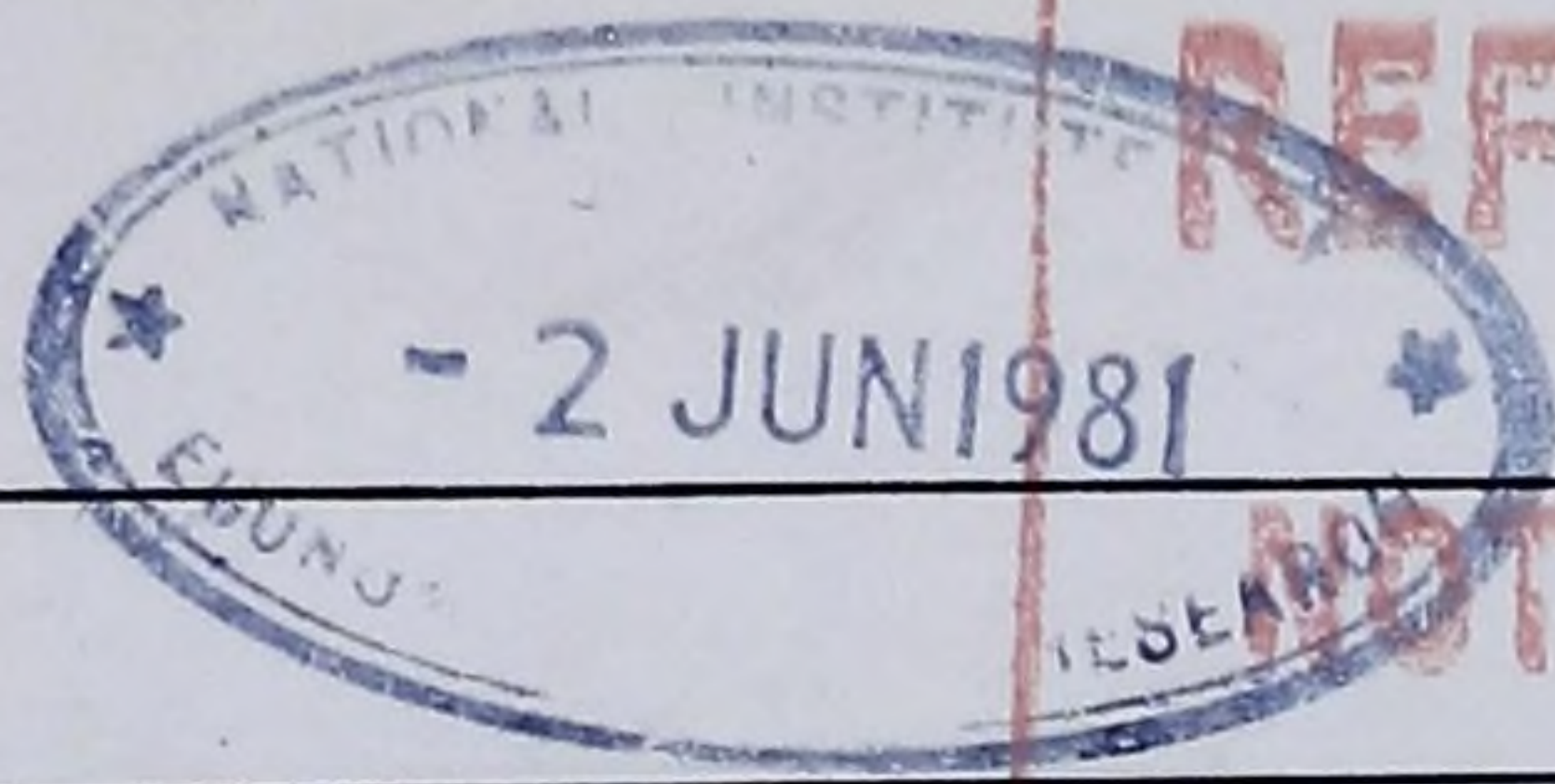


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STATISTICAL NEWS

Developments in British Official Statistics



A publication of the Government Statistical Service

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Note by the Editor

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

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

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

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

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White Paper on Government Statistical Services

Plans to save £25 million a year in the Government's statistical services, representing about a quarter of total staff and administrative costs, were announced in a White Paper* published on 29 April 1981.

The White Paper set out the Government's plans for providing a more economical and cost-effective service of statistical information to Ministers and the public. In 1979 there were about 9,000 civil servants (including 540 professional statisticians) providing statistical services costing £100 million a year. By 1984 there would be 2,500 fewer posts and a saving of £25 million a year with $\frac{3}{4}$ million fewer statistical forms.

Nearly £20 million of the changes described in the White Paper come from a review of statistical services initiated by Lord Soames, Lord President of the Council. It was carried out in detail by small teams of officials working mainly within their own Departments, in consultation with the Government's statisticians and under the leadership of their departmental Ministers. The work, which is summarised in the second part of the White Paper, was co-ordinated by Sir Derek Rayner.

The review has broken new ground through its treatment of an area of administration common to many separate Departments across Government. The Civil Service Department has recently announced two more reviews of this kind – one covering supporting services for research and development and the other administrative forms.

Ministers have already firmly accepted recommendations from the review worth £12½ million a year, with a substantial amount – about three-quarters – to be implemented by April 1982 and most of the remainder in the following year. Savings of a further £4½ million a year have been accepted in principle, subject to detailed consultation with those directly concerned. Decisions on possible savings of up to another £2½ million a year will be taken in the near future.

Looking to the future, the Government has accepted a three point plan from Sir Derek Rayner for effective management of its statistics services with the emphasis on value for money. This involves:

- regular budgetary statements for Ministers and their senior officials;
- clear responsibilities for the statistical managers in Departments;
- a new remit for the Head of the Government Statis-

tical Service, reinforcing and extending his role in advising Ministers and senior officials on achieving and maintaining economical but effective statistical services.

Examples of how the savings will be made are:

The Central Statistical Office is to reduce its top posts, switch its staff more flexibly to concentrate on areas of policy importance at the time, and run other areas on more of a caretaker basis. Publications will be expected to cover editorial, production and marketing costs. In total the savings will amount to £1.3 million a year out of £4.1 million.

Customs and Excise will introduce an improved system of external trade statistics which requires less checking and validation. This will save £2.3 million a year out of £9.9 million. It is also envisaged that when new computers are introduced further savings of about £460,000 may be made after 1984.

The Department of Employment will change the frequency of the census of employment from yearly to three-yearly, introduce improved processing methods and consider the use of sampling. Unemployment statistics will be mainly compiled from Unemployment Benefit Offices where operations are now computerised. In total the department will save £5.4 million a year out of £15.4 million.

In the Departments of Environment and Transport the frequency and detail no longer required in housing data will be stopped. There will be more sampling and a reorganisation of the construction statistics collection and register work. Regional Highway Traffic data will concentrate on traffic appraisal. Automatic methods in traffic censuses will be introduced. There will be large savings from better organised computing. In total the departments will save £2.95 million a year out of £14.2 million.

Departments of Industry and Trade major savings will be made by reducing statistical inquiries such as the quarterly manufacturers' sales inquiry, the annual census of production and inquiries which contribute to the monthly Index of Production. There will be savings of £3 million out of a total of £13.9 million.

The Inland Revenue will introduce revised sampling for the survey of personal incomes. There will be greater productivity in the compilation of statistics of Cor-

* *Government Statistical Services*. (Cmnd. 8236.) (HMSO) (Price £2.10 net)

poration Tax, Schedule D income tax and the repayment of income tax. The data base for company incomes and taxes will be investigated this year to seek potential savings of up to £400,000 per annum. Inland Revenue is aiming to save £2.3 million per annum already identified out of expenditure of £5.7 million.

The Department of Health and Social Security is aiming to save £2.1 million a year out of £5.6 million. In health and personal social services statistics the central collection of data will be restricted to what is essential and will have more regard to the needs and information systems of local management in the health services. The Department will make improved use of computers.

The Office of Population Censuses and Surveys will streamline the General Household Survey, the Family Expenditure Survey and the International Passenger Survey etc. The aim will be to make the maximum use of these multi-purpose surveys as an alternative to ad hoc data collection. Arrangements for more cost responsive ways of commissioning survey work will be introduced. Potential savings are £3.3 million a year out of £12.8 million.

Sir John Boreham's views

Commenting on the White Paper, Sir John Boreham, Head of the Government Statistical Service said:

'Over the past year, Government statistical services have been put under the microscope. Statisticians throughout Government co-operated in the reviews. I welcomed them from the start because it is right that an organisation costing the taxpayer £100 million a year should be looked at with a penetrating eye to help it become more efficient and give better value for money.

'The changes recommended in the reviews and now confirmed by the Government will yield a really efficient statistical service which will also be more tightly relevant to making government itself cost-effective. They will also preserve a comprehensive statistical service for Parliament and the public.

'It is now my job and that of my colleagues in the Government Statistical Service to see that the changes are put into effect and to keep up the momentum for greater efficiency and economy. This we shall do.'

New financial transactions accounts

Allan G Tansley, Senior Executive Officer, Central Statistical Office

The format of the financial transactions (or 'flow of funds') accounts has scarcely altered since they were first developed. Annual figures were first published in the September 1963 issues of *Financial Statistics* and the *Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin* while the first quarterly figures appeared in *Financial Statistics* in December 1964 and in the *Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin* for June 1965. The categories of transactions shown by the Central Statistical Office (CSO) and the Bank differed considerably, because the objectives were different, the CSO providing a greater number of categories for users to adapt to their own needs, while the Bank was more concerned with more aggregated groupings suitable for analysis and commentary. The existence of two different sets of tables has, however, proved inconvenient to users, and it has now been decided to adopt a standard matrix and to use the same terminology.

The CSO's classification has, until now, been based on the relative degree of liquidity of the various assets and on the institutional sectors on which the assets are claims. The new matrix will reflect changes in the use of the figures, particularly the interest in the public sector borrowing requirement, the money supply, foreign currency transactions, and transactions in overseas securities. Special tables are compiled to highlight these but it will be helpful for them to be derived directly from the financial transactions accounts. Among the changes in terminology, the Bank will no longer label their accounts the 'flow of funds' but 'financial transactions accounts', while the CSO will switch from 'net acquisitions of financial assets' by each sector to the 'financial surplus/deficit'.

The financial transactions accounts which set out the transactions in financial assets and liabilities of each sector are published in Section 1 of *Financial Statistics*. The section opens with the sector summary capital accounts (Table 1.1) which provides a link between the sector income and expenditure accounts and the financial transactions accounts. This is followed by a matrix (Table 1.2) for the latest quarter together with time series tables for the various sectors.

From the April edition of *Financial Statistics* the new matrix is provided and the presentation in the subsequent time series tables has been recast to reflect the new matrix. There is a similar number of asset categories in the new matrix. The first 15 items (lines 6 to 20) are items which show the public sector borrowing

requirement and its financing. The PSBR aggregate could not formerly be distinguished easily in the financial accounts as some items which fell within PSBR were included with non-PSBR items. The central government borrowing requirement items are similar to those shown in the CGBR financing table (3.8) except that foreign currency borrowing is distinguished separately. Public corporations debt is shown as a separate item and split between foreign currency and other debt and local authority foreign currency debt is also distinguished.

In the remaining series of the financial accounts sterling sight, sterling time and foreign currency bank deposits are now distinguished within total bank deposits though this breakdown is not available before Q3 1975. A sector analysis of two measures of money supply M1 and sterling M3 can be made by adding line 6 (notes and coin) to lines 19.1 and 19.2. Bank lending to the private and overseas sectors shows foreign currency and sterling lending separately, instead of the previous split between advances, commercial bills and market loans. Another important change is that UK company securities and overseas securities are separately shown.

The new matrix (Table 1.2) also shows the three sub-sectors of the public sector i.e. central government, local authorities and public corporations. The total public sector (excluding transactions between the three sub-divisions) is not shown in the matrix but is included in the times series table (1.6) in addition to the three sub-sector time series tables (1.3, 1.4 and 1.5). To assist users, the matrix also includes the capital account (lines 1 to 5) at the beginning of the table.

