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STATISTICAL NEWS

Developments in British Official Statistics



A publication of the Government Statistical Service

Ben Prew

Note by the Editor

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Mode of appearance: A new classification for freight transport statistics

P. Turnbull, Statistician, Department of Transport

Summary

This article describes the case for a new classification of freight traffic known as 'mode of appearance'. This new classification is intended to complement, not replace commodity-based freight statistics for both international and domestic transport. It describes freight in terms of its most immediate and obvious physical appearance but only in so far as this has implications for handling and transport. It is argued that the essence of the new classification consists of three categories: bulk; unitised (containers, etc.); and other or non-bulk non-unitised freight. Section 1 of the article sets out the basic concept and practical relevance of such a classification. Section 2 describes recent developments in Europe, while sections 3 and 4 describe developments in Britain, particularly in the context of port statistics, where a classification by 'mode of appearance' is to be introduced from 1982. Finally, a few brief concluding remarks are made in section 5.

1. Introduction and concept

Before discussing or evaluating the merits of a statistical classification of any kind, it is necessary to ask the basic question why? A classification of freight carried by transport modes such as road, rail, air or water should describe that freight in terms which are meaningful to the transport operators concerned and to their customers. Usually such descriptions are in terms of the physical appearance of the freight or its intended final use. A description alone is not however the underlying purpose of the classification. Rather it is to split the total into categories which are relatively homogeneous and which are capable of providing an insight into the resources required to carry out that activity, and hence into the economic, social, administrative and other processes underlying the changing patterns and trends of freight traffic. It is such insights and understanding which provide the basis for making forecasts of freight traffic. When it comes to the crunch, it is ability to interpret trends and make realistic forecasts, and hence to contribute to more effective decision making, which provides the underlying justification for a statistical classification of any kind.

Traditionally freight traffic has been classified by commodity. Partly this originates from the historic practice of transport operators charging by commodity.

However, mainly it reflects the value of commodity for forecasting purposes. Given a sufficient level of detail it is generally possible to relate specific commodities or groups of commodities to specific industries or industry groups within the general economy. That is, these commodity groups can be thought of as mainly inputs or outputs of a particular industry and the future volume of goods to be transported can be linked to a forecast level of activity of that industry (see for example the first reference). Unfortunately the outputs from such a forecasting model and even the basic statistics themselves, are not always the most valuable or meaningful from a transport operator's point of view.

The marketing side of a transport business will generally be the most enthusiastic about commodity-based statistics and forecasts. Such statistics provide a sound basis for examining where the actual and potential markets are for their particular transport service. However those involved in the operations side of the business are more concerned with the types of freight they will have to handle in terms of their physical appearance and their implications for the handling and transport equipment required. Commodity does provide some clues to this, particularly for traffics which are handled in bulk, such as: petroleum; coal; aggregates; metal ores, etc. However with modern developments in terms of through transport services making use of containers and other types of unitised or pre-packaged freight, commodity information alone is becoming less and less adequate.

For the same reason, commodity details are also becoming less useful to the accountancy and financial side of a transport business. Accountants need to make regular revenue forecasts based on a categorisation of their traffic which has revenue implications and which should obviously reflect the operational characteristics of their business. In the past, commodity has provided a good basis for forecasting revenue because the transport charging structure was usually related closely to commodity. However this is increasingly no longer true. Operators are moving towards a charging basis which is more closely tuned to the actual handling and carrying costs involved. Trends in unit transport services mentioned above have accelerated this process. Operators are now increasingly saying that they are not interested in the contents of unit loads, since the charge is the same whatever is being carried.

It is developments such as these which logically lead to the conclusion that a new freight classification is required which describes freight in terms of its most immediate physical appearance. In particular this need has been brought to a head by the development and rapid expansion of through transport services using unit loads capable of easy and rapid interchange between several modes of transport. In the past the transport operator was presented with packages of various specific commodities to be carried, but now he is just asked to carry so many units of containers or road goods trailers. The ubiquitous 'box' or container is the prime example of unit transport but 'combined transport' is also of importance. Combined transport refers to the growing practice of carrying vehicles designed for one mode of transport on a different mode. Thus road goods vehicles are carried on the sea in a combined transport mode on roll-on/roll-off ferry services. Increasingly, in Europe, they are also carried 'piggyback' on rail wagons. Other examples of combined transport include rail wagons on ferries; and inland waterway barges on seagoing ships. It is important in this context to clarify the distinction between a road goods vehicle as a 'mode of transport' and as a 'mode of appearance'. Whilst the road goods vehicle is travelling on the roads it is a 'mode of transport'. However when it is carried on sea or rail it is an item of freight itself, and the description 'road goods vehicle' is the 'mode of appearance' of the freight.

A 'mode of appearance' classification could not replace commodity for freight transport statistics, but only complement it. Commodity will retain its primary importance as a classification for marketing and forecasting purposes. Increasingly, however, it will be necessary to translate such marketing intelligence or forecasts into something which is more meaningful from an operational or revenue point of view: i.e. 'mode of appearance'.

2. The European dimension

Britain is, of course, not alone in finding the need to adapt statistics to changing patterns of transport services. Other countries such as the USA and the Netherlands have been meeting similar problems in measuring the container and unit transport revolution of the past twenty years. In Europe the Statistical Office of the European Community (SOEC) and the United Nations, Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) have been active in the development of a 'mode of appearance' classification. These two organisations both have closely related commodity classifications which are specially designed for transport purposes (Nomenclature Statistique de Transports and Commodity Classification for Transport Statistics in Europe known as NST and CSTE respectively). In working group discussions

concerned with updating these commodity classifications, problems arose over where to code the weights of containers and road goods vehicles when carried as freight. Both organisations eventually came to the conclusion that a separate parallel classification of freight traffic was required.

The Netherlands and Belgium, jointly, were the first in Europe to implement such a separate 'mode of appearance' classification. This was in the context of shipping statistics and used a classification subsequently described in a paper presented to the ECE in April 1979. The classification consists of 8 categories which are listed in panel A. The basic distinction underlying these 8 categories is a threefold split of freight into: bulks; unitised; and other. This basic breakdown in fact underlies all versions of the 'mode of appearance' classification that have been proposed or used to date.

Panel A 'Verschijningsvorm' the original Netherlands/Belgium classification for shipping statistics

Code	Description	Comments/Notes
VB	Wet bulk	
DB	Dry bulk	
L	Goods transported in lighters or similar means	i.e. when carried on seagoing vessels
P	Goods transported on pallets	
C	Goods transported in containers or flats	a 'flat' is a platform of standard container size which can be handled as a box container
GB	General cargo	
Ro	Roll-on/roll-off	includes passenger vehicles
Ovs	Remaining modes of appearance	

Meanwhile SOEC had commissioned the British National Ports Council (NPC) to carry out a special study of all such developments in Europe and elsewhere. The NPC were asked to make recommendations for a classification suitable for use in respect of all modes of transport. The NPC were chosen because they had been active in this field and had themselves piloted a version of such a classification in the context of British Port Statistics (see section 3). The final report by NPC on this study (2) is an authoritative and detailed account of the theoretical and practical justification for a 'mode of appearance' classification. Although the detailed classification contained in it is not in a form suitable for immediate implementation, it is strongly recommended for anyone who wishes to examine the concept in greater detail than is possible in this article.

