 and end-1973 for a wide number of countries not covered in the regular statistics in Table 23 of the Statistical Annex.

Copies of the Bank's *Bulletin* may be obtained, free of charge, from the Economic Intelligence Department, Bank of England, London, EC2R 8AH.

INTERNATIONAL

International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS)

The IASS was established as a section of the International Statistical Institute in 1971 with the following objective. 'To promote the study and development of the theory and practice of statistical censuses and surveys and associated subjects and to foster interest in these subjects among statisticians, organisations, institutions, governments and the general public in different countries of the world'.

Anyone requiring further information about membership of the association should write to:

Mr Paul Damiani,
Secretary,
International Association of Survey Statisticians,
care of INSEE,
29 Quai Branly,
Paris 75700,
France.

Whitepaper on National Life 1973 - Japan

Many countries are now producing publications similar in form to the Central Statistical Office's *Social Trends (Social Indicators)*, the US Volume was described in *Statistical News* 25.29). This Japanese publication is rather different. Subtitled, 'The Life and its Quality in Japan' it is a social report rather than a collection of social statistics. It includes a considerable amount of statistics in table and chart form, but is mainly a commentary on the most pressing problems of Japanese society in 1972/3, paying particular attention to the effect of inflation on consumer behaviour and household budgets.

The Report is in two parts: Part I looks at the current state of Japanese national life and its problems, and Part II concentrates on the effects of inflation.

Specific policy issues covered in the first part include medical care for old people, life after retirement, housing conditions in large cities, opportunities for higher education, the increase in the number of households with old and disabled people, personal safety and the problem of environmental pollution. In each case, the situation in 1972/3 is looked at in the light of social trends during the last five to ten years, changes in the law or changes in administrative practice. Statistics illustrating these problems are taken from central and local government, as well as from other sources.

In the second part, the structural characteristics of the present inflation are analysed. Various causes of

inflation are discussed, as well as effects such as the rise in land prices or the gap between social needs and their fulfilment which has grown because the private sector responds more quickly to inflation than the public sector.

For further information please contact:

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

Reference

Whitepaper on National Life 1973 Economic Planning Agency Japanese Government (English edition).

Visit to the Bureau of the Census, Washington

Mr L. S. Berman, Director of Statistics at the Department of Industry, and Mr M. C. Fessey and Mr J. M. Simmonds (Director and Chief Statistician at the Business Statistics Office) visited Washington for discussions with Mr Vincent Barabba, Director, and other colleagues from the Bureau of the Census from Monday, 29 April to Friday, 3 May 1974. The meeting was the third in a series which began in October 1970 when representatives of the Central Statistical Office and Business Statistics Office visited Washington for talks with the Bureau. In 1971 a team from Washington, led by the then Director (Mr G. Hay Brown), came to London.

The agenda for the week's meetings covered the following five topics.

- (i) Planning for economic statistics programmes.
- (ii) Integrated statistical systems for distribution and service statistics.
- (iii) Confidentiality and disclosure.
- (iv) Central Registers and the use of administrative records.
- (v) Availability and dissemination of economic statistics.

Other topics arising for discussion during the week included the work done by the Bureau on geographical mapping and on form design for inquiries into business statistics. One day was devoted to a visit to Jeffersonville, Indiana, the Bureau's data preparation centre.

Mr Fessey and Mr Simmonds stayed over until Monday, 5 May to attend, at the Bureau's invitation, the first day of the annual two day meeting of the Census Advisory Committee of the American Marketing Association (AMA).

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Publications of the European Communities

The following publications of the European Communities have been received since the last issue of *Statistical News*.

Industrial Statistics (Statistiques industrielles)

1973

No. 1-2 This double-issue is the first edition to show indices and production figures for the nine countries of the enlarged Community (d, i, f, n, e)

Social Statistics (Statistiques sociales)

1973

No. 2 Population and Employment 1968-1972

Part A

Total and active population, employment, unemployment and unfilled vacancies, for 1972 and 1973; covering the nine member states

Part B

Information of a structural nature derived from the Community Sample Labour Force Surveys held in 1960 and again from 1968-1971

Part C

Employment statistics for coalmining and the iron and steel industry from 1955-1972 (d, i, f, n, e, dk)

Internal information on agricultural statistics: agricultural statistical studies

(Informations internes de la statistiques agricole:
études de statistique agricole)

1973

No. 15 An attempt at harmonisation of major statistics for eggs and poultry in the member states by Lutz Kersten (d)

STATISTICS USE

Retrieval of statistical sources: The STIR Project

Since January 1973 an investigation, generally known as the STIR (Statistics Indexing and Retrieval) Project, has been taking place at Loughborough University of Technology, under the direction of the University Librarian, Professor A. J. Evans, and with financial support from the British Library Research and Development Department (formerly OSTI). The Project was first concerned to examine the need for and the feasibility of a computer based system covering sources of United Kingdom statistics, which would be indexed at table level. The results of this investigation led to the submission of a proposal for a continuation of the project, the ultimate objective of which would be to produce a specification for a pilot-scale experimental system, and cost and potential demand figures for an operational system.