The time series tables for the nine sectors (Tables 1.3 to 1.11) show the same revised asset categories as in the matrix table except where, because of space constraints, it is not possible to show complete details. The corresponding line number as shown in the matrix is indicated at the head of the columns. A list of the revised asset categories is shown in the appendix to this article.

The new matrix will be published by the Bank of England from the June 1981 *Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin*. In addition they will show a seasonally adjusted matrix. The figures are compiled co-operatively between the CSO and the Bank but there will be differences between the two sets of tables because of the timing of revisions to the figures. Section 13 of the

National Income and Expenditure Blue Book for 1981 will contain the new presentation including the additional public sector time series tables.

A full description of the financial transactions accounts can be found in the 1981 Edition of the *Explanatory Handbook to Financial Statistics* published in April.

References

Financial Statistics (HMSO) (Price £6.50 net)
Financial Statistics Explanatory Handbook, 1981 Edition (HMSO) (Price £5.95 net)
Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin (Price £4 per copy)
United Kingdom flow of funds accounts: 1963-1976 (Bank of England) (Price £3 net)

APPENDIX

	Line number
Capital account	
Saving	1
Capital transfers (net receipts)	2
Gross domestic fixed capital formation	3
Increase in value of stocks and work in progress	4
Financial surplus or deficit	5
Financial transactions account	
Notes and coin	6
Market treasury bills	7
British government securities	8
National savings	9
Tax instruments	10
Net government indebtedness to Banking Department	11
Northern Ireland central government debt	12
Government liabilities under exchange cover scheme	13
Other non-marketable debt	14
Issue Department's transactions in commercial bills	15
Government foreign currency debt	16
Other government overseas financing	17
Official reserves	18
Local authority debt:	19
Temporary	19.1
Foreign currency	19.2
Sterling securities	19.3
Other sterling debt	19.4
Public corporations debt:	20
Foreign currency	20.1
Other	20.2
Deposits with banking sector:	21
Sterling sight	21.1
Sterling time	21.2
Foreign currency	21.3
Deposits with building societies	22
Deposits with other financial institutions	23
Bank lending (excluding public sector):	24
Foreign currency	24.1
Sterling	24.2
Credit extended by retailers	25
Identified trade credit:	26
Public corporations (domestic)	26.1
Import and export	26.2
Loans for house purchase:	27
Building societies	27.1
Other	27.2
Other public sector lending	28
Other lending by financial institutions	29
Unit trust units	30
UK company securities	31
Overseas securities	32
Life assurance and pension funds	33
Miscellaneous domestic instruments	34
Direct and other investment abroad	35
Overseas direct and other investment in UK	36
Miscellaneous overseas instruments	37
Accruals adjustment	38
Total financial transactions	39
Unidentified transactions	40
	53.3

The Work of the Survey Control Unit in 1980

Pat Kilbey, Senior Assistant Statistician, Central Statistical Office

Since 1972 the Survey Control Unit in the Central Statistical Office has been assessing the survey proposals of government departments and their agencies with the aim of minimising the burden on respondents and ensuring a generally high standard in the design and conduct of surveys. *Statistical News* No 45 contained an article¹ describing the general work of the Unit and measuring its effectiveness in terms of the proportion of the Unit's recommendations which were implemented. This was followed by an article² in *Statistical News* No 50 giving similar information on the work of the Unit in 1979; this article now looks at the work of 1980. The reader is referred to the first article for further background on the Unit's methods and on the criteria it uses in assessing surveys.

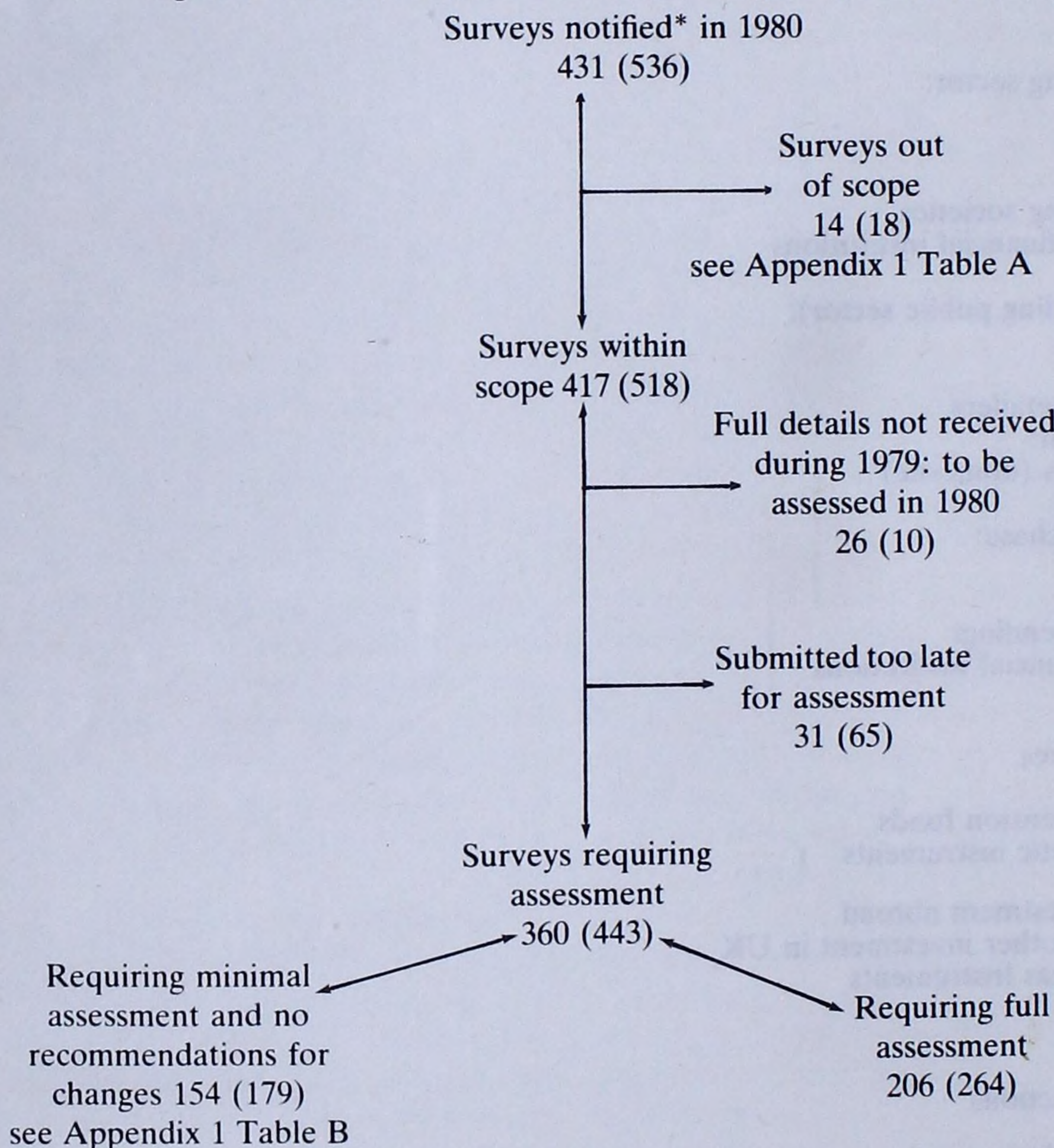
The Unit was notified of 431 surveys during 1980, including a few first reported in 1979 but for which full

details were not received until 1980. For various reasons not all the surveys required detailed assessment work by the Unit and Figure 1 shows the different categories.

Some 360 surveys (84 per cent of all those notified) required assessment and of these 43 per cent required only minimal assessment and no recommendations for change. Details are shown in Appendix 1 Table B.

In 1980, 206 surveys required a full assessment. This represents a drop of 22 per cent between 1979 and 1980 in the number of surveys fully assessed. The drop was more or less equally divided between business and local authority surveys on the one hand and household and individual surveys on the other. Analysis by department shows that the reduction was similar for all government departments and reflects a generally lower level of survey activity. The first indications are that

Figure 1: The Unit's work in 1980 (1979 figures in brackets)



*Including surveys notified earlier for which full details were first received in 1979.

survey activity is continuing at this lower level in 1981.

Table 1 (Appendix 1) shows that recommendations for change were made in 66 per cent of the full assessments – an increase reflecting the rise in the proportion of surveys (particularly to business and local authorities) where the Unit made recommendations for minor changes.

The Unit records the actions that have been taken on its recommendations and groups them into the three categories shown in Appendix 1, Tables 4 and 5. It takes time for actions to be reported back to the Unit and Table 3 shows that there were 33 surveys in 1980 for which actions are not yet known.

Appendix 2 contains new versions of Tables 4 and 5 for 1979, updated to include surveys for which the actions have become known since the previous article was written. In both tables the proportions of recommendations fully or substantially accepted have dropped compared to the earlier versions.

It is now possible to make a comparison of updated tables between 1978 and 1979. The table below shows the percentage of recommendations fully or substantially accepted for these two years.

Surveys for which actions fully or substantially met the recommendations

	<i>Surveys to businesses or local authorities</i>		<i>Other surveys</i>	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
Number of surveys for which major alterations were recommended	21	11	15	28
per cent	60	55	37	57
	—	—	—	—
Number of surveys for which minor alterations were recommended	21	14	23	22
per cent	57	78	49	65
	—	—	—	—

The proportion of major recommendations accepted for surveys to businesses or local authority surveys fell between the two years; otherwise there was a marked increase in acceptance. This is encouraging but suggests that the Unit should increase the effort it devotes to following up its major recommendations on surveys to businesses or local authorities. This is reinforced by comparison of the 1980 tables with the original tables for 1979², which suggests a further decline in acceptance of major recommendations. These results should be treated with caution, given the variation in the nature of surveys assessed each year.

References

1. 'Measuring the effectiveness of the Survey Control Unit', by Robin Horton. *Statistical News* 45.1.
2. 'The Work of the Survey Control Unit in 1979' by Fred Johnson. *Statistical News* 50.1.

Table 1
Surveys fully assessed, by type of recommendation made, 1980

	<i>Surveys to businesses and local authorities</i>		<i>Other surveys</i>		<i>All surveys</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
Total number of surveys requiring a full assessment	85	100	121	100	206	100
Surveys for which no recommendations for changes were made	26	31	44	36	70	34
Surveys for which recommendations for changes were made	59	69	77	64	136	66
Surveys for which major alterations to sample design, questionnaires, etc. were recommended	27	32	37	31	64	31
Surveys for which minor alterations to questionnaires, etc. were recommended	32	38	40	33	72	35

Table 2
Surveys cancelled or postponed, by type of recommendation made, 1980

	<i>Surveys to businesses and local authorities</i>		<i>Other surveys</i>		<i>All surveys</i>	
	<i>Number</i>					
Total number of surveys cancelled or postponed	1		1		2	
Surveys for which cancellation was recommended	0		0		0	
Surveys for which major alterations to sample design, questionnaires, etc. were recommended	0		1		1	
Surveys for which minor alterations to questionnaires etc. were recommended	1		0		1	

Table 3
Surveys for which resultant actions are not yet known, by type of recommendation made, 1980

	<i>Surveys to businesses and local authorities</i>		<i>Other surveys</i>		<i>All surveys</i>	
Total number of surveys for which resultant actions are not yet known	12		21		33	
Surveys for which cancellation was recommended	1		2		3	
Surveys for which major alterations to sample design, questionnaires, etc. were recommended	4		6		10	
Surveys for which minor alterations to questionnaires, etc. were recommended	7		13		20	

Table 4
Surveys to businesses and local authorities for which results are known, by type of recommendation, 1980

	<i>Actions completely or substantially meet recommendations</i>		<i>Actions partially meet recommendations</i>		<i>Actions slightly meet or do not meet recommendations</i>		<i>All surveys</i>
Total number of surveys for which recommendations were made	29		6		7		42
<i>per cent</i>	69		14		17		100
Surveys for which major alterations to sample design, questionnaires, etc. were recommended	9		5		4		18
<i>per cent</i>	50		28		22		100
Surveys for which minor alterations to questionnaires, etc. were recommended	20		1		3		24
<i>per cent</i>	83		4		13		100