The NPC report to SOEC was subsequently discussed at a meeting of statisticians from all member states held in November 1980. It was at this meeting that 'mode of appearance' became firmly accepted as the preferred terminology for the classification, together with its

French and Dutch equivalents: 'mode de conditionnement' and 'verschijningsvorm'. This form of words was considered to be more appropriate than alternatives such as 'method of handling' or 'type of packaging'. The former, in particular, although in common use, is confusing, since it is the potential of the goods for method of handling that is of importance not the actual method employed. Another point which became clear at this meeting was that although applicable to all transport modes, it was in the context of shipping statistics that the greatest pressure exists to introduce the new classification. Indeed practically all member states reported plans to introduce a classification of this kind in the future (where they had not already done so).

Following this meeting SOEC issued a provisional recommendation for a 9 digit classification by mode of appearance, the intention being to prevent the development of incompatible classifications in member states. The SOEC proposal is shown in panel B and it can be seen to be similar to the original Netherlands/Belgium classification. The same basic threefold distinction is apparent between bulks (categories 0 and 1); unitised (categories 2-7); and non-bulk non-unitised or general cargo (category 9). The main differences lie in the separate identification of road goods vehicles in the SOEC proposal and the exclusion of passenger vehicles (which are not generally considered to be freight traffic).

Panel B The SOEC recommended 'Mode of Appearance' Classification

Code	Description	Comments/Notes
0	Bulk: wet	includes gases
1	Bulk: dry	
2	Combined transport: road goods vehicles	i.e. when carried on some other transport mode
3	Combined transport: other	rail wagons and barges carried on ships
4	Cargo on wheels	including motor vehicles for import or export
5	Unitised cargo: large containers	containers over 20ft in length
6	Unitised cargo: pallets	i.e. wooden platforms capable of being lifted by fork lift truck
7	Unitised cargo: other	includes small containers less than 20ft in length
8	Free	for use by any member states who wish to subdivide any of the other categories
9	General cargo	other cargo not classified above

3. Application to port and sea transport statistics in Britain

As mentioned above, it is in the context of shipping statistics that the greatest pressure exists to introduce and utilise such a new freight classification. This is primarily because it is the sea mode of transport which has undergone the most dramatic changes as a result of the introduction of: containers; roll-on/roll-off ferry

services; and other forms of unitised and specialised shipping. As previously mentioned, the National Ports Council had been studying the possibilities of a mode of appearance classification for some time. In 1978/79 they piloted an 11 category classification of this kind with British ports in their 1978 berth facilities survey and this is shown in panel C.

Panel C Pilot 'Type of Cargo' Classification used by NPC for Port Statistics

Code	Description	Comments/Notes
1	Bulk liquids	
2	Bulk solids	
3	Live animals	excluding animals carried in wheeled units
4	Import/Export vehicles	
5	Wheeled units	Road goods vehicles and rail wagons including those carrying containers
6	Containers, roll-on	i.e. those loaded or unloaded using ships trailers
7	Other roll-on cargo	other cargo on ships trailers
8	Container, lift-on	
9	Palletised general cargo	
10	Other unitised general cargo	e.g. packaged timber and cargo which is pre-slung ready for lifting on or off ship
11	Break-bulk general cargo	

As with the previous two classifications, the same underlying distinction between: bulk; unitised; and general cargo is apparent. However, in this case, a number of the categories are specially orientated towards the ports context. One example is the distinction drawn between containers loaded using standard lift-on/lift-off container cranes and those loaded on roll-on/roll-off ships using special low profile ships trailers. This is a handling distinction not a true 'mode of appearance', and it makes the overall classification something of a hybrid. Nevertheless it is a vital distinction with important implications for port authority and shipping company investment decisions.

It is worth digressing a little at this point to discuss the treatment of containers carried on road goods vehicles or rail wagons which are themselves carried on a roll-on/roll-off ferry. The relevant statistic as far as mode of appearance is concerned is the number of road goods vehicles or rail wagons carried. It is in this form that the freight is presented to the port/ship to be loaded and the fact that the vehicle to be carried is itself carrying a container is irrelevant. In general, the rules of application of a mode of appearance classification are that where several levels of 'packaging' are involved then the outer-most level is taken as the mode of appearance.

Take, for example, bottles of whisky, packed in boxes on pallets on a road goods vehicle. While the vehicle is being carried on a roll-on/roll-off ferry service, then its mode of appearance is a 'road goods vehicle'. When the vehicle is driving on the roads the mode of appearance of

the freight it is carrying is 'pallets'. If the pallets had first been loaded into a container prior to being loaded on to the road goods vehicle, then the modes of appearance in the above example would have been 'road goods vehicle' and 'container' respectively.

Further work on developing a mode of appearance classification for port statistics purposes came to a temporary halt in 1980 following the Secretary of State for Transport's announcement that the National Ports Council was to be abolished (their statutory functions ceased on 1 October 1981). Statistical work on the ports industry is continuing, but at a reduced level, and divided between the British Ports Association (the trade association for the ports industry) and the Department of Transport.

After detailed discussions with statisticians at the National Ports Council and the British Ports Association, the Department decided to introduce a new simplified annual return from ports. This was to be based on a mode of appearance classification which was developed from the original NPC and SOEC work, but taking into account the particular needs and circumstances of the port industry. The proposed new return has been successfully piloted among thirty ports, including nearly all the major port authorities, over the period May to July 1981. It is to be introduced in respect of port statistics for the 1982 calendar year.

The mode of appearance classification proposed for this new return is shown in panel D. With one exception it is fully consistent with the standard classification proposed by SOEC for European Community use. This exception is for palletised cargo, that is: cargo on wooden platforms designed for lifting by fork lift trucks.

Panel D The Department of Transport proposed 'Mode of Appearance' Classification for Port Statistics

Code	Description	Comments/Notes
1	Liquid bulks	includes gases
2	Dry bulks	
3.1/3.2	Road goods vehicles	includes both powered vehicles and un-accompanied trailers
3.3	Rail wagons and barges carried on ships	
4	Container carried on roll-on services	by use of ships low profile trailers
5.1	Vehicles on wheels for import or export	
5.2	Other roll-on freight	
6	Containers handled on Lo/Lo or conventional services	
7.1	Unitised forest products	
7.2	Other cargo carried in ship or hold load consignments	e.g. iron and steel, palletised and other semi-unitised cargo
8	Break-bulk general cargo	including live animals

In the ports context, there appears to be no strong justification for the separate identification of palletised cargo. Instead, categories 7.1 and 7.2 of the classification record bulk shipments of homogeneous cargo carried in ship or hold-load sized consignments (including some in palletised form). Such standardised or semi-unitised traffic requires less labour intensive handling than mixed general cargo and also, often, specialised berths at the port.

Under this new Department of Transport annual return from ports, the tonnage of goods handled will be classified by the 11 categories listed in panel D. In addition for unitised traffic (categories 3, 4, 5.1, and 6) the numbers of units handled will be collected. For this purpose numbers of powered road goods vehicles (category 3.1) will be recorded separately from unaccompanied road goods trailers (category 3.2) and containers will be split into two size categories: those of approximately 20' in length and those of approximately 30' or 40' length.