A grant has now been made to allow the investigation to continue. Besides studies of and experiments with

alternative machine aided indexing systems, the investigation of use of statistics and the nature of users' needs for information about sources of statistics will be extended beyond the limited survey which was carried out during the feasibility study. An attempt will be made to ascertain, through interviews with a sample of users, what statistical information they need, where and how they find it, what difficulties they experience in locating sources and in using them once found, and how far the provision of suitable indexing services could contribute to a more effective exploitation of statistical sources. Another sample of users will then be invited to take part in an evaluation exercise to compare a number of different experimental indexes, with reference to their effectiveness at search and to other factors affecting personal preferences.

The Project could ultimately result in the setting up of a service providing detailed indexing of individual tables in official and non-official statistical publications. The study team's view of the desirable scope of an operational system, of the factors, especially the characteristics of statistical sources, which would be likely to influence the design of an indexing system, together with the evidence so far gathered on the use of statistics (including the results of specially conducted surveys of the statistical enquiries handled in a sample of libraries and of a small number of individual users of statistics), are set out in the publication listed below, which is intended as a discussion paper. Further information can be obtained from:

Mr G. E. Hamilton,
Library Research Unit,
University of Technology,
Loughborough,
Leics., LE11 3TU
Telephone: Loughborough (05093) 2429.

Reference

United Kingdom statistics: sources, use and indexing requirements. First report on the STIR Project by G. E. Hamilton and K. I. Smart. Loughborough University of Technology Library Report no. LUT/LIB/R7. Available from the Library, Loughborough University of Technology, Loughborough. Leics LE11 3TU. (Price £2.50 net)

SURVEY CONTROL

Survey Control Unit

Surveys assessed

The table below indicates the number of surveys assessed in the second quarter of 1974, in terms of the description given of the gradings used in the brief article in *Statistical News* 21.15. The number assessed is an increase of two-thirds over the number examined in the corresponding quarter of 1973.

Surveys assessed during 2nd quarter 1974

Type of survey	Initial grading				No grading given	Total
	Un-recognised	Under construction	Provisionally recognised	Fully recognised		
Small <i>ad hoc</i> ...	1	4	34	113	36	188
Other <i>ad hoc</i> ...	—	—	3	9	1	13
Continuous ...	—	—	4	26	2	32
Total ...	1	4	41	148	39	233

The Unit has in the past quarter looked at one hundred and twenty-eight regular surveys already in the field (only surveys conducted more frequently than once a year are described as 'continuous'), and the large majority of these (85 per cent) were those conducted by the various government departments in Scotland. Of the new surveys, half have been initiated by the Department of the Environment, and the remainder have emanated from the customary cross-section of all departments, large and small.

The one unrecognised survey has not been proceeded with, and on all four of the surveys under consideration further information is awaited.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

United Kingdom in figures

The 1974 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, 1968, 1972 and 1973. 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.

GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL SERVICE

Birthday Honours 1974

Mr G. Paine, Director of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys and Registrar General was awarded the CB.

Mrs A. F. Davies, Private Secretary to Sir Claus Moser and to his predecessor in the Central Statistical Office, Sir Harry Campion, was awarded the MBE.

Appointments and changes

HM CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

Mr R. Ash, Chief Statistician, Department of Employment, has transferred to HM Customs and Excise as Controller of the Statistical Office (Overseas Trade Statistics) in succession to Mr J. Mair, CBE.

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT

Mr R. E. Fry, Chief Statistician, Central Statistical Office has transferred to the Department of Employment to fill the vacancy caused by the move of Mr Ash.

CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE

Mrs M. Nissel, Chief Statistician, has moved from Branch 14 to become Head of Branch 13 following the transfer of Mr Fry.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr B. J. Buckingham, Statistician, Department of Industry, has been promoted Chief Statistician and will fill a new post in the Finance, Local Government and Development Directorate.

HOME OFFICE

Mr J. N. Lithgow, Statistician, Ministry of Defence has been transferred to the Home Office on promotion to Chief Statistician.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Mr A. H. Gould, Chief Statistician, has retired.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

Mr A. Crystal, Statistician, has been promoted to Chief Statistician and will fill a new post in EcS3, Branch D.

LATE ITEMS

National Coal Board

The *National Coal Board Report and Accounts* for the financial year 1973/74 was published in July 1974, price £1.00 net. It includes some summary statistics of the industry's performance.

Accounting for inflation

The August issue of *Economic Trends* published at the end of this month will contain an article by A. H. Cowley of the Central Statistical Office on 'Accounting for inflation'.

List of Principal Statistical Series and Publications

NEW EDITION

The last edition of the *List of Principal Statistical Series and Publications* was published in 1972. Since then there have been eight amendment lists printed in *Statistical News* which is probably as much as can usefully be accommodated on original copies. And substantial changes to some series have made it necessary to rewrite complete sections.

Consequently a revised and updated edition has been prepared by the Central Statistical Office and will be published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office in September. It incorporates the latest amendments which would have been printed in this issue of *Statistical News*. Amendments to the new edition will continue to appear in subsequent issues of *Statistical News* at least until the comprehensive *Guide to Current Official Statistics* is published in the middle of 1975.

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.

The following conventions have been observed in printing this index: references to items appearing in articles are shown by (A); italics are used for the titles of published books or papers.

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