Table 5

Surveys to households and individuals for which resultant actions are known, by type of recommendation, 1980

	<i>Actions completely or substantially meet recommendations</i>	<i>Actions partially meet recommendations</i>	<i>Actions slightly meet or do not meet recommendations</i>	<i>All surveys</i>
Total number of surveys for which recommendations were made	35	8	7	50
<i>per cent</i>	70	16	14	100
Surveys for which major alterations to sample design, questionnaires, etc. were recommended	15	6	4	25
<i>per cent</i>	60	24	16	100
Surveys for which minor alterations to questionnaires, etc. were recommended	20	2	3	25
<i>per cent</i>	80	8	12	100

Table A

Summary of those surveys notified to the Survey Control Unit during 1980 which were outside the scope of the Unit

	<i>Surveys to businesses and local authorities</i>	<i>Other surveys</i>	<i>All surveys</i>
Total number of surveys outside the scope of SCU	8	6	14
Number of statistical surveys conducted by government departments and their agencies addressed to fewer than ten respondents	7	3	10
Number of administrative enquiries conducted by government departments and their agencies	0	2	2
Number of enquiries carried out by bodies other than government departments and their agencies	1	1	2

Table B

Surveys requiring minimal assessment and no recommendations for change, 1980

	<i>Surveys to businesses and local authorities</i>	<i>Other surveys</i>	<i>All surveys</i>
Total number of surveys requiring minimal assessment and no recommendations for change	99	55	154
Surveys carried out by OPCS and GRO(S) for which survey control aspects had been considered prior to notification	0	6	6
<i>Ad hoc</i> surveys for which methodology and questionnaire design were similar to earlier surveys recognised by SCU	7	47	54
Regular surveys re-submitted to SCU, for which revisions made were insubstantial	92	2	94
Surveys which had been considered by CSO or other committees on which SCU was represented			
Regular surveys in existence and unchanged since 1971 or earlier, submitted to SCU for the first time in 1978			

Updated Tables for 1979

Tables 4 (Updated)

Surveys to businesses and local authorities for which results are known, by type of recommendation, 1979

	<i>Actions completely or substantially meet recommendations</i>	<i>Actions partially meet recommendations</i>	<i>Actions slightly meet or do not meet recommendations</i>	<i>All surveys</i>
Total number of surveys for which recommendations were made	25	5	8	39
<i>per cent</i>	66	13	21	100
Surveys for which major alterations to sample design, questionnaires, etc. were recommended	11	3	6	21
<i>per cent</i>	55	15	30	100
Surveys for which minor alterations to questionnaires, etc. were recommended	14	2	2	18
<i>per cent</i>	78	11	11	100

Table 5 (Updated)

Surveys to households and individuals for which resultant actions are known, by type of recommendation, 1979

	<i>Actions completely or substantially meet recommendations</i>	<i>Actions partially meet recommendations</i>	<i>Actions slightly meet or do not meet recommendations</i>	<i>All surveys</i>
Total number of surveys for which recommendations were made	50	11	22	83
<i>per cent</i>	60	13	27	100
Surveys for which major alterations to sample design, questionnaires, etc. were recommended	28	8	13	49
<i>per cent</i>	57	16	27	100
Surveys for which minor alterations to questionnaires, etc. were recommended	22	3	9	34
<i>per cent</i>	65	9	26	100

New road traffic censuses (Great Britain)

D E Allnutt, Statistician, Department of Transport

Introduction

John Munden's article¹ in *Statistical News* No 37 outlined the history of national road traffic censuses and described the censuses then in operation. The main censuses in 1977 were:

- a. Monthly Sample Traffic Census,
- b. General Traffic Census, and
- c. Benchmark Census.

These each used manual enumeration; that is people at the roadside classifying and counting the vehicles that passed during selected periods. These three censuses were supported by the '50 point' Census which used automatic equipment to count, but not classify by type, the vehicles passing a site in each hour of the year; and by similar continuous counting at certain other sites.

Over the last 3 years these arrangements have been thoroughly reviewed and a more cost-effective approach has been devised and is now being introduced. This involves replacing the four censuses mentioned above, and some of the other continuous counting, by two new censuses; known as the 'Rotating' and 'Core' censuses of traffic. The General Traffic Census (GTC), Benchmark Census, and '50 point' Census have already ceased operation; the Monthly Sample Traffic Census is being progressively run down during 1981.

This note describes the two new censuses, and outlines the advantages that will flow from their introduction.

The rotating census

This census, which is sometimes called the 'Link Based' Census of traffic, will involve counts on every motorway, trunk and principal road 'link' (i.e. section of road between major junctions) over a period, currently of 5 years. The census will also involve counts at about 3,500 sites on minor roads.

An inventory recording each link of the major road network in Great Britain has been defined and is being kept up to date to serve as a sampling frame for the major road sites. In any one year counting takes place at every fifth link along each major road. At present counting at each site is for one 12 hour day. Supplementary information on characteristics of the links, speed limit, road width, etc. is also being collated for use in the analysis of the traffic counts.

Some 13,000 minor road sites, classified into 6 types

of road, were selected at random and listed in grid reference order. The sites to be counted in any year, currently about 700 of them, are selected by interval sampling from these lists; thus providing a degree of geographic stratification. One day counts are also taken at these sites, except that highway authorities are asked to make estimates of the average annual daily traffic flow (AADT) at very low flow sites so as to avoid the cost of counting at such sites. This arrangement will have only a minor effect on the accuracy of census results.

This census provides counts, and hence traffic estimates, on far more links than did the GTC. The way the sites are chosen allows all of these counts to be used to estimate national traffic levels in basically the same way as the less frequent benchmark counts. So as to maximise the accuracy of the estimates of AADT for each individual site, counting is at present confined to those months for which the inter-site variation in the ratio of AADT to short period flow is at a minimum. These 'neutral' months are April, May, part of June, September and part of October.

The traffic counts for this census are taken by manual enumerators. Vehicles are classified into 11 types.

The core census

This census, which is being progressively introduced during 1981, will initially involve manual enumeration at 180 sites; each being counted for 3 (16 hour) days each month. The motorway sites are those previously used in the Monthly Sample Traffic Census.

The distribution of sites as between road classes has been arranged to permit the estimation of changes in the traffic of various vehicle types, and on various classes of road, to acceptable levels of accuracy. The distribution of sites, of any given road class, between Scotland, Wales, and the regions of England is pro rata to the length of road. Within this framework counting sites have been selected at random.

Between 1983 and 1986 enumeration for this census will be largely automated. The equipment to be used will classify vehicles into 20 types and provide counts for each hour of the year. Data will be automatically retrieved to a central point. Because so much more information will be provided for each site it will be possible to reduce the number of sites, probably to about 120, without reducing the accuracy of census results.

1. 'The National Road Traffic Censuses (Great Britain)'. J M Munden *Statistical News* No 37, May 1977 (HMSO)

The advantages of automation include the following:

- a. Costs will be reduced.
- b. Some of the continuous counting presently undertaken can be stopped.
- c. The amount of local authority manpower required for the core census will be reduced by some 90 per cent (from about 500,000 man hours per year to about 40,000).
- d. Speed data will be provided by the census equipment, allowing a major reduction in the periodic national speed surveys and providing more extensive data.
- e. Information about lane occupancy, which is of use for road maintenance planning and the determination of highway standards, will be provided.
- f. Reliable hourly profiles of traffic by road and vehicle class which are of value in the prediction of traffic flow and hence in road planning and management, will be produced.
- g. The equipment will, when necessary, provide data about each individual vehicle that passes a site; this will be of considerable value for research purposes.
- h. A more extensive vehicle classification will be available than could be obtained from manual counts. However, because the automatic equipment cannot separate light vans built on car chassis from cars, the estimate of light goods vehicle traffic may be less accurate than previously obtained with manual counts.
- i. Classified counts will be available for periods during which manual enumerators may be unwilling to work – e.g. public holidays or inclement weather.

It is also likely that the equipment will be able to measure axle weights. Such data would be of very considerable value in planning of road standards and maintenance.

Census output

The primary outputs from these censuses will be monthly national estimates of traffic classified by road and vehicle class, and estimates of average annual flow for each link of the major road network. All of these estimates will be produced by joint analyses of the two censuses. Within this joint analysis the Rotating Census primarily provides the basis of the estimates for each link. Because of the large number of sites involved it also provides the basis for estimation of national traffic levels. The Core Census, by repeated counts at the same sites, will be the primary source for assessment of the temporal pattern of traffic within a year and estimation of the rate at which traffic is increasing.

Regional and county estimates will be produced, in a

form comparable to that used for national estimates but less frequently.

The census will also produce estimates of the way in which vehicle speeds are changing and, it is expected, of the distribution of axle weights for different types of vehicle. The census computer system will make all the census data available for less frequent and ad hoc analysis; e.g. of night-time traffic.

The computer system will also accept traffic counts taken for other purposes. This will have two important benefits. By analysing census and other counts together, traffic estimates required for operational purposes (road scheme evaluation, traffic management, etc.) can be produced more efficiently; this is expected to result in a reduced level of traffic counting for operational purposes. Also authorities in some parts of the country are proposing to mount additional counts at randomly selected points on substantial road networks of interest to them. It will be possible to treat these sites as pseudo core census sites in the analysis of the census data, thus improving the traffic estimates both for the network concerned and nationally.

Summary

The new traffic census arrangements being introduced will provide more information than the previous censuses, both by providing more detailed traffic data and by additionally measuring vehicle speed and probably axle weight. Their introduction will also substantially reduce traffic census costs. Furthermore the computing systems being introduced to support the new censuses will permit more effective use of traffic data for national policy purposes and for traffic planning.

Recently available statistical series and publications

The following publications containing social statistics have recently, or will soon become available during April–June quarter of 1981. Unless otherwise specified, copies may be purchased from Her Majesty's Stationery Office. A list of release dates of economic series is published monthly in *Economic Trends*.

Department of Education and Science

Statistics of Education, Volume 4, 1979: Teachers Statistics 1979

Department of Employment

Employment Gazette, published towards the end of each month, contains indicators on earnings, unemployment and prices. Issues due in the second quarter will contain the Family Expenditure Survey results for the third quarter of 1980.

Department of the Environment

Housing and Construction Statistics, fourth quarter 1980 Part 2, No 5

Local Housing Statistics. Issue 57: figures for the fourth quarter of 1980

Housing and Construction Statistics, first quarter, 1981 Part 1, No 6

Home Office

Report of the Police Complaints Board, 1980

Coroners Statistics, England and Wales, 1970–80

Report of the Gaming Board for Great Britain, 1980

Report of the Prison Department, England and Wales, 1980

Control of Immigration Statistics, United Kingdom, 1980

Report on the Work of the Equal Opportunities Commission, 1980

Report of the Parole Board, 1980

Report of HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, 1980

Report of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, 1980

Report on the Work of the Commission for Racial Equality, 1980

Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, 1980

Serious Offences Recorded by the Police, first quarter 1981, England and Wales

Statistics of Drowning, 1980, England and Wales

Inland Revenue

Survey of Personal Incomes 1978–1979

Office of Population Censuses and Surveys

OPCS Monitors are available free from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys and include:

<i>Weekly Return</i>	WR	Weekly
<i>Births and Deaths</i>	VS	Monthly
<i>Legal Abortions</i>	AB	Monthly
<i>Deaths from Accidents</i>	DH4	Monthly
<i>Infectious Diseases</i>	MB2	Quarterly
<i>International Migration</i>	MN	Quarterly
<i>Deaths by Cause</i>	DH2	Quarterly
<i>Adoptions</i>	FM3	Annually
<i>Electoral Statistics</i>	EL	Annually
<i>Infant and Perinatal Statistics</i>	DH3	Occasional
<i>Population Estimates</i>	PP1	Occasional
<i>Census</i>	CEN	Occasional

Scottish Office

Scottish Economic Bulletin No 22

Scottish Housing Statistics No 11

Scottish Housing Statistics No 12

Scottish Abstract of Statistics No 10

Scottish Education Department

Statistical Bulletin: Enrolment of Students in Vocational Further Education

Statistical Bulletin: Excess and Deficit of Teachers by subject

Statistical Bulletin: Activities of Secondary School Teachers

Statistical Bulletin: Pupils and Teachers in Schools

Statistical Bulletin: Students in Courses of Non-Vocational Further Education

Department of Health and Social Security

In addition to the above, the following analyses in the Department of Health and Social Security statistical series have recently become available. Extracts and summaries from these will eventually be published in *Social Security Statistics*.