Category 8 'break-bulk general cargo' might be thought of as a residual category whose purpose is simply to mop up all port traffic not classified under categories 1 through 7. However, this is not the case, the tonnage of port traffic handled within category 8 will be perhaps the single most important figure to emerge from the statistics to be collected from ports. General cargo is the category of port traffic which is the most labour intensive in terms of handling requirements, while at the same time being the most rapidly diminishing in volume. Traffic which used to be handled as general cargo has been switching over the past twenty years or so into containers, road goods vehicles, and other unitised or semi-unitised forms of cargo. All of these require a greatly reduced port labour force to handle them, hence the past, present and future problems of surplus manpower in the port industry. Although reasonable estimates can and have been made of the size of this shrinking cake, the mode of appearance statistics from 1982 will be the first systematic attempt to measure it accurately and directly.

Statistics on shipping (other than port statistics) are mainly derived from special analyses by 'flag' (i.e. nationality of vessel) of the HM Customs and Excise foreign trade statistics. These statistics record whether the goods are carried in containers, on road goods vehicles or rail wagons. It is unlikely that there will be any further expansion of the modes of appearance recorded on foreign trade statistics in the immediate future. However the Department of Trade does carry out an analysis of wet and dry bulks defined in terms of commodities. In effect those are proxy modes of appearance.

4. Possible application to other modes of transport

As previously stated the need for this new classification has been most apparent in the context of port and shipping statistics. In addition, for ports, an ideal opportunity was created by the need to review and simplify the statistical system set up by the NPC. Nevertheless the basic concept of the mode of appearance classification applies equally well to road, rail, inland waterway, etc. There follow a few brief notes on the current situation with respect to each of the modes of transport:

(i) rail: freight statistics are classified by commodity. However, apart from that carried in containers by Freightliner services, practically all rail freight is bulk. Thus the basis for a mode of appearance classification exists, even though one is not overtly used.

(ii) road: statistics of freight traffic are collected by means of a sample survey of road goods vehicles and classified by commodity. At the moment neither mode of appearance nor anything similar is recorded by the survey. The number of containers carried by road, for instance, is not known.

(iii) inland waterways: unit load traffic on British inland waterways is negligible, and practically all traffic is bulk. Nevertheless a one-off survey is currently in progress which incorporates a simple mode of appearance classification.

(iv) pipeline: mode of appearance is not relevant here since all traffic carried by pipeline is bulk.

(v) air: pallets and specially designed air freight containers have been in use for many years. However it is only recently that planes have been large enough to handle standard ISO 20' multimodel containers.

5. Conclusions

This article has attempted to set out the rationale and conceptual framework for a new classification of freight traffic by 'mode of appearance'. Individual elements of the new classification are not new, but the concept of classifying freight systematically in this way is. Developments along these lines are moving ahead rapidly throughout Europe, particularly in the port and shipping statistics context. It can thus be fairly confidently predicted that the new classification will not go away. In Britain port statistics from the 1982 calendar year will be collected using a classification of this kind. Developments in other areas must probably wait until the concept is more widely recognised and its value more clearly understood.

References

- Forecasts of UK International Freight to 1988, Volume 1*, (National Ports Council, 1980) (Price £75.00 net)
A statistical goods classification by method of handling, (National Ports Council, November 1979)

An international comparison of industrial energy prices carried out by the NEDC Energy Task Force

National Economic Development Office

The background

This note describes the international comparisons of energy prices to industrial users carried out for the National Economic Development Council in January/February 1981 and updated in September/October 1981. It may perhaps be of interest to the wider statistical audience to see how comparisons were made in an area where the statistical base was weak, but where disagreement demanded an investigation satisfactory to all parties in a very short time.

By the middle of 1980 the larger industrial users in the UK, especially those in the energy-intensive industries such as steel, foundries, chemicals, cement, glass and clay, argued that their energy costs had moved seriously out of line with those of their Continental European competitors. These industries manufacture internationally traded basic industrial or semi-processed and intermediate products which are highly price sensitive, and for many of which world-wide over-capacity exists. Since a relatively high proportion of their costs is attributable to energy inputs, any tendency for their energy costs to exceed those of their overseas competitors is bound to have an immediate and direct effect on their ability to compete internationally and also, indirectly, on the ability of their industrial customers to compete in the longer term.

For different reasons in each of the countries concerned, energy prices for the larger users have tended to be opaque, neither the utilities nor the users seeing it as in their interests to disclose the energy prices actually being paid. As a result, the statistical basis for carrying out such comparisons is very sketchy. However, under the pressure of events in 1980, the larger industrial users identified, through their trade associations and the CBI, differences between the energy prices they paid in the UK and those paid by their Continental competitors. The lack of an agreed basis for the comparisons led to work separately undertaken by the CBI, the Department of Energy and the NEDO sector committees producing conflicting results, and demonstrated an obvious lack of mutual understanding and agreement as to the facts.

It was therefore agreed by the NEDC, at a meeting in January 1981, to set up an Energy Task Force to report

back within two months on the international energy prices currently being paid by industrial users in the UK and on the Continent, and to establish the reasons for the disparities identified. The Task Force was not asked to produce recommendations or forecasts. The Task Force was chaired by the Director General of NEDO, and it was composed of representatives of the CBI, the industrial users, the energy suppliers (British Gas, Electricity Council, National Coal Board), the TUC Energy Committee, the Department of Energy and NEDO, with a secretariat from the Department of Energy.

The Energy Task Force was able to reach a broad measure of agreement in its report to the NEDC (*NEDC(81)15*) in March 1981, although there were some residual areas of disagreement. The Task Force established that for the larger users of gas, electricity and coke, there were substantial disparities between prices in the UK and on the Continent, and these disparities were to the advantage of the Continental users. Prices for gas and electricity to other industrial users appeared to be in line. Industrial oil products prices had been higher than Continental ones for much of 1980, but were in line by early 1981. The dissent related to the extent of the disparities, especially in relation to gas prices. The Government made an early response to the report in the package announced in the Budget of March 1981. £118 million was their measure of the cost of the concessions offered, which included a freeze on gas renewal prices until December 1981 and greater flexibility in the negotiation of electricity prices, followed later by a concession on the price of foundry coke. These concessions, however, were regarded by industrial users as far too small to meet the disparities identified, and there was special disappointment that it proved impossible to reduce or remove the UK tax on fuel oil.

The fact that the Energy Task Force was able to reach as much agreement as it did, from a starting point of fairly fundamental disagreement, reflects some progress in remedying the lack of a mutually acceptable data base on which to carry out international pricing comparisons. Indeed, it has been notable in the recent updating of the Task Force report (*NEDC (81)59*) in September/October 1981 how far it has been possible to build on the earlier work and how much more straightforward the operation was the second time around. There is clearly much scope to make more considered improvements in

The material in this article was first presented to the 1981 Statistics Users Conference on Energy Statistics; organised by the Institute of Energy at the request of the Standing Committee of Statistics Users.

order to ensure that the need for international comparisons can be met, when it arises, on a more systematic basis.

The longer-term role of the NEDC Task Force may well turn out to have been to provide the basis, under the stimulus of an extremely tight timetable and intensive work programme and in response to the industrial circumstances already described, for a more transparent energy pricing structure for larger users which will help the market to operate more effectively than in the past. It also demonstrated the effectiveness of this new NEDC instrument in clarifying fact and forming a basis for the discussion of policy.

Concerting a common view

It is important to recognise that the requirement which had arisen in January 1981 was for an 'honest broker' to try to resolve the conflicting picture of energy price disparities being put forward, rather than for a statistical exercise as such. This consideration determined the approach adopted by the Task Force, and accounts for the high priority given to an extended consultative process between energy suppliers – including oil industry representatives and the industrial users – in order to try and reach some mutual understanding, as well as to establish the facts.