Further information can be obtained from:

Mr R J McWilliam,

Department of Health and Social Security,

Room A2216,

Newcastle Central Office,

Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE98 1YX

Unemployment benefit

Quarterly analyses of registered unemployment claimant, quarter ending 12 February 1981

Quarterly analyses of decisions of Insurance Officers, quarter ending 31 March 1981

Monthly analysis of claims by sex and region:

- 5 weeks ending 3.1.81
- 4 weeks ending 31.1.81
- 4 weeks ending 28.2.81

Child benefit

Monthly analysis of families and children, 3 months ended 31.12.80

Sickness invalidity and injury benefits

Monthly analysis of weekly average of new claims by region: GB:

- 4 weeks ended 27.1.81
- 4 weeks ended 24.2.81
- 5 weeks ended 31.3.81

Retirement pension and widows benefit

Number of widows receiving pensions or widows allowances, quarter ending 31.3.81

New surveys assessed by the Survey Control Unit

December 1980 to February 1981

For further information on the surveys listed, the appropriate departmental contact may be obtained from Mr R. C. Ponman (01-233 8583), Survey Control Unit, Central Statistical Office, Great George Street, London SW1P 3AQ.

An introductory note was given in Statistical News 36.41

New Surveys assessed December 1980 to February 1981

<i>Title</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Those approached</i>	<i>Approximate number approached</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
Business surveys					
Tourist Accommodation and Attractions in the Isle of Wight	ETB	Service Companies	1050	SE	AH
Readership Survey of Special Bulletins for Farmers	MAFF	Farmers	700	WM	AH
Survey of Technicians in Engineering – Engineering ITB	MSC	Engineering Firms	1000	GB	AH
Ceramics, Glass and Mineral Products ITB (CGMPITB) Statutory Return – Part B	MSC	All Leivable Companies in scope	1010	GB	A
Support for Block Courses in Ceramic Technology – CGMPITB	MSC	Bricks, Refractories and Pipes Firms	200	EW	AH
Technological Change in the Pottery Industry – CGMPITB	MSC	Pottery Firms	30	GB	AH
Design Engineers in engineering	NEDO	Engineering Companies	520	GB	AH
Survey on New Consumer Credit – Licensees	OFT	Service Companies	300	UK	AH
Local authority surveys					
'Parents for Children' Agency – Social Worker and Family Interviews	DHSS	Social Services Departments	18	SE	AH
Access to Birth Records – Counselling of Adopted Persons	DHSS	Social Services Departments	116	EW	AH
Derelict Land Survey 1981	DOE	District Councils and London Boroughs	365	E	AH
Efficiency in Local Plan Preparation	DOE	Planning Departments	50	E	AH
Bail etc (Scotland) Act 1980 Survey	SO	Police	38	S	AH
Other surveys					
Energy – 1981 Advertising Concept Research	COI/DEN	Adults	112	E	AH
Car Sharing Campaign Evaluation	COI/DTP	Commuters	4000	GB	AH
Crime Prevention, 1981 Campaign Evaluation	COI/HOME		1100	E	AH
WRAC – Press Campaign Pre-test	COI/MOD	Youths	36	E	AH
OPCS Census Evaluation	COI/OPCS	Adults	4000	GB	AH
Research on Unemployed Graduate Teachers	DEM	Teachers	1000	EW	AH
Women and Unemployment	DEM	Women	200	GB	AH
Mutual Aid and Social Welfare	DHSS	Members	90	E	AH
Maternity Care and the Emotional Needs of Mothers	DHSS	Mothers	720	E	AH
Thamesmead Dental Health Project	DHSS	Mothers	1000	SE	AH
Research on Rent Arrears	DOE	Tenants	2000	E	AH
EEC Blood Lead Surveys 1981	DOE	Adults	5500	GB	AH
Deprivation in Rural Areas	DOE	Households	1000	E	AH
Land Reclamation Project in North Staffordshire	DOE	Adults	1403	WM	AH
Re-housing of Hostel Residents	DOE	Former Hostel Residents	400	E	AH
Lorry Driver Survey	DTP	Drivers	150	SE	AH
Access to Hospitals for Visitors	DTP	Adults	200	W	AH
Pre and Post Survey of 'England's North Country' ITV Campaign	ETB	Adults	2000	E	AH
Self-Reported Offending	HOME	Adults	600	EW	AH
Public Attitudes to Occupational and Environmental Risks	HSE	Adults	1600	EW	AH
Re-contact with Youth Opportunities Programme Participants	MSC	Youths	2000	GB	AH
Evaluation of MSC-Aided Apprenticeships	MSC	Apprentices and Employers	20	GB	AH
Telephone Selling	OFT	Adults	2000	GB	AH
Urban Renewal Projects in Deprived Public Sector Housing	SDD	Tenants	850	S	AH
Survey of Recent House Purchasers	SDD	House Purchasers	1600	S	AH
Practical Work in the Teaching of Anatomy, Physiology and Health	SED	Teachers	130	S	AH
Proposed Midland Main Railway Line Survey	TRRL	Passengers	65000	E	AH
Pedal Cycle Lighting Survey	TRRL	Cyclists	1000	EA	AH
Survey of British Coachways Operations	TRRL	Passengers	6000	SE	AH
Survey of Car Sharing – Effects of 1980 Transport Act	TRRL	Commuters	500	GB	AH

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

General

EEC	European Economic Community
ITB	Industry Training Board
NK	Not Known
WRAC	Women's Royal Army Corps

Frequencies

A	Annual
AH	Ad Hoc (or single Time)

Sponsors

COI	Central Office of Information
DEM	Department of Employment
DEN	Department of Energy
DHSS	Department of Health and Social Security
DI	Department of Industry
DOE	Department of the Environment
DTP	Department of Transport
ETB	English Tourist Board
HOME	Home Office
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
MOD	Ministry of Defence
MSC	Manpower Services Commission
NEDO	National Economic Development Office
OFT	Office of Fair Trading
OPCS	Office of Population Censuses and Surveys
SDD	Scottish Development Department
SED	Scottish Education Department
SO	Scottish Office
TRRL	Transport and Road Research Laboratory

Locations

E	England
EA	East Anglia
EW	England and Wales
GB	Great Britain
S	Scotland
SE	South East England
UK	United Kingdom
W	Wales
WM	West Midlands

Notes on current developments

Population and Vital Statistics

People in Britain – Census teaching packs

Four Census Teaching Packs published in January by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys will help teachers explain to their pupils just what the 1981 Population Census is all about.

Selections from a series of 12 illustrated work cards and their associated fact sheets are arranged in four study areas – Geography, History, Social Studies and Computer Studies. Each is a self-contained unit of study covering common general principles as well as specialist material, and is designed for use in conjunction with the Census Wallchart published last year.

Daphne Turner, Director of the Schools Council Project on Statistical Education at Sheffield University, was commissioned by OPCS to write the fact sheets, work cards, and teachers' notes which, together with supporting resource material, make up each pack.

Teachers in both secondary schools and further education colleges should find the practical approach taken by the author of great value in helping them to explain the Census in a lively and relevant way.

The packs have been designed with easy reproduction on A4 paper in mind and may be freely copied for maximum use within schools and colleges.

For a review pack contact OPCS Press Office.

References

Census Teaching Packs. £6.90 each including postage and packing from Census Information Unit (Dept CPN) St Catherines House, 10 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6JP.

People in Britain: an educational wallchart. £1.95 plus 40p postage and packing available from Census Information Unit (Dept CMS) at the above address.

Population Trends

The latest edition of *Population Trends*, the quarterly journal of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, was published in March. This issue contains the following articles:

Census 1981 – an historical and international perspective

The latest decennial Census of Population in the UK took place on 5 April 1981. This article by Philip Redfern, Deputy Director, OPCS, discusses the census in its historical context and compares it with census practice in four other developed countries (Australia, Canada, France and the United States). The article is divided into two parts. The first considers the broad structure of the census, including the choice of household as the unit and the instructions on who should be

entered on the census form, and goes on to discuss the topic content of the census; the second part reviews census methods and technology.

Migration patterns of Surrey, Devon and South Yorkshire

The 1971 Census gave a vast amount of information on the areas of origin and destination of migrants; the numbers of migrants between every pair of local authorities in Great Britain are available. Similar analyses will be possible from the Census of 1981. This article by John Craig, Population Statistics Division, OPCS, highlights the characteristics of such statistics by looking at the 1971 figures for one county (Surrey) in detail and examining the pattern of two other contrasting counties (Devon and South Yorkshire). In particular, rates for different types of local authority district at different distances have been calculated and analysed.

Prospects for mortality decline in England and Wales

The official projections of the population of England and Wales for the year 2018 show an increase in the number of persons of retirement age of more than 10 per cent to a figure of nearly 9½ million, while the numbers of those aged 75 and over are expected to increase by nearly 20 per cent to 3.2 million. In this article, Bernard Benjamin and Elizabeth Overton of the Policy Studies Institute, explore some alternative possibilities for mortality improvement and calculate the effect that these would have on the age distribution of the population, especially at older ages.

Annually and quarterly statistics on population, population change, vital statistics summaries, births, marriages, divorces, migration, deaths and abortions are also included.

Reference

Population Trends 23 Spring 1981. (HMSO 1981) (Price £4.20 net)

Electoral statistics

Electoral statistics 1980 was published in February. The volume is divided into two sections:

- a) The Parliamentary section contains tables showing, for 1980, numbers of Parliamentary electors, the size of Parliamentary constituencies, those with the largest and smallest numbers of electors and the largest in terms of physical size. These

figures relate to the United Kingdom and its constituent countries.

- b) The table on local government relates to England and Wales only and gives local government electors on the 1980 register.

Two OPCS Monitors have also been issued giving provisional statistics from the 1981 Electoral Register which came into operation on 16 February 1981.

Published in March was the report of the Steering Committee to the Registrars General on the feasibility of extending the electoral registration canvass to provide better population statistics. The report summarises the steps that led to the setting up of the feasibility study and sets out the results of the study.

The Government's decision not to proceed with the proposed extension of the electoral canvass was announced in Parliament on 27 June 1980.

The Steering Committee, set up by the Registrars General under an OPCS Chairman, included representatives of central government departments, local authority associations and electoral registration officers.

A further Occasional Paper was also published in March; this contained reports of two random sample surveys carried out by the Social Survey Division of OPCS to investigate public reaction to additional questions on the electoral registration canvass.

References

- Electoral statistics 1980*. (Series EL No 7) (HMSO 1981) (Price £3.60 net)
Electoral statistics: Local government areas. OPCS Monitor (reference EL 81/1) (OPCS 1981) (Free)
Electoral statistics: Parliamentary constituencies. OPCS Monitor (reference EL 81/2) (OPCS 1981) (Free)
Extending the electoral register - 1. Report of the Steering Committee to the Registrar General. Occasional Paper 20. (OPCS 1981) (Price 70p net)
Extending the electoral register - 2. Two surveys. Occasional Paper 21. (OPCS 1981) (Price £1.00 net)

Marriage and divorce, England and Wales

Published in March were OPCS Monitors on Marriage and Divorce. The Marriages Monitor (Reference FM2 81/1) gives summary data for 1978 and 1979 and includes data on median and quartile ages at marriage. The number of marriages in 1978 (at 368 thousand) represented an increase of 3 per cent over the number in 1977. In 1979, the total number of marriages was 369 thousand, a further increase of 0.2 per cent over 1978. The Divorces Monitor (Reference FM2 81/2) provides summary data for 1979 when the number of decrees made absolute (139 thousand) was 3 per cent lower than in 1978 (144 thousand). The provisional figure for 1980 is 148 thousand.

Copies of these Monitors are available (free of charge) from:

Information Branch (Dept. M)
Office of Population Censuses and Surveys
St Catherines House

10 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6JP

Birth statistics 1979

The number of live births in 1979 (638 thousand) was nearly 7 per cent higher than the number in the previous year (596 thousand) which was itself an increase of 5 per cent over the figure for 1977 (569 thousand), the lowest annual total this century. The latest detailed analyses of births by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, published by HMSO in March, contains tabulations of the births by season of birth, age of parents, number of previous liveborn children, duration of marriage, area of usual residence, place of confinement and social class. Data on birthplace of parents are also included giving more details than those tables previously published in February as OPCS Monitors. The volume also looks at multiple births, fertility and abortion, and contains cohort analyses of births to women born between 1920 and 1964 and to women married between 1920 and 1977.

References

- Birth statistics 1979*. Series FM1 No 6. (HMSO 1981) (Price £8.70 net)
Births by birthplace of parent 1979. OPCS Monitor (reference FM1 81/1) (OPCS 1981)
Births by birthplace of mother in 1979: local authority areas. OPCS Monitor (reference FM1 81/2) (OPCS 1981)

International migration 1979

Detailed figures produced by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys on international migration during 1979 for the United Kingdom and for England and Wales were published in April by HMSO. The volume is divided into five sections; the first two contain information for the period 1970 to 1979, while the third section concentrates on detailed figures for 1979. The final two sections summarise some of the migration information available from other published sources. The introduction to the volume comments on 1979 figures.

OPCS Monitor MN 81/1 issued in January 1981 gave some 1980 figures for international migration to and from the United Kingdom.

References

- International migration 1979*. Series MN No 6 (HMSO 1981) (Price £4.70 net)
International migration. OPCS Monitor reference MN 81/1 (OPCS 1981) (Free).

Local authority statistics

Birth and death rates in local authority districts in England and Wales were published in March. The report, produced by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys and published by HMSO, gives 1979 figures of births by legitimacy and sex of child, deaths,

infant deaths and stillbirths for each of the local government districts and health authorities which came in to being on 1 April 1974. Aggregates for standard regions and regional health authorities are also included.

Reference

Local authority vital statistics 1979. Series VS No 6. (HMSO 1981) (Price £3.60 net)

Reviews of local authority population estimates

OPCS is planning to use the 1981 Census to review the sources and methods used by those local authorities which have made their own population estimates. The aim being to decide the extent (if any) to which information which is peculiar to a single authority, or a group of authorities, can be used by OPCS when making population estimates. In recent years the OPCS practice – following NLGSLC discussions – has been to use a standard method and standard sources for all authorities. The intention is to see whether there is a case for OPCS taking into account non-standard sources and methods. The intention will be to draw *general* conclusions about how good particular techniques and sources are in different types of authority – it is *not* intended to critically review the estimates for individual authorities. A letter has been sent to each local authority in England and Wales asking for details of their 1980 (or latest) estimates.

Of course OPCS will also be reviewing its own sources and methods in the light of the 1981 Census to assess whether any other changes are required. As relevant background OPCS has published an Occasional Paper showing how the 1971 estimates in the 1961–1971 series of local authority estimates compared with the 1971 estimate derived from the 1971 Census. The areas used however are the post-1974 authorities so the booklet will provide an historical background to the 1981 comparisons. As well as a geographical listing, summary tables have been compiled. It is found that of the 403 districts in England and Wales just over half had an error in the original 1971 estimate which was less than 2000 persons *and* also less than 2 per cent. If these limits are reduced to 1000 persons and 1 per cent then one quarter of the districts lie within the limits; with 5000 persons and 5 per cent this rises to three quarters. In 1971 where the estimates had gone badly wrong was in the big cities (Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham and parts of London) which had large population losses. These losses had been underestimated (and populations overestimated). The changes in the method introduced as a result of the 1971 experience should, other things being equal, mean that these extreme cases will not recur in 1981 to the same extent.

For 1981 the preliminary Census counts – due out in

June – should give some idea of any large discrepancies between the Census and the current annual population estimates. However a detailed assessment will not be possible until after the more detailed and accurate results are released in 1982.

Reference

Revised mid-1971 population estimates for local authorities compared with the original estimates. Occasional Paper 22. (OPCS 1981) (Price £1.00, available from OPCS Information Branch).

General Register Office for Scotland

The Registrar General's second quarterly return for 1980, including an analysis of district council electorate in addition to the usual quarterly tables, was published earlier this year. The third quarterly return was published in March. This series will be concluded after the last 1980 return, and the more important components released in the revised weekly return from April this year.

Information on the revised weekly return, and a subscription form, may be obtained from Statistics Branch, Ladywell House, Ladywell Road, Edinburgh EH12 7TF.

Other departmental publications available from the above address include the personal name supplement to the Registrar General's 1978 annual report (printed as a separate extract at £2.00 net) and the 1969–1973 occupational mortality report for Scotland.

Reference

Registrar General for Scotland. Quarterly Return. Births, Deaths and Marriages. No 502 June 1980 (HMSO 1981) (Price £2.25 net).

SOCIAL STATISTICS

Public attitudes to deafness

Published in March was *Public attitudes to deafness*, the report of a survey carried out by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys for the Department of Health and Social Security. The purpose of the survey was to explore the attitudes of the general public towards deafness and their knowledge of the effects of this disability on people's lives. The information will be used to increase public awareness and understanding of the problems of the deaf.

The report analyses communication difficulties resulting from deafness and the limitations of hearing aids. It looks at public knowledge of services and organisations for the deaf and explores people's awareness of the implications of deafness for employment, social life, parenthood and education. The report indicates the public's assessment of the seriousness of

deafness as a handicap in comparison with other disabilities.

Reference

Public attitudes to deafness by Claire Bunting (SS1117) (HMSO 1981) (Price £6.80 net)

Regional Trends: 1981 Edition

The sixteenth annual volume of *Regional Trends*, formerly known as *Regional Statistics*, was published on 26 February 1981.

Regional Trends brings together detailed information covering a wide range of subjects – social, economic and demographic – mainly in respect of the standard economic planning regions, but other geographical areas are included where appropriate. The volume highlights regional variations and similarities within the United Kingdom. This publication is an important reference document for regional planners, marketing managers, academics and others with regional interests.

Regional Trends contain some results from the 1979 Labour Force Survey including civilian activity rates and details of part-time employment.

Data on non-fuel commodities trade from the 1978 Survey of Inland Origins and Destinations of UK International Trade are included, as are selected results from the latest Long Distance Travel Survey.

Sub-regional results from the National Dwelling and Housing Survey have been incorporated in the profiles for the English regions and similar results included in respect of Welsh Counties.

Other new subjects included this year are leisure activities, prosecutions for excess alcohol, air pollution, residential area of university undergraduates, Job Release Scheme applicants and redundancy payments.

Regional Trends has more than 160 tables and 60 diagrams and maps, three-quarters of which are in colour. Commentaries on each subject highlight and contrast the various areas.

Reference

Regional Trends 1981 Edition (HMSO) (Price £11.95 net)

Amendments to Social Trends 11

The 1981 edition of *Social Trends* was published by HMSO on 11 December 1980. The following errors have since been discovered in the published version:

Page 48, Text

1st paragraph, line 6, **delete** '42.7 million', **insert** '28 million'.

Page 115, Text

Last paragraph, last line, **delete** 'weekly'.

Page 206, Table 13.8

Row '1979', column 'Rest of England', **delete** '1,654', **insert** '1,574',
column 'England & Wales', **delete** '8,394', **insert** '8,314',
column 'Great Britain', **delete** '8,783', **insert** '8,703'.

Any inquiries should be referred to Ron Freeman (01-233 8387) in the Central Statistical Office, Great George Street, London SW1P 3AQ

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Communicable disease statistics

The annual report *Communicable Disease Statistics 1979* was published in March.

This volume formerly known as *Statistics of infectious diseases* is now issued as a collaborative report from the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (CDSC) and the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys. In addition to the routine tabulations which appeared in the former publication there is now a commentary provided by the CDSC which reviews the main features of infectious disease in England and Wales during the year.

Reference

Communicable disease statistics 1979. Series MB2 No 6. (HMSO 1981) (Price £5.60 net).

EDUCATION STATISTICS

Education for 16–19 year olds

In January 1981 a group drawn from local authority associations, DES and other government departments published its findings in *Education for 16–19 year olds*¹. This review includes a substantial amount of statistical data and detailed tables from standard systems. These analyses co-ordinate data from schools and establishments of further education, showing that some 30 per cent of those aged 16–19 took part in full-time education after the school leaving age in 1978–79 with a further 14 per cent in part-time day courses. Two fifths of the age group receiving full-time education attended institutions catering solely for students over 16 years of age. Such institutes include 15 tertiary colleges and 17 sixth form colleges. The review drew attention to DES Statistical Bulletin 15/79 which showed that two thirds of the variation between local education authorities in full-time participation in CSE or GCE courses in school and further education could be explained by the proportion of non-manual heads of households in an area.

Further information from:

Mrs S Keith

DES

Elizabeth House,

York Road, London SE1 7PH

Telephone 01-928 9222 Ext 2540

1. Copies of this publication can be obtained from:

The Publications Despatch Centre

Department of Education and Science

Honeypot Lane

Canons Park

Stanmore

Middlesex HA7 1AZ

Telephone 01-952 2366

Full-time and sandwich students in British universities

Provisional information on the numbers of full-time and sandwich, undergraduate and post-graduate students recorded in British universities in October 1980 were presented in DES Statistical Bulletin 3/81. This includes analyses by home/overseas fee-paying status and sex, and similar statistics of new entrants. In each case comparable figures for earlier years are shown.

Reference

Provisional figures of full-time and sandwich students in British universities in 1980/81. DES Statistical Bulletin 3/81 (Available free from Statistics Branch, DES Elizabeth House, York Road, London SE1 7PH)

Overseas Students

The Department of Education and Science has published a statistical bulletin presenting the results of special exercises to collect data about the number of overseas students enrolled at higher and further education establishments in the academic year 1980-81. The bulletin shows separate figures for universities and for advanced and non-advanced further education together with comparable data for earlier years.

Reference

Enrolments of overseas students in 1980-81. DES Statistical Bulletin 4/81. (Available free from address given above)

Enrolments on advanced further education courses

DES Statistical Bulletin 2/81 gave early information about enrolments on advanced courses in further education establishments in England and Wales for October 1980. The tables give information about the students' mode of attendance (full-time and part-time), qualification aim, subject of study and year of course. Final figures will be published later in the year.

Reference

Enrolments on advanced further education courses 1980-81. DES Statistical Bulletin 2/81. (Available free from address given above).

MANPOWER AND EARNINGS

New Towns Staff – Pay

Report No 12 of the Standing Commission on Pay Comparability under the Chairmanship of Professor Sir John Wood, published in December 1980, covered the pay of some 7,500 staff employed in the development corporations of new towns and in the Commission for New Towns, in administrative, professional, technical and clerical (and related) posts. The numbers of staff by grade are shown in Table 1.

The Civil Service Pay Research Unit (PRU) provided details of remuneration for 700 jobs selected from 139 organisations using 'job-for-job' comparisons as favoured by the Commission. Appendices 1 and 2 give the distribution of these organisations by industrial order and region. Table 2 summarises the PRU data, showing for each New Towns Staff grade the comparators' median maximum pay both after initial adjustments for quantified fringe benefits and after further adjustments for paid leave and hours of work. Table 3 analyses the impact on grade differentials of a strict application of the increases suggested by the PRU data. Finally, Appendix 3 compares the typical paid sick leave entitlements of comparators and New Towns Staff.

Reference

Standing Commission on Pay Comparability, Report No 12. New Towns Staff (Cmnd 8109) (HMSO) December 1980 (Price £2.10 net)

University clerical staff – Pay

Report No 13 of the Standing Commission on Pay Comparability under the Chairmanship of Professor Sir John Wood, published in February 1981, covered the pay of some 19,000 secretarial, clerical, library and certain related staff, who provide support for university teaching and administrative staff.

The Office of Manpower Economics, which provides the secretariat for the Standing Commission, conducted a survey of staff numbers in the 43 universities covered by the reference (Appendix 1), conditions of employment, and recruitment. In Appendix 3, Table A shows the resulting estimates of staff numbers by grade and salary scale point, while Tables B and C analyse full-time equivalent staff numbers by grade and job category.