The Task Force set up working groups in which suppliers of each fuel could meet, in sequence, with their energy-intensive consumers to table their evidence of comparative energy prices and argue through the data, in order to achieve as much agreement as possible. In every case it was necessary to start by defining terms – types of plant, load patterns, etc – and then to agree on common definitions so as to try and ensure that like was compared with like. Having established the UK and Continental energy pricing patterns, the working groups then sought to establish the major factors at work – the energy utilities' domestic costs of production, pricing policies, and the influence of exchange rate movement.

The working groups concentrated on the energy-intensive industries which had first highlighted the need for the study, but the Task Force was also able to report on the comparative energy prices to other industrial users, who were not found to be generally disadvantaged. Some fifteen working group meetings were held – in some cases two or three meetings of the same utility and user industry representatives were needed. Data were circulated or laid upon the table and consolidated into tentative agreed schedules by the Secretariat. The text of the report and the reasons for the facts found were referred back to both sides in the industrial discussions for their comment and agreement. The Secretariat took responsibility for the text of the

report which was discussed extensively by the Task Force itself.

An important aspect of the Task Force exercises was to establish the reasons for the disparities. These causes tend to fall into the categories of:

- continuing cost differences stemming from natural advantage, eg hydro-electric power from the French Alps, brown coal in Germany
- the benefit phase of earlier risk-taking and investment, eg cheap French electricity from nuclear generation
- policy differences, for example:
 - a. pricing indigenous energy at world market prices, eg UK oil and gas, as compared with shading pricing to reap the national benefit of industrial competitiveness, eg French electricity
 - b. a pricing system which contains very favourable special deals for large industrial customers, eg electricity in Germany
 - c. subsidies to domestic production, eg the total assistance to the coal industry in European competitor countries is much greater than our own, though by EC regulation the subsidy only extends to reducing their pricing to the level of world market price
- the influence of exchange rates.

The influence of exchange rates

Any attempt to make international pricing comparisons clearly means that a common currency has to be used. The Task Force used sterling for this purpose, and expressed its comparisons in overall percentage differences based on pence per therm or kilowatt, or pounds per tonne, since this is what UK industrial users accept and understand. But it inevitably meant that the measured disparities became a function of movement in exchange rates, among other things.

The effect of exchange rates on industrial energy prices varies between fuels. Oil is an internationally traded commodity, priced world-wide in dollars, and the dollar price of each oil product in each country varies only by delivery and other 'infrastructural' charges, local taxes and companies' local pricing policies. However electricity, coal and gas are domestically produced around the world, and whilst coal is extensively traded, gas is only traded to a limited extent and electricity hardly at all.

As a result, electricity price disparities will be the most affected by exchange rate variations, gas prices less so, and coal prices to an extent which reflects the domestic cost of producing coal and its internationally traded character. It is not possible to abstract from exchange rates in the comparison of disparities, and it is only in rates of change over time of domestically denominated energy costs that exchange rates do not enter.

In practice, during the period studied for the first Task Force report, for which the reference dates were November 1980 (gas) and January 1981 (other fuels), sterling hardened against the dollar. This served to reduce the rate of increase in UK oil prices below what would otherwise have been experienced. On the other hand, sterling also appreciated against the European 'basket' of currencies which served to reduce the sterling equivalent of Continental energy costs, and therefore widened the measured disparity. After this phase, the dollar and European rates diverged and sterling weakened against the dollar (thus contributing to the rate of increase of United Kingdom oil product prices) and against the major European currencies in late Summer. In the Autumn reappreciation appeared, notably against the French franc and the lira.

Making meaningful comparisons

In making comparisons it is important to select typical prices. This is much more difficult in the case of Continental and American utilities than in the case of the United Kingdom where, for example, electricity and gas are sold by nationalised industries with rather minor regional variations. In the case of the USA, by contrast, a representative figure would be quite difficult to arrive at but the Task Force exercise concentrated numerically upon disparities affecting British industry in competition with European suppliers. Even so, this involved dealing with some variation between suppliers of electricity in the German context whereas the French structure is more directly comparable with that of the United Kingdom.

Another difference which had to be contended with was that British gas is sold to industrial buyers of more than 100,000 therms per annum by contracts negotiated individually, even though the room for price variation in these negotiations may be small. In Continental countries, however, for example France and Holland, gas is sold on an industrial tariff basis. The reverse situation applies for electricity, as British industrial consumers of electricity purchase from the Area Boards under the regime of the bulk supply tariff, with special deals confined to British Rail and the aluminium industry. In contrast, special deals for industries such as steel and chemicals are a feature, particularly, of German electricity pricing. It is also interesting to note

that the relationship between industrial and domestic gas and electricity prices is different in the United Kingdom from that typically holding on the Continent namely that domestic consumers of British gas pay less than industrial consumers of firm supplies of gas, whereas domestic consumers of electricity pay more than industrial consumers of electricity. In absolute terms, British domestic gas is cheaper than Continental domestic gas and British domestic electricity is on the dear side, but by a small margin.

It is important to be clear about the gas/oil price linkages. On the Continent, firm gas for heavy industry is thought to be escalated with respect to movements in low sulphur heavy fuel oil prices, whereas for light industry some element of escalation with respect to gas oil prices is incorporated. In the UK the relevant oil comparison is with gas oil prices. During the gas freeze from 10 March 1981 to date (and to some extent before this) the linkage of firm gas to gas oil prices and interruptible gas to heavy fuel oil prices was weakened.

Comparing like with like

In arriving at acceptable measures of disparities in energy pricing the Task Force was faced continually with the problem of comparing like with like. At least part of the disagreement between industrial consumers and suppliers of energy resulted from a failure fully to take account of factors necessary for a valid comparison. For example, the level of usage and load factor characteristics for electricity consumers are both germane. In the case of gas, the presence or absence of connection charges and whether the price carries a loading to take account of the location of the industrial consumer on a main distribution, a branch of it or a minor twig is relevant. Generally the British gas pricing does not take account of these factors whereas the French system does.

There is also the issue of interruptibility of supply. Gas in the United Kingdom can be purchased as either in firm supply or interruptible but only interruptible within certain fine limits. Interruptible gas is, of course, cheaper to supply and the user must be able to switch to heavy fuel oil which involves investment in equipment. Once the user is thus equipped, interruptible gas cannot be sold at prices above the technically feasible alternative of heavy fuel oil. Users usually pay rather less.

British electricity is not, in principle, interruptible (though in 1981 there was a fairly extensive accidental failure of the supply system). Some Continental countries have a lower degree of assured supply for electricity than is the case here. Therefore their utilities do not need to cost for so much stand-by plant – a cost-reducing factor. Also interruptibility of gas supplies

on the Continent can be of a strategic rather than an intermittent nature, the supply being withheld for months at a time.

Transfer pricing within the utility enters into the measurement of the disparity. For example, the German RWE enterprise owns its own brown coal field. Brown coal has a low thermal content but the capital costs of making it available are low and are treated as fixed costs. Whereas British electricity pricing contains an element of annualised capital costs, it is doubtful whether this German utility uses the same application of principles and, even if it did, the cost of low thermal content but easily winnable coal owned by the utility is rather different from purchasing coal in the United Kingdom from the NCB. Therefore the build-up tends to be different between countries.