The Civil Service Pay Research Unit (PRU) provided details of remuneration for 439 jobs selected from 106 organisations (analysed by industry group in Appendix 6) using 'job-for-job' comparisons. The PRU also assessed 239 reference group posts in 9 universities covering each grade and main job category (Appendix 5). Table 2 summarises the PRU data, showing for each university clerical grade the comparators' median maxi-

mum pay after adjustment for quantified fringe benefits and paid leave. Finally, Appendix 7 compares the typical sick pay entitlements of comparators and university clerical staff.

Reference

Standing Commission on Pay Comparability, Report No 13: University Clerical Staff (Cmnd. 8144) (HMSO) February 1981 (Price £2.40 net)

University computer operating staff – pay

Report No 15 of the Standing Commission on Pay Comparability under the Chairmanship of Professor Sir John Wood, published in March 1981, covered the pay of some 800 university computer operating staff, and was the Commission's final report.

The Office of Manpower Economic, which provided the secretariat for the Commission, conducted a survey of staff numbers and functions, conditions of employment, and recruiting in 42 universities covered by the reference (Appendix 1). Table 1 gives the numbers of staff by grade, while Appendix 7 analyses vacancies and recruitment by grade.

The Civil Service Pay Research Unit (PRU) assessed a sample of reference group posts (Appendix 4) and provided details of comparable jobs from 39 organisations (analysed by industry group and geographical distribution in Appendix 5) using 'job-for-job' comparisons as favoured by the Commission. Table 2 summarises the PRU data, showing for each university grade the comparators' median maximum pay (excluding shift pay) after adjustment for quantified fringe benefits and leave allowance. Appendix 7 analyses vacancies and recruitment in the PRU comparator organisations (as well as the universities as noted above), while typical sick pay entitlements and shift allowances are compared in Appendices 6 and 8 respectively.

Reference

Standing Commission on Pay Comparability, Report No 15: University Computer Operating Staff (Cmnd. 8203) (HMSO) March 1981 (Price £2.40 net)

Chief Officials of Local Authorities in Scotland – pay

Report No 14 of the Standing Commission on Pay Comparability under the Chairmanship of Professor Sir John Wood, published in March 1981, covered the pay of some 780 chief officials and their deputies. Appendix 1 analyses the numbers of these posts by job function at both regional and district level. The basis of the salary structure of the reference group is set out in Appendix 3.

The Civil Service Pay Research Unit (PRU) provided details of remuneration from 139 jobs using 'job-for-job' comparison selected from 30 organisations (analysed by industry group and geographical distribution in Appendix 4) and applied a 'confidence rating' to each job ('high', 'low', or 'medium') to reflect the

degree of equivalence they felt existed between it and the chief official post under comparison. Appendix 6 analyses relative earnings of both chief officials and their comparators by job function and these findings were used by the Standing Commission in formulating their pay recommendations for the reference group (Chapter 4). Finally, Appendix 5 compares the typical sick pay entitlements of comparators with those of chief officials.

Reference

Standing Commission on Pay Comparability, Report No 14: Chief Officials of Local Authorities in Scotland (Cmnd. 8202) (HMSO) March 1981 (Price £2.40 net)

Census of employment

The results of the June 1978 census of employment for Great Britain as a whole were published in the *Employment Gazette* for February 1981. For the standard regions and the United Kingdom detailed analyses were published in the March issue.

Both for operational reasons and those of economy no census was taken in either 1979 or 1980. The next census is planned for 1981 and to relate to a September date rather than June as in previous censuses; the majority of forms will be despatched to employers in October. This timing will avoid a conflict of demand on the Department of Employment's resources with the New Earnings Survey, held in April, and with a peak period of work at unemployment benefit offices. National and regional results are expected to be available within a period of 12 months of the census date.

Reference

Employment Gazette, February and March 1981 (HMSO) (Price £2.00 net each)

Monthly and quarterly series of employees in employment

The census of employment provides the accurate 'benchmark' figures to which the Department of Employment realigns the up-to-date industrial and regional employment estimates for Great Britain obtained from the monthly and quarterly sample enquiries. The June 1978 census results, now available (see above), have replaced the earlier estimates for that date in the monthly and quarterly series and revisions have been made to the estimates for other dates subsequent to June 1977. An article giving details of the availability of revised figures was published in the March issue of the Department of Employment's monthly magazine, *Employment Gazette*.

Publication of the quarterly series 'estimates of the numbers of female part-time employees' has been resumed. The quarterly enquiry obtains information on the numbers of such workers from employers in the sample but earlier estimates derived from this information were found to be unreliable and publication was

discontinued. New estimating procedures have now been developed and comparisons with the results of the census indicate that the new method is proving satisfactory.

Reference

Employment Gazette, March 1981 (HMSO) (Price £2.00 net)

Unfair dismissal statistics

A recently issued paper by members of the Department of Employment's Social Science Branch discusses all available official and non-official data on patterns of representation of the parties to unfair dismissal cases brought before industrial tribunals. It begins by reviewing debates about the value of legal and other forms of representation before tribunals, goes on to discuss methodological problems encountered in official and non-official statistical sources in the area, and offers a general picture of changes since 1972.

Reference

Patterns of representation of the parties in unfair dismissal cases: a review of the evidence by W. R. Hawes and Gillian Smith. Department of Employment, 1981

Earnings and hours of manual workers in October 1980

The March 1981 issue of *Employment Gazette* contains the results of the latest of the Department of Employment's annual surveys of the earnings and hours of manual workers in index of production industries (other than coal mining), transport (other than sea transport) and communication, public administration and some miscellaneous services. This is the main source of information on manual workers' earnings in fine industrial detail.

The 1980 survey distinguished workers on adult rates from those on other rates, whereas in earlier surveys a distinction was made in terms of age (males 21 and over and females 18 and over). This change of definition introduces a small element of discontinuity between the 1980 results and those for earlier years, but in calculating the increases between 1979 and 1980 an allowance has been made for the change using information from the 1980 New Earnings Survey.

In October 1980 average earnings in certain industries were considerably depressed by short-time working. To help analyse this, the article gives the proportion of firms affected by short-time working in each industry, and the proportion of employment in survey firms which they represent, and quotes average weekly earnings both including and excluding such firms. To permit meaningful comparisons with earlier years, the main results of the survey exclude firms affected by short-time working.

Reference

Employment Gazette, March 1981 (HMSO) (Price £2.00 net)

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Agricultural censuses and surveys

June 1980 Agricultural and Horticultural Census

- i. The final results for the United Kingdom were published in Statistical Information Notice Stats No. 7/81 on 8 January 1981.
- ii. The county/regional results (PSM statement) for England and Wales were published in January 1981.

October 1980 Vegetable and Flower Census

- i. The results of the 1980 census in England and Wales were published in Statistical Information Notice Stats No. 25/81 on 23 January 1981.
- ii. The county/regional results (PSM statement) for England and Wales were published in February 1981.

December 1980 Agricultural Census

For the first time a combined United Kingdom (Provisional) and England (Final) results Press Notice has been compiled. This Press Notice Stats 60/81 was published on 5 March 1981.

December 1980 Glasshouse Census

The results of the census will be published shortly. The PSM statements mentioned above may be obtained from:

Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food,
Room A615,
Government Buildings,
Epsom Road,
Guildford GU1 2LD.

National Food Survey

The National Food Survey Committee's recently published Annual Report for 1979 presents analyses of data obtained from the National Food Survey about household food consumption, expenditure and nutritional levels in Great Britain in 1979. The data and comment are in a fuller and more extensive form than those given in preliminary quarterly summaries included in the Ministry's *Food Facts* series of September 3 and October 22, 1979, and of March 3 and June 2, 1980.

In addition to providing detailed analyses of changes in national average household food consumption and nutrition in 1979, the Report also presents, in tabular form, averages for each of the standard statistical regions and other areas, and for groups of households classified according to income and to family composition. Averages are also given for groups of households classified according to the age of the housewife, to housing tenure, and to whether or not a deep-freezer is owned.

An appendix to the Report gives estimates of income and price elasticities of demand for food and of other

demand parameters derived from analyses of the Survey data; these results are prefaced by a full account of the statistical techniques employed. Another appendix gives a general account of the structure and methodology of the Survey.

Summarised results of the Survey are also published in the *Monthly Digest of Statistics* as soon as they become available. They are supplemented by brief quarterly commentaries in *British business*. Additional information in a more detailed form is also obtainable each quarter; application for such data should be addressed to:

National Food Survey Branch
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Tolcarne Drive
Pinner
Middlesex
HA5 2DT
Telephone: 01-868 7161 Ext 44

Reference

Household Food Consumption and Expenditure: 1979 (HMSO) (Price £12.50 net)
Monthly Digest of Statistics (HMSO) (Price £4.25 net)
British business (HMSO, weekly) (Price 95p net)

Provisional results of the December 1980 Scottish agricultural census

The provisional results of the Scottish Agricultural Census held on 1 December 1980 were published as a Scottish Office Press Notice on 13 January 1981, (Press Notice 34/81).

Final results of the December 1980 Scottish agricultural census

The final results of the Scottish Agricultural Census held on 1 December 1980 are yet to be published.

INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS

Business Monitors – Annual Census of Production 1979

Readers of *Statistical News* are made aware of the results of the 1979 Census of Production as the Business Monitors become available. The following table lists the monitors published since notification in the last number of *Statistical News*.

Business Monitor Number PA Series	Description	Standard Industrial Classification Minimum List Heading
1000	Provisional results	
1001	Introductory notes	
211	Grain milling	2110
216	Sugar	2160
229.1	Margarine	2291
272	Pharmaceutical chemicals and preparations	2720

275	Soap and detergents	2750
277	Dyestuffs and pigments	2770
415	Jute	4150
481	Paper and board	4810
482.1	Cardboard boxes, cartons and fibre-board packing cases	4821
483	Manufactured stationery	4830
484.2	Miscellaneous manufactures of paper and board	4842
491	Rubber	4910
492	Linoleum, plastics floor-covering, leather cloth etc	4920
493	Brushes and brooms	4930
495	Miscellaneous stationers' goods	4950
499.1	Musical instruments	4991
601	Gas	6010

Copies of these Business Monitors are available on standing order from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH (telephone 01-928 1321) or through any Government Bookshop. They are not, however, included in the global subscription arrangements of the Business Monitor series.

Further information on the PA series of Business Monitors and Censuses generally can be obtained from:

Mr R J Egerton
Business Statistics Office
Cardiff Road
NEWPORT
Gwent
NPT 1XG
Telephone Newport 56111 (STD Code 0633) Ext 2455

Replacement computer for the Business Statistics Office

In January the Business Statistics Office (BSO) formally accepted an ICL model 2982 Computer which will replace the ICL 1906A installed in 1971. The new computer will enable the BSO to provide users with better facilities, such as terminal access during the day to their data. Initially the configuration will be limited whilst the old machine remains in the computer hall.

The aim is to transfer most of the existing workload from the 1906A to the 2982 by April 1982. The 1906A should be withdrawn from service by about the end of 1982.

Towards a slimmer statistical service

The edition of *British business* published on 27 February carried an article by Laurie Berman, director of statistics for the Departments of Industry and Trade, reporting the progress being made to cut the departments' expenditure on statistics and the form-filling burden.

A short article in *British business* a year ago (22 February 1980) explained that all the statistics collected and compiled by the statistical service of the Depart-

ments of Industry and Trade (DIT) were being reviewed. The objective was to cut public expenditure on statistics and to reduce further the form-filling burden, especially on small firms. Much has now been done to meet these objectives and the purpose of this article is to report progress, including action taken following Sir Derek Rayner's review of the DIT statistical service in 1979.

References

- British business* 22 February 1980 (HMSO)
British business 27 February 1981 (HMSO) (Price 95p net)

DISTRIBUTION AND OTHER SERVICES

Annual retailing inquiries

Provisional results of the 1979 inquiry were published in an article in *British business* on 5 December 1980. Full results of the earlier 1976, 1977 and 1978 inquiries are all available in the Business Monitor series SDA 25.