The Task Force was concerned not only with average energy prices to industrial users of specified size but also with the structure of the tariff and the extent to which the pricing experienced by competitors overseas encourages them to diminish their energy-intensiveness in comparison with this characteristic in the United Kingdom or to improve their load pattern. These might be regarded as the conservation-inducing and efficiency aspects of the tariffs. The case has been made to the Task Force that Continental energy-intensive industries, for example steel, can economise in the use of energy to a greater extent than is the case in the United Kingdom, for example, by permitting a group of steelworks to form a buyers' club in which the load factor of the club is superior to the load factor of any individual member of the club and the benefit can be shared out between the utility and the members of the club.

The Task Force report of November 1981

The November report showed significant improvements as at the reference date of 1 October for the energy-intensive users compared with the situation in the February report but some major problems still remained.

Gas prices were observed to have come into line with prices on the Continent, indeed with interruptible gas slightly below the Continental range.

Electricity price disparities had narrowed but remained substantial in the case of France (10-28%), Germany (up to 16%) and Italy (up to 30%).

Foundry coke disparities identified in the March report had been removed except in the case of France where they remain some 22% below the United Kingdom.

Oil product prices actually paid by industry, that is to say including duty, were found to be greater than in the EC countries by a substantial margin since the first quarter of 1980 as measured by a weighted average of all

oil product prices. Even excluding duty, the weighted average prices of all products in the United Kingdom have been above those of the European Community (EC) since the first quarter of 1980 but to a diminishing extent in 1981. Details by product will be found in the report, which is available upon application to NEDO.

The main factors which underlie these changes were:

- a. the Budget measures announced by Government, the foundry coke subsidy announced shortly afterwards and the freeze on gas renewal prices which has been extended recently;
- b. fuel increases on the Continent as they catch up with oil price increases as the fuel price leader;
- c. exchange rate movements during the year.

During the period studied for the first Task Force report sterling hardened against the dollar and also against the European currencies which reduced the sterling equivalent of their energy prices and therefore widened the measured disparity. During 1981, which was the period studied for the second Task Force report, the dollar and European rates diverged and sterling weakened against the dollar (thus contributing to the rate of increase of United Kingdom oil product prices) and against the major European currencies but during the Autumn some European reappreciation appeared, notably against the French franc and the lira. So the effect of the Summer exchange rate factor against the European currencies was to diminish the measured disparity.

As in the first report, reasons for the significant disparities in electricity prices were the French hydro-electric resource endowment and growing reliance on nuclear power and, in the case of Germany, a structure of tariffs which favours the large, high load factor users and the existence of favourable special contracts for some large users, particularly in the steel industry. The Italian very high load factor users benefit from still lower prices than the French.

The disparities in industrial oil product prices were attributed by the Task Force to the level of taxation on Derv and fuel oil and the structure of the UK oil products market, particularly for the heavier products.

References

NEDC(81)15 Report on industrial energy prices

NEDC(81)59 Report of the NEDC Energy Task Force.

These papers give the fullest possible statements of the data and arguments used in drawing up the reports. Both papers are available free from

NEDO Books
Millbank Tower
Millbank
London SW1P 4QX

Recently available statistical series and publications

The following publications containing social statistics have recently, or will soon become available during January–March quarter of 1982. 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

Education Statistics for the United Kingdom 1979

Department of the Environment

Housing and Construction Statistics, third quarter, 1981
Part 2, No 7

Housing and Construction Statistics, fourth quarter 1981
Part 1, No 8

Local Housing Statistics. Issue 60: figures for the third quarter 1981.

Home Office

Fire Statistics United Kingdom 1980

Fire Statistics United Kingdom 1980, Supplement for fire brigades

Obtainable from S3 Division

Home Office

50 Queen Anne's Gate

London SW1H 9AT

Statistical Bulletin: Control of immigration statistics, 4th quarter and year 1981

Statistical Bulletin: Statistics on the prevention of terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Acts 1944 and 1976, 4th quarter 1981

Statistical Bulletin: Serious offences recorded by the police in England and Wales, 4th quarter and year 1981

Copies of Home Office Statistical Bulletins are available from the Home Office Statistical Department, Room 1813, Tolworth Tower, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7DS.

Inland Revenue

Survey of Personal Incomes 1978–1979

Inland Revenue Statistics 1981

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, stillbirths and deaths</i>	VS	Monthly
<i>Legal Abortions</i>	AB	Quarterly

<i>Deaths from Accidents</i>	DH4	Quarterly
<i>Infectious Diseases</i>	MB2	Quarterly
<i>Deaths by Cause</i>	DH2	Quarterly
<i>Perinatal and infant deaths</i>	DH3	Occasional
<i>International Migration</i>	MN	Biannual
<i>Population Estimates</i>	PP1	Occasional
<i>Census</i>	CEN	Occasional
<i>Cancer Statistics</i>	MB1	Occasional
<i>Hospital In-patients Enquiry</i>	MB4	Occasional

Scottish Education Department

Statistical Bulletin: Schools, Pupils and Teachers

Statistical Bulletin: Student Awards

Statistical Bulletin: First Destination of University First Degree Graduates

Statistical Bulletin: Education Authority Schools in the 1970s

Statistical Bulletin: Pupils and Teachers in Education Authority Primary and Secondary Schools

Statistical Bulletin: Pre-Service Teacher Training.

Department of Health and Social Security

In addition to the above, the Department of Health and Social Security publish regular monthly and quarterly statistical series on such topics as Unemployment benefit, Child benefit and Sickness invalidity and injury benefits. Extracts and summaries from these series are eventually published in *Social Security Statistics*.

Further information can be obtained from:

Mr R V Easey,

Department of Health and Social Security,

Room A2111,

Newcastle Central Office

Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE98 1YX

Telephone: Newcastle (0632) 797373

Central Statistical Office

Regional Trends 1982 Edition

New Surveys assessed by the Survey Control Unit

September 1981 to November 1981

For further information on the surveys listed, the appropriate departmental contact may be obtained from Mr R. C. Ponman (01-233 5018), 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 September to November 1981

<i>Title</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Those approached</i>	<i>Approximate number approached</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
Business surveys					
British Overseas Trade Board Home Services Research	COI/BOTB	Exporters	460	UK	AH
Crime Prevention Campaign Evaluation	COI/HOME	Retailers	50	E	AH
Effects of Reductions in Working Time through National Agreements	DEM	Employers	415	GB	AH
Young Workers Scheme	DEM	Employers	1000	GB	AH
Inter-Regional Diffusion of Process Innovations Interview Survey	DI	Manufacturing Firms	150	GB	AH
Survey of Industrial Premises	DI	Manufacturing Firms	2300	EM	AH
Farmer Response to Divisional and Commodity-Based Bulletins	MAFF	Farmers	6000	EW	AH
Employment Prospects in Large Companies	MSC	Large Companies	100	E	AH
Evaluation of the "Threshold Scheme"	MSC	Computing Firms	NK	GB	AH
Off-The-Job Training Facilities in Scotland, 1981	MSCS	Employers	15	S	AH
Study of Skilled Manpower in Grampian Region	MSCS	Employers	275	S	AH
Investment Survey to the Printing Industries	NEDO	Printing, Stationery and Packaging Firms	2800	GB	AH
Input-Output Analysis for Scotland - Wholesale Distribution Survey	SEPD	Wholesalers	150	S	AH
Local authority surveys					
Review of Housing Provision for Mentally Handicapped Adults and Ex-Psychiatric Patients	DOE	Housing & Social Services Departments, and Other Organisations	40	EW	AH
Other surveys					
Careers Publications Research	COI	Students, Careers Advisers	4140	GB	AH
Pre-Test of Two Energy Commercials	COI/DEN	Adults	3000	E	AH
Energy - Insulation Omnibus, October 1981	COI/DEN	Households	2000	GB	AH
Energy Conservation - TV Campaign Evaluation, 1981/82	COI/DEN	Households	2250	GB	AH
Central Heating Controls Research	COI/DEN	Households	76	GB	AH
Blood Donor Telephone Interviews	COI/DHSS	Adults	750	SE	AH
1981/82 Drink and Drive Campaign Research	COI/DTP	Drivers	300	GB	AH
Drink and Drive Evaluation - Experimental Research	COI/DTP	Drivers	1600	GB	AH
1981/82 Drink and Drive Campaign Evaluation	COI/DTP	Drivers	1600	GB	AH
1981/82 Crime Prevention Campaign - Evaluation Research	COI/HOME	Households	1600	E	AH
Armed Services Careers Check 1981	COI/MOD	Youths	2300	GB	AH
YOP Advertising Campaign 1981 Evaluation	COI/MSC	Adults	2200	GB	AH
Sporting Salmon Fishing	DAFS	Salmon Fishermen	150	S	AH
Survey on Use of Department of Energy Statistics	DEN	Readers	200	UK	AH
Economics of UK Medical Equipment Market	DHSS	NHS Supplies and Scientific Staff	60	GB	AH
Study of Patient Compliance in the Early Detection of Breast Cancer	DHSS	Women	3300	E	AH
Hospital Food Survey	DHSS	In-Patients and Discharged Patients	300	YH	AH
Study of Industrial Building Allowance for Small Premises	DI	Local Authorities, Estate Agents Property Developers	72	UK	AH
English House Condition Survey 1981 - Social and Physical surveys	DOE	Households	15000	E	AH
Painting the Inner City - Building User Survey	DOE	Visitors to Buildings	NK	SE	AH
Review of Economic and Employment Projects - Training Workshop	DOE	Local Authorities, Training Workshops	24	E	AH
Review of the Control of Pollution (Special Waste) Regulations 1980	DOE	LAs, Firms	764	GB	AH
Research on shared ownership	DOE	Households	1125	E	AH
Planning Problems for Small Firms in Rural Areas	DOE	LA Industrial Development Officers, COSIRA County Organisers	76	E	AH
North Devon Link Road - Stage 2 Survey (Autumn 1981)	DTP	Drivers	2300	SW	AH
Selby By-Pass Study	DTP	Drivers	5000	YH	AH
A3 Liphook-Petersfield Survey	DTP	Drivers	4500	SE	AH

New Surveys assessed September 1981 to November 1981 (continued)

<i>Title</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Those approached</i>	<i>Approximate number approached</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
Other surveys (continued)					
Value of Time Research	DTP	Travellers	1500	UK	AH
Acle Traffic Survey	DTP	Drivers	3000	EA	AH
M25 (A111-A10) Before and After Survey	DTP	Drivers	10000	SE	AH
A12 Chelmsford By-Pass (Stock Road) Survey	DTP	Drivers	1500	SE	AH
Proposed A47 Eye By-Pass - Origin and Destination Survey	DTP	Drivers	1300	SE	AH
Access to Hospitals for Visitors	DTP	Hospital Visitors	2000	W	AH
Usage of Dover Tourist Information Centre by Overseas Tourists	ETB	Tourists	500	SE	AH
Shortbreak Holiday Market in London	ETB	Tourists	1000	GB	AH
Survey of Teenage Dietary Habits	MAFF	Youths	100	EW	AH
British Survey of Eating Out	MAFF	Adults	1200	GB	AH
Disabled People in the Labour Market	MSC	Disabled People	1700	GB	AH
A45 Dunchurch - Goods Vehicle Design Experiment	TRRL	Residents	600	WM	AH
Green Cross Code Man - Survey of Children's Responses	WO	Children	1000	W	AH

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

General

COSIRA Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas

YOP Youth Opportunities Programme

Frequency

AH Ad hoc (or single time)

Sponsors

BOTB British Overseas Trade Board

COI Central Office of Information

DAFS Department of Agriculture & Fisheries for Scotland

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

MAFF Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

MOD Ministry of Defence

MSC Manpower Services Commission

MSCS Manpower Services Commission (Office for Scotland)

NEDO National Economic Development Office

SEPD Scottish Economic Planning Department

TRRL Transport and Road Research Laboratory

WO Welsh Office

Locations

E England

EA East Anglia

EM East Midlands

EW England and Wales

GB Great Britain

S Scotland

SE South East England

SW South West England

UK United Kingdom

W Wales

WM West Midlands

YH Yorkshire and Humberside

Notes on current developments

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

Population Trends

The editorial of the latest edition of *Population Trends* indicates that there was a small increase in the population of England and Wales of 73 thousand (less than 0.2 per cent) between mid-1979 and mid-1980 bringing the total to 49.2 million and predicts that an even smaller increase of 10 thousand is likely between mid-1980 and mid-1981. In 1980 there were 12 thousand fewer deaths than in 1979 and the number of influenza deaths (514) was the lowest for fifty years. Perinatal mortality fell from 14.7 per thousand in 1979 to 13.3 per thousand – the largest percentage decrease in a single year since information on the rate became available in 1928. The increase in births moderated in 1980 with a 3 per cent increase over the 1979 figure compared with annual increases of 5 and 7 per cent in 1978 and 1979 respectively. Early indications for the first half of 1981 indicate a possible decline in births during the year. The number of immigrants fell during 1980 while numbers emigrating increased, resulting in a net loss of 55 thousand people – the largest net loss since 1974.

The editorial also looks at fertility rates, legitimate and illegitimate births, abortions, marriages and divorces during 1980 and recent years.

Population Trends also contains the following articles:

Employment during pregnancy and infant mortality

In a parliamentary question in October 1979 the Secretary of State for Social Services was asked whether there was any evidence that employment of women during pregnancy was related to the survival chances of their children. At the time, there was no source of data which could be used to answer the question. In this article by Michael McDowall and Peter Goldblatt of OPCS Medical Statistics Division and John Fox of the City University, recently available data from the OPCS Longitudinal Study is used to provide a preliminary assessment.

Long term trends in seasonal mortality

The excess of winter deaths is of prime concern in any study of annual fluctuations in deaths in temperate zones. This article by Michael McDowall of OPCS Medical Statistics Division, compares the mortality for

the January-March quarters in England and Wales with that for the complete years and assesses the likely contribution of reduced air pollution and increasing use of central heating in relation to recent falls in winter mortality.

Population trends in rural Britain

One of the most intriguing features of population change that the 1981 Census has highlighted is the acceleration of population growth in the more rural and remote areas. This article by A G Champion of the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, analyses how widespread this phenomenon has been and what the trend over time has been when annual changes in population are examined.

Reference

Population Trends 26 Winter 1981. (HMSO 1981) (Price £4.10 net)

Census 1981: England and Wales

The first Small Area Statistics (SAS) derived from the answers given by householders to questions in the 1981 Census have now been released by OPCS. The SAS contain the first detailed results for District electoral wards and enumeration districts and expand the results for counties and local authority districts contained in the *OPCS County Monitors* (see *Statistical News* 55 page 55.11). Details of what SAS are available and other latest developments from the 1981 Census are given in an OPCS Monitor published in December.