References

- British business* 5 December 1980 (HMSO) (Price 95p net)
Business Monitor SDA 25 *Retailing* (HMSO) (1978 edition price £5.75 net)

Monthly retail sales inquiry

The monthly retail sales indices were revised in December 1980 following the publication of the provisional results of the annual retailing inquiry for 1979. The main components are now being constrained to agree with the estimates of growth in turnover shown by the more comprehensive retailing inquiries which have been carried out annually since 1976.

The revisions raised the level of the index and the new estimate of the increase in retail turnover between 1976 and 1980 is some 9½ per cent greater than shown previously. The revisions are largest for the estimates of trade by non-food retailers; for food retailers and for mixed retail businesses the revisions are smaller. The panel of non-food retailers contributing to the monthly inquiry appears to have become less representative of such traders as a whole and the Business Statistics Office, which conducts the inquiry, is recruiting more retailers to the monthly panel. Only the main components of the index have been adjusted and it is not possible to carry the adjustments through to the detailed components.

The retail sales index is now being rebased on the results of the 1978 retailing inquiry and the results are expected to be published in the summer.

Reference

- British business* 5 December 1980 (HMSO) (Price 95p net)

Consumers' expenditure on Motor Vehicles

As part of the cuts to achieve savings in public expenditure and to reduce the form filling burden on businesses, the quarterly inquiry into the turnover of the motor trades has been stopped. The fourth quarter of 1980 was the last period covered.

A voluntary panel of motor traders contributed to the inquiry which was conducted by the Business Statistics Office on behalf of the Department of Industry. The main purpose it served was to provide the bases in the national accounts for estimating consumers' expenditure on motor vehicles, new and second-hand, and for estimating changes in the output of the motor trades.

The annual inquiry, based on a sample taken from the register derived from VAT records, is continuing; it is conducted under the Statistics of Trade Act and collects information on capital expenditure and stocks as well as an analysis of turnover, all of which provide a basis of annual estimates for the national accounts. In the absence of the quarterly inquiry new methods of estimation are required in association with the most recent annual estimates. This note describes the method developed to meet one of the requirements – the estimation of expenditure on new vehicles.

The method adopted is based on motor vehicle registrations data and manufacturers' list prices, both of which are available monthly. Cars are grouped by model within manufacturer and commercial vehicles are grouped by manufacturer within type e.g. car-derived vans. An average price is calculated for each group and applied to the registrations for the period to provide an estimate of the value of retail sales of vehicles each quarter. Commercial vehicles are included in the estimate because consumers' expenditure is derived in the national accounts by deducting business expenditure from total expenditure on all vehicles.

By retaining average prices applicable in a base year, currently 1975, and where necessary imputing prices for vehicles introduced subsequently, a direct estimate of value of sales at constant prices is derived, avoiding the need for price index deflators. The changes over time in the valuation of vehicle registrations are linked with the estimates of vehicle sales derived from the most recent benchmark inquiry to provide quarterly estimates for consumers' expenditure.

Further work is in hand to improve the levels estimated from the valuation of registrations. For example, allowances will be made for certain commercial vehicle bodies which are priced separately from the cab and chassis because of the range of types available and are therefore not included in the valuation at present. This and other work is expected to lead to good estimates of consumers' expenditure on motor vehicles despite the loss of the quarterly inquiry.

TRADE STATISTICS

Seasonal adjustment of the overseas trade figures

An article in the February issue of *Economic Trends* described the procedures currently adopted for seasonal adjustment of the overseas trade figures. An outline of seasonal adjustment procedures in general is given, and the application to the trade series is described. In particular, the article rationalises the recent move towards deriving the seasonally adjusted values of total trade by summing seasonally adjusted commodity components, instead of adjusting the recorded values of total trade directly.

Reference

Economic Trends, No 328, February 1981 (HMSO) (Price £8.50 net)

Book-value of overseas direct investment

Estimates of the end-1978 cumulative book value of UK direct investment overseas and of overseas direct investment in the United Kingdom by country were published in *British business*, 27 February 1981. The figures excluded the insurance industry, but for the first time included oil and banking. The information was obtained from a regular, though infrequent inquiry; the previous one was in respect of 1974.

The value of UK direct investment overseas was for the first time collected on a statutory basis, greatly improving the response and quality of the results. Information on overseas direct investment in the United Kingdom continued to be collected on a voluntary basis because it was outside the scope of the Statistics of Trade Act.

More detailed results will be published in May or June in Business Monitor MA4 1978 Supplement, *Census of Overseas Assets 1978*.

References

British business, 27 February 1981. Pages 425-430 (HMSO) (Price 95p net)
Business Monitor MA4 1978 Supplement, *Census of Overseas Assets 1978* (Available on standing order from HMSO; separate copies from the Librarian, Business Statistics Office, Newport, Gwent NPT 1XG)

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE

The Government's expenditure plans 1981-82 to 1983-84

The annual White Paper on the Government's expenditure plans (Cmnd.8175) was published on Budget day, 10 March 1981. It sets out the Government's plans for public expenditure for the years 1981-82 to 1983-84 expressed at 1980 survey prices, and modifies the plans given in the previous public expenditure White Paper (Cmnd. 7841) (see *Statistical News* 49.30). A major innovation is to show cash limits and broad cash totals for 1981-82, in accordance with the Government's

intention to give more weight to prospective cash costs in expenditure planning.

Part 1 of Cmnd. 8175 explains that the recession and other factors have exerted upward pressure, for example on unemployment benefit and special employment measures. The Government have made substantial reductions in order to offset these upward pressures as far as possible. Besides the major reduction in the United Kingdom net contribution to the European Community budget, cuts amounting to some £1½ billion (cash) have been made in the majority of spending programmes in 1981-82, and these have been carried forward into the later years. The new plans for individual programmes are covered in some detail in Part 2. Separate programmes have been introduced for expenditure within the responsibilities of the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales.

Part 3 of the White Paper sets out the new plans for the nationalised industries' capital requirements and financing. The external financing limit for each industry in 1981-82 is shown.

A functional analysis of United Kingdom public expenditure is contained in Part 4. Other tables in this part include data on debt interest, capital expenditure on construction work and shortfall against plan for 1979-80. A technical description of the concepts underlying the measurement of public expenditure is given in Part 5.

Reference

The Government's Expenditure Plans 1981-82 to 1983-84 (Cmnd. 8175) (HMSO), March 1981 (Price £9.30 net)

Public Expenditure 1979-80: Outturn compared with plan

This new Treasury Working Paper (No. 16 in the series) contains an examination of the difference between planned public expenditure and estimated outturn for 1979-80.

The paper analyses shortfall by programme, economic category and spending authority, using tables and text to show where and why shortfall or excess expenditure occurred. Each programme is considered in terms of its major items. Tables at the end of the paper show, among other information, percentage shortfall by spending authority and economic category for each of the years 1972-73 to 1979-80.

The original volume planned for 1979-80 was that presented in *The Government's Expenditure Plans 1979-80 to 1982-83* (Cmnd. 7439) published in January 1979. It includes the contingency reserve which by the end of the year had been allocated to programmes. The paper also takes account of policy changes announced after January 1979, particularly those in the Budget of June 1979, and these are analysed by programme and

spending authority and economic category in annexes at the end of the paper. All figures are shown at 1980 survey prices, and the outturn data comes from Cmnd 8175 *The Government's Expenditure Plans 1981-82 to 1983-84* published in March 1981.

Copies of the Working Paper can be obtained, at a handling charge of 50p a copy, from:

Committee Section
HM Treasury
Parliament Street
LONDON, SW1P 3AG

References

The Government's Expenditure Plans 1979-80 to 1982-83 (Cmnd 7439) (HMSO), January 1979 (Price £4.25 net)

The Government's Expenditure Plans 1981-82 to 1983-84 (Cmnd 8175) (HMSO), March 1981 (Price £9.30 net)

HOME FINANCE

Monetary control: next steps

A paper issued by the Bank of England on 12 March 1981 is reproduced in the Bank of England's March *Quarterly Bulletin*. It details some further arrangements for the future operation of monetary control in addition to those given in the Bank's Background Note of 24 November 1980. In particular it describes the cash balances that recognised banks and licensed deposit-takers will be required to hold at the Bank and the steps the Bank is taking to ensure that there will be an adequate supply of eligible commercial bills for its increased reliance on open market operations once the reserve asset ratio is abolished. To this end the Bank intend to extend the present list of eligible names to recognised banks which have a broadly based and substantial acceptance business in the United Kingdom and who can command the finest rates in the market.

The Bank's *Quarterly Bulletin* (at £4 per copy) may be obtained from:

Bulletin Group
Economics Division
Bank of England
Threadneedle Street
London, EC2R 8AH

The liquidity of banks

The Bank of England's March *Quarterly Bulletin* reproduces a paper which was issued by the Bank on 12 March 1981 and which provides a basis for resuming discussions with the banking system on the prudential aspects of liquidity measurement and monitoring.

The Bank's *Quarterly Bulletin* may be obtained from the above address.

Reflections on the role of the institutions in financing industry

The Bank of England's March *Quarterly Bulletin* reproduces the Stockton lecture given by the Governor of the Bank at the London Business School on 22 January 1981. In the lecture the Governor saw the most important contribution of the Wilson Committee as scotching the impression of a financing gap and questioned whether any worthwhile investment would follow from effectively force-feeding industry with funds from a National Investment Bank funded by the institutions. The major problem in this country is that the rate of return on investment is too low.

The Governor also made the following among many other points:

- i. The banks have stepped into the breach left by the debenture market.
- ii. Present conditions make it especially desirable for banks to be well and regularly informed about the business of their customers.
- iii. The responsibility of the institutions must remain to their shareholders and policy-makers, or pension contributors and pensioners: but the time has passed when the institutions can avoid closer involvement with the companies whose shares they hold.
- iv. Discussion of a government-backed loan guarantee scheme for small companies is to be welcomed, though the need is uncertain.
- v. It is hard to believe that the provision of finance by a new institution such as that advocated by the TUC would result in a more productive investment or a better allocation of investment as between different industries or different projects.

The Bank's *Quarterly Bulletin* may be obtained from the above address.

The banks' role in financing industry

The Bank of England's March *Quarterly Bulletin* reproduces the speech given by the Governor of the Bank at the Institute of Bankers in Scotland on 19 January 1981. In the speech the Governor touched on the increased role of the banks in financing industry, the risks to which this exposes banks in recessionary conditions, and the role of the Bank of England in cases where many banks are involved. He pointed out that the Bank does not get involved as a lender and that each bank must make its own decisions on questions of liability. However, there are occasions when joint discussions become necessary and in such cases the Bank of England is able to play a modest part as a neutral chairman in helping to find a mutually acceptable solution.

The Bank's *Quarterly Bulletin* may be obtained from the above address.

The financial scene in the 1970s

The Bank of England's March *Quarterly Bulletin* reproduces the Ernest Sykes Memorial Lecture given by the Deputy Governor of the Bank at the Institute of Bankers on 13 January 1981. He commented on the broad financial changes which have accompanied the shocks to the economy in the 1970s. Growing sectoral imbalances have increased the need for intermediation: personal savings have risen, the public sector has gone into large deficit, and companies have been squeezed by slow growth and rising costs. He also reviewed the form that savings took, the role of the institutions and banks and of government finance, the effect of inflation and increasing uncertainty, interacting at times with the tax system. He concluded that economic developments generally have put the process of financial intermediation under unusual stress in the period which has posed problems for monetary policy.

The Bank's *Quarterly Bulletin* may be obtained from the above address.

Commodity prices in the 1970s

An article in the Bank of England's March *Quarterly Bulletin* examines the behaviour of certain commodity prices during the 1970s, and compares this with the experience of the two previous decades. The increases in commodity prices during the 1972-74 boom were unprecedentedly large; and whereas when prices had previously risen sharply they had soon fallen back, by the end of the 1970s commodity prices were generally higher than they had been in 1972-74. In the 1970s commodity prices seem to have responded more quickly and sharply than before to changes in economic activity; econometric evidence for this is provided in the appendix to the article.

The Bank's *Quarterly Bulletin* may be obtained from the above address.