Published in January was the OPCS guide to the definitions, classifications and the population bases used in the 1981 Census County Report tables and in the SAS. The material in the volume will not be duplicated in published reports nor in the explanatory notes for the SAS. The volumes contain an introduction to the 1981 Census and sections on population bases, population and household definitions and the definition and classification of communal establishments, followed by notes on all topics in the census.

References

1981 Small Area Statistics: first counties available. OPCS Monitor CEN 81/5. (OPCS 1981)

Census 1981. Definitions. Great Britain. (HMSO 1981) (Price £4.80 net)

International migration 1980

Detailed figures produced by OPCS on international migration during 1980 were published recently by HMSO. The data, obtained from the *International Passenger Survey*, consist of time series information for the period 1971-1980 and detailed figures for 1980. Some information about persons acquiring citizenship of the UK and those accepted for settlement is also included. The volume also comments on the sampling and non-sampling errors on the IPS migration figures.

An OPCS Monitor issued in December commented on the latest figures for the year and half-year ending mid-1981.

References

International migration, 1980. Series MN no 7. (HMSO 1982) (Price £5.20 net)
International migration. OPCS Monitor MN 81/5. (OPCS 1981)

Birth statistics in 1980 and 1981

The number of live births in England and Wales during 1980 (656 thousand) was 3 per cent higher than the number in the previous year and 15 per cent higher than the figures for 1977 (569 thousand), the lowest annual total this century.

The latest detailed analyses of births published by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys in February, contains tabulations of 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 birth of parents are also included giving more details than these tables previously published in 1981 as OPCS Monitors. The volume also looks at multiple births, fertility and abortion and contains analyses of fertility on a cohort basis for women born in each year from 1920 to 1965 and for women married in each year from 1936 to 1978.

Published in November 1981 was an OPCS Monitor (Reference VS 81/4) giving estimates for the number of live births in England and Wales during the first half of 1981. During the March and June quarters there were 156 and 160 thousand live births respectively, these figures being 3.9 per cent and 4.8 per cent below the figures for the equivalent quarters of 1980. The early months of 1981 therefore showed a reversal of the previous upward trend, which had led to an increase in numbers of births of some 16 per cent between the first half of 1977 and the first half of 1980.

Data on births in England and Wales by birthplace of parent for 1980 was published in an OPCS Monitor in December, giving statistics analysed by the main categories of birthplace of the mother and father. Figures for years back to 1971 were also given. A companion Monitor, published simultaneously, contains figures of the numbers of births by birthplace of mother

for the Greater London boroughs and certain Metropolitan and non-Metropolitan districts for 1980. Information for the years 1976-80 for selected local authority areas was also included.

Copies of OPCS Monitors may be obtained from:
Information Branch (Dept M)
Office of Population Censuses and Surveys
St Catherines House
10 Kingsway
London WC2B 6JP

References

Birth statistics, 1980. Series FM1 no 7 (HMSO 1982) (Price £9.80 net)
Births by birthplace of parent, 1980. OPCS Monitor FM1 81/3. (OPCS 1981)
Births by birthplace of parent, 1980: local authority areas. OPCS Monitor FM1 81/4. (OPCS 1981)

Household estimates

Household estimates for England, the regions and English counties based on 1979 population projections were published by the Department of the Environment in December.

Estimates are given by household type for the years 1979, 1981, 1986 and 1991 down to county level, and by broad age-groups and sex of household head for England.

The figures were calculated by applying headship rates, extrapolated from 1961, 1966 and 1971 Census data, to population projections made by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

Reference

1979 based Estimates of Numbers of Households: England, the Regions and the Counties 1979-1991 (DOE 1981) (Price £15 including postage from Room S13/15, DOE, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1).

GRO (Scotland) – publications

Since the publication of the Registrar General's quarterly return was stopped for reasons of economy the main quarterly tables have been issued with the weekly return. Those for the first quarter of 1981 were complete by weekly return no 30 of 1981, for the second quarter by WR 41/81 and for the third quarter by WR 2/82. Other tables formerly published in the quarterly returns have appeared as follows:

Abridged life table for Scotland 1978-80 WR31/81
Mid-1980 population estimate by sex and age for health and local government districts WR 32/81
Provisional vital statistics for 1981 by district should be available by about week 12 of 1982.

(Subscription for the weekly return £20 pa for weekly posting, £8 pa for quarterly posting from GRO(S), Ladywell House, Edinburgh EH12 7TF.)

The Registrar General's Annual Report for 1979 was published in one-volume format on 2 December 1981

(HMSO £19.00 net), and the 1980 report should follow early in 1982.

Microfiche prints of the number of births and of deaths by sex for unit postcode of residence are now available for each year from 1974 to 1980, at a cost of £5.75 per year. No more detailed tables can be provided for such small areas: the tables available for postcode sectors (about a thousand in Scotland) were noted in *Statistical News* 54.31.

SOCIAL STATISTICS

Family Expenditure Survey 1980

Some preliminary annual results for the Family Expenditure Survey for 1980 were published in the November 1981 issue of the *Employment Gazette*. Average household expenditure on goods and services among the 6,944 United Kingdom households which took part in the 1980 survey was over £110 per week, an increase of 17.4 per cent over the corresponding figure for 1979. The full report of the 1980 Family Expenditure Survey is in preparation and is expected to be published in the first quarter of 1982.

Quarterly results for 1980 have been published in the *Gazette* as they became available, and the issue for November 1981 included data for the fourth quarter of 1980.

Reference

Employment Gazette November 1981 (HMSO Price £2.00 net)

Survey of defenders in debt actions in Scotland

Commissioned by the Social Survey Division of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, this report by Janet Gregory and Janet Monk is now available.

The main aims of the survey were to explore the circumstances of people who had court action taken against them for recovery of debt, to record their opinions as to how the debt was incurred, to find out what knowledge they had of the debt recovery process and to examine the circumstances in which the debt was settled.

The report is divided into nine chapters describing variously the characteristics of the debtors; the debts; reasons for getting into debt; the court process; the outcome of the court action; the use of diligence to enforce recovery; payment arrangements and reactions to the debt and to court action. Each of the chapters contain statistical tables pertaining to the subject under discussion and there is also a statistical appendix. Other appendices contain the sampling report by Denis Lewis, specimen forms and the questionnaire used in the survey.

Reference

Survey of defenders in debt actions for Scotland. Research Report for the Scottish Law Commission No. 6, Janet Gregory and Janet Monk, Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, Social Survey Division (HMSO 1981) (Price £12.80 net)

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Mortality statistics

The complete picture of cause of death in England and Wales in 1980 was published in February. The volume, from OPCS, gives numbers and death rates analysed by sex and age; deaths of children under one year are analysed separately.

The number of deaths in 1980 (581,000) was lower than in either of the two preceding years. There were 12,000 fewer deaths than in 1979 and this fall was concentrated in the first quarter of the year, in which 14,000 fewer deaths were registered than in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. There were no major changes in cause of death.

Reference

Mortality statistics: cause, 1980. Series DH2 no 7 (HMSO 1982) (Price £6.80 net)

Deaths by birthplace of deceased

An OPCS Monitor published recently contains figures of death registrations in England and Wales analysed by main categories of birthplace for the years 1971-1980. More detailed figures of birthplaces by sex of the deceased are given for the years 1976-1980.