UK corporate bond market

The Bank of England's March *Quarterly Bulletin* includes an article on the UK corporate bond market which is the third in a series of explanatory articles designed for the general reader. It considers why there have been so few issues of corporate bonds in the last seven years, discusses the implications for monetary policy, and assesses the prospects for a revival in the bond market. Uncertain prospects for inflation and interest rates have made companies reluctant to raise long-term fixed-interest funds at prevailing interest rates. Meanwhile, alternative sources of medium-term and long-term finance have developed, particularly through the banking system. Nevertheless, there is a latent demand for long-term loan finance on appropriate terms, and any revival in the corporate bond market

can be expected to have beneficial effects on the operation of monetary policy.

The Bank's *Quarterly Bulletin* may be obtained from the above address.

The monetary base – a statistical note

The Bank of England's March *Quarterly Bulletin* contains a note describing possible components of the 'monetary base' for which there is no universally accepted definition. In general the monetary base comprises some or all of the liabilities of the monetary authorities (the Bank of England, the Treasury and the Royal Mint). This note indicates some possible alternative definitions rather than focussing exclusively on a single definition and provides statistics monthly back to 1963 and annual averages back to 1919.

The Bank's *Quarterly Bulletin* may be obtained from the above address.

Financial Statistics

The January issue of *Financial Statistics* contained two supplementary tables showing sector analyses of Transactions in United Kingdom company securities and overseas securities. The two types of transactions had not been separately shown before for all sections. This issue also contained a revised table on turnover in securities by other financial institutions which replaced a rather more detailed table. In addition two tables on institutional investment showing transactions in selected assets and transactions in assets by certain institutional groups have been included. These are a repeat of tables issued with the institutional investment press notice. In the February edition the table on tax instruments was revised and now shows figures of holdings by sector. The table on the sterling effective exchange rate index was rebased on 1975 = 100 and a revised weighting given to the component series and two additional monthly indices were included in the table on foreign exchange rates: related items. These showed the average sterling/dollar rate and sterling/currencies participating in the EMS exchange rate arrangements.

In the March issue the table on government expenditure was altered to reflect changes in the White Paper on Public Expenditure (Cmnd 8175). The detailed table on the banking sector showing the assets and liabilities of the various groups of banks has been dropped together with the table on bank clearings.

Section 1 of the April issue has been extensively revised to reflect the new CSO/Bank of England harmonised matrix for the financial transactions accounts. See note on page 1 for details.

Reference

Financial Statistics (HMSO, monthly) (Price £6.50 net)

Local government financial statistics

The 1978/79 edition of *Local Government Financial Statistics in England and Wales* was published by HMSO in March. It provides details by service of the expenditure and income of the local authority sector in England and Wales for the year ending 31 March 1979.

The main tables cover the revenue and capital accounts for the rate fund, housing and trading services. Other tables show details of the superannuation and special fund accounts. A few summary tables give separate figures for each class of authority.

The introduction has been revised. Definitions and general notes relating to the main tables are included. An explanation is given of the adjustments made to total expenditure and income figures for the local authority sector to eliminate financial flows between authorities and between different services and accounts of the same authority. A further summary table gives the information from 1974/5 to 1980/1 on rate poundages and rateable values for each class of authority.

A series of appendices give information on how local authority expenditure relates to national and public expenditure; local authority employment (up to June 1980); and an analysis of local authority revenue estimates for 1979/80 by the main groups of employees, the main categories of goods and services purchased by authorities and the main sources of local income.

Reference

Local Government Financial Statistics in England and Wales (HMSO) March 1981 (Price £4.70 net)

OVERSEAS FINANCE

Special drawing rights: further developments

The Bank of England's March *Quarterly Bulletin* includes an article which describes the changes made on 1 January 1981 in the procedures for valuing special drawing rights and for calculating the interest payable on them. It also discusses other recent developments, including the wider use of special drawing rights in official transactions and as a numeraire for private sector borrowing and lending.

The Bank's *Quarterly Bulletin* (at £4 per copy) may be obtained from:

Bulletin Group
Economics Divisions
Bank of England
Threadneedle Street
London
EC2R 8AH

Revision to the calculation of effective exchange rates

The Bank of England's March *Quarterly Bulletin* includes a note describing some changes in the way in which the Bank of England calculates indices of effective exchange rates. The new indices were first published by the Bank on 2 February 1981 and the old indices ceased to be published on 6 February 1981.

The Bank's *Quarterly Bulletin* may be obtained from the above address.

World economic prospects

The Bank of England's March *Quarterly Bulletin* reproduces a speech given by the Governor of the Bank in which he commented on the world scene and the better response of the world economy to the second oil shock than to the first. Looking ahead he foresaw the possibility of some world economic recovery in late 1981 if there were no further major disturbances. After noting that expectations are less buoyant than in earlier cycles, he identified three possible constraints on growth: problems of energy, the financing of external deficits and the danger of continuing inflation. In the midst of general exchange rate instability, he welcomed the extent to which the exchange rate regime of the European Monetary System has provided relative stability for its members between themselves and hoped that conditions in the United Kingdom would become conducive to the United Kingdom's participation in the arrangements at the proper time.

The Bank's *Quarterly Bulletin* is available from the above address.

INTERNATIONAL

International comparisons of purchasing power

The article on this, announced in the last issue of *Statistical News* (52.32) as being published in the March 1981 issue of *Employment Gazette*, has been delayed but is expected to appear shortly.

DATA BANK

Data bank

CRONOS-EUROSTAT, the European Community's statistical data bank, was opened for public on-line access on 17 February 1981, following an agreement between the Commission of the European Communities and the Euronet DIANE host information service CISI (Compagnie Internationale de Services en Informatique).

CISI will make this unique data bank of comparable statistics available over Euronet and other networks.

The CRONOS-EUROSTAT files contain over 600,000 macro-economic time series which were compiled by the Statistical Office of the European Communities and the national offices of the EC member countries. The data bank is unique in the degree of comparability between the national statistics, and the number of countries covered: all nine Member States, Greece, Portugal, Spain, USA, Japan and several ACP (Africa, Caribbean, Pacific) countries. It is therefore very useful for any strategic planner, economic forecaster or statistician in private enterprise, administration, professional associations, consultancy, import/export, etc. who needs to keep track of the economic climate in their sector. More important possibly, users can directly perform their own mathematical and statistical equations on the data in order to obtain forecasts and trends.

Special printout packages are also available allowing, for example, output of data in tables and simple graphics which can be integrated directly into reports.

A further agreement to place the data bank on a second host is under discussion.

For further information contact:

D. Byk,
OSCE Batiment Jean Monnet BP 1907,
Luxembourg.

or

G. Callais,
fourniture de donees,
CISI,
35 bd Brune,
F-75 680 Paris

PUBLICATIONS

National Institute Economic Review No 95

A special article appeared in the February issue of the *National Institute Economic Review* (Price £4 net). The article, by Karen Wagner, is entitled 'The Newspaper Industry in Britain, Germany and the United States'.

This article contrasts the structure and productivity performance of the British newspaper industry with that of its German and American counterparts. The emphasis on national newspapers in Britain has led to much larger plants and a more concentrated industry than in either of the other countries, but the expected gains in productivity from economies of scale have not been apparent. The article then examines the implementation of the new technology and the importance of industrial relations in the successful operation of this mass-production industry.

GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL SERVICE

Appointments and changes

Retirement

G. Penrice, Deputy Secretary at the Department of Employment, on 31 December 1980.

K. F. Glover, Under Secretary, Ministry of Defence, on 16 January, 1981.

P. M. Rees, Under Secretary, Departments of Industry and Trade, on 31 March 1981.

Promotion

M. J. Erritt, Ministry of Defence, on promotion from Chief Statistician to Under Secretary, on 26 January 1981.

I. L. Arnison, Chief Information Officer (B), Central Statistical Office, transferred to the Health and Safety Executive on 23 March 1981 and his post was filled by R. Davy, Chief Information Officer (B) from the Health and Safety Executive.

LATE ITEMS

Financial statement and budget report

The *Financial Statement and Budget Report 1981-82* (FSBR) was published on 10 March.

Part I of the publication deals with the tax proposals and the public expenditure measures in the Budget and includes a table showing their estimated direct effects on the transactions of the public sector and its borrowing requirement (PSBR) in 1981-82.

Part II presents the Government's medium-term financial strategy. It gives projections of general government expenditure, receipts and the PSBR in 1979-80 prices up to 1983-84 as well as the growth of the main monetary aggregates between February 1980 and February 1981 and ranges for the growth of the money stock (£M3) up to 1983-84.

Part III explains the general economic background to the Budget including recent developments in the economy and the prospects to mid-1982. A breakdown is given of the sectoral contribution to the decline in GDP in 1980. Forecasts are given of the main economic indicators, including the PSBR and changes in real gross domestic product, consumers expenditure and the retail price index to mid-1982.

Part IV presents the estimated outturns of the transactions of the public sector in 1980-81, and the forecasts after Budget changes for 1981-82, on a national income accounting basis, leading to estimates of the PSBR. The PSBR is estimated to have been £13½ billion in 1980-81 and is forecast to be

£10½ billion in 1981–82. The forecasts included in Tables 14 of Part IV of the FSBR can be monitored on a quarterly basis by reference to Tables 2.7 in *Financial Statistics*. The public expenditure planning total is shown in Table 16 of Part IV; this can be monitored quarterly by reference to Table 2.4 of *Financial Statistics*. Tables showing the financing of the capital requirements of each nationalised industry in both years are also included in Part IV of the FSBR.

Part V deals with central government transactions in 1980–81 and 1981–82 presenting them on both the conventional cash basis of the Exchequer Accounts and, in the case of Table 22, on a national income accounting basis as well. The outturns of the forecasts in Tables 18–21 of Part V are published monthly in a Treasury press notice issued seven working days after the end of the month and subsequently included in Tables 3.1–3.5 of *Financial Statistics*. Quarterly figures of central government transactions on a national income accounting basis are included in Tables 3.6 and 3.7 of the same publication.

References

Financial Statement and Budget Report 1981–82 (HMSO 1981) (Price £4.40 net)
Financial Statistics (HMSO) monthly (Price £6.50 net)

Incidence of company taxation

A short article on the incidence and effective rate of company taxation appears in the April issue of the Treasury's *Economic Progress Report*. The article publishes for the first time an estimate of the effective rate of tax on 'real' company profits as well as the rate on conventional historical cost profits.* 'Real' profits are measured after adjustments for the effects of inflation; the estimates in the article use the current cost accounting principles of SSAP16.

They are restricted to industrial and commercial companies, excluding those trading mainly overseas and North Sea oil and gas. They relate to UK tax on company income (that is excluding overseas tax suffered in excess of UK double taxation relief and corporation tax on capital gains). It is estimated that in 1979 the effective rate of tax was of the order of a quarter on historical cost profits and two thirds on the basis of inflated-adjusted profits. These rates are averages based on the aggregate income less losses incurred in the year; rates confined to companies currently making profits would be rather lower.

References

Economic Progress Report, April 1981, issued by HM Treasury.
SSAP16 – Statement of standard accounting practice No 16, March 1980, *Current cost accounting*, issued by The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

*The article mentions a number of possible definitions of such rates; the estimates relate to only two of them.

Commodities sold by large mixed retail businesses and co-operative societies

Since January 1980, the Business Statistics Office has been collecting as part of the voluntary monthly retail sales inquiry a six-fold analysis of sales by commodities for large mixed businesses (other than co-operative societies and general mail-order houses). The results for 1980 are presented in Table 1 of the article in *British business*, dated 17 April 1981. In addition, a departmental analysis of sales has been collected for the retail co-operative societies separately distinguished in the retail sales index. This is very similar to a commodity analysis and gives an indication of the commodities sold by this important sector of retailing. This is shown in the second table. With this added published detail, which can be used with the estimates of sales by specialist kinds of business, more information is now available monthly on commodities retailed than before. The data will be used for official purposes and should also be useful to the trade.

Reference

British business, 17 April 1981, (HMSO) weekly (Price 95p net).

Alphabetical Index

The index to *Statistical News* covers the last nine issues. Page numbers are prefixed by the issue number, e.g. 49.30 signifies number 49, page 30.

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

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