Reference

Deaths by birthplace of deceased, 1980. OPCS Monitor DH1 82/1. (OPCS 1982)

Adult dental health

In July 1980 the first volume of results of a survey conducted by the Social Survey Division of OPCS for the United Kingdom health departments, showed an improvement over the ten-year period 1968-78 in most aspects of adult dental health in England and Wales (see *Statistical News* 50, page 50.20). A second volume, presenting more detail about the current state of adult dental health in the United Kingdom is published in February. It contains sections on such aspects as the dental condition of different toothtypes, peoples' perception of their dental health, treatment received and its cost, denture wearing and a section on dental health in Scotland.

References

Todd and Walker. *Adult dental health, Volume 1, England and Wales 1968-1978*. (HMSO 1980) (Price £8 net)

Todd, Walker and Dodd. *Adult dental health, Volume 2, United Kingdom 1978*. (HMSO 1982) (Price £14.50 net)

EDUCATION

Overseas students

DES Statistical Bulletin 19/81 gives final information for 1980/81 concerning the numbers of overseas students at universities, maintained, assisted and grant aided establishments of further education in Great Britain. It supersedes previous early estimates for 1980/81 given in Statistical Bulletin 4/81.

The new Bulletin contains several additional tables, in particular analyses by subject group of study and by qualification aim. Of particular interest are two tables which give information on the twenty countries which in 1979/80 sent the most students to maintained establishments in Great Britain. As in 1980/81 a monitoring exercise to give early estimates on overseas student numbers is being mounted this autumn and the results should be published when available. The figures presented in the bulletin exclude a number of students in private sector colleges (mainly language schools). Some information about these can be found in the annual British Council booklet *Statistics of overseas students in the UK*.

Reference

Overseas students in Great Britain – Final information for 1980/81, DES Statistical Bulletin 19/81 available free from Statistics Branch, DES, Elizabeth House, York Road, LONDON SE1 7PH.

Further education

DES Statistical Bulletin 15/81 presents information on student enrolments as at November 1980 in further education establishments in England and Wales. Comparable figures for earlier years are shown also. The tables show separate figures for adult education centres and major establishments of further education, full-time and part-time courses, and advanced and non-advanced courses. More detailed figures are available on request. Further bulletins presenting figures of enrolments as at November 1981 on advanced courses and numbers of overseas students are currently being prepared and should be published early in 1982.

Reference

Statistics of Further Education students for 1980-81, DES Statistical Bulletin 15/81 available from Statistics Branch, DES, Elizabeth House, York Road, London SE1 7PH.

First destination of university first degree graduates: Scotland

A statistical bulletin, published with the agreement of the Department of Education and Science and the University Grants Committee which records the first destination of first degree graduates from Scottish universities in each of the years 1976 to 1980. The bulletin concentrates on Scottish domiciled graduates

from Scottish universities, particularly those remaining in Scotland. Information given includes the numbers who, between their graduation and the following December, were known to have gained permanent employment, undertaken further academic study or research or are believed unemployed.

Education authority schools in the 1970's: Scotland

This bulletin presents a statistical analysis of information on education authority schools between 1970 and 1980. Much of the data have already been published in bulletins on specific topics but are drawn together in this issue to give an overall picture of the general trends which have taken place in school education over the past decade.

Pupils and teachers in education authority primary and secondary schools: Scotland

Published annually, this bulletin gives the number of pupils and teachers in education authority primary and secondary schools, and the number of schools at September 1980 and September 1981 (provisional); includes estimates of the number of teachers employed above or below the level required to meet the national recommended staffing levels.

Information is given for Scotland as a whole, and for regions and island authorities; separate figures are provided for non-denominational and Roman Catholic schools.

Pre-service teacher training: Scotland

For the first time information about students at colleges of education in Scotland commencing courses of pre-service teacher training and the number of students successfully completing these courses between 1970 and 1980, is published in a statistical bulletin. Details of the numbers of students by course and by college and trends in staffing throughout the seventies are also included.

Copies of Scottish statistical bulletins can be obtained from:

Scottish Education Department
Statistics Division
Room 206
43 Jeffrey Street
Edinburgh
EH1 1DN
Telephone: 031-556 9233 Extn 286

MANPOWER AND EARNINGS

New Earnings Survey 1981

The results of the New Earnings Survey 1981 (briefly described in *Statistical News* 52.22) are now being published. Detailed information appears in a six-part report *New Earnings Survey 1981 Parts A to F* with largely the same format as in previous years (see *Statistical News* 51.32). The key results of the survey were also published in the October 1981 issue of *Employment Gazette*.

A question on holiday entitlement was added to the survey questionnaire for the first time since 1974, and a brief article summarising the results and comparing them with those of 1970 and 1974 appeared in the December 1981 issue of *Employment Gazette*. Detailed analyses of holiday entitlement are given in *New Earnings Survey 1981 Part F*. New analyses of incentive pay, distinguishing regular payments from periodical bonuses, appear in *Part E* of the same report. An article on regional pay is to be published in *Employment Gazette* early in 1982.

Another New Earnings Survey will be conducted in 1982.

References

New Earnings Survey 1981 (HMSO, in six parts, October 1981 to March 1982, price £6.50 per part)

Employment Gazette (HMSO, monthly, price £2.25 net from January 1982)

Numbers of self-employed people 1971–1979

Revised estimates of the number of self-employed people in Great Britain in 1975, 1977 and 1979 are presented in an article in the January 1982 issue of *Employment Gazette*.

The withdrawal of national insurance cards in 1975 meant that the regular source of data on numbers of self-employed was lost. The European Community Labour Force Survey was the most appropriate replacement but certain aspects of the survey caused concern. The difficulties have recently been resolved and figures subsequent to 1975 have been made generally available for the first time.

Estimates are given of the number of self-employed by Industry Order in Great Britain. Overall totals are also given for each region and the tables show males and females separately.

Reference

Employment Gazette, January 1982 (HMSO) (Price £2.25 net)

Regional labour force outlook to 1986

The November 1981 issue of the *Employment Gazette* contains an article examining the implications for the

regions of the growth in the labour force described in an earlier article 'Labour force outlook to 1986' published in April 1981.

Over the past few years, the size of the labour force has been greatly affected by both high and rising levels of unemployment. It is estimated that the labour force in Great Britain has fallen slightly in recent years even though the population of working age has been rising.

Between 1981 and 1986 a growth in the national labour force of nearly 700 thousand is projected – on a working assumption of two million unemployed in 1986. However, growth in three regions – East Anglia, the South West and East Midlands – is expected to be particularly strong, while in the North West and the Northern Region growth in the labour force will be well below the national rate. These differences largely reflect the different rates of growth in the regional populations of working age, which in turn reflect projected migration patterns.

The labour force in each region will also be affected by the changing activity rates – the proportion of people in different age-sex groups who are working or seeking work. It is thought that all regions will be affected by the national trends towards earlier retirement for men and of some recovery by 1986 in the activity rates of married women. However, while historically there have been large differences between regional economic activity rates, which for men aged over 16 in 1971 ranged from 85 per cent (West Midlands) to 76 per cent (South West), it is assumed that by 1986 these differences will have become less marked, with the difference between the highest and lowest activity rates reduced to 5½ percentage points. Regional variation in women's activity rates are also expected to narrow.

References

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

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

Report on the EC Labour Force Survey

Due for publication later this year by HMSO for OPCS *Labour Force Survey 1979* is the second of the series of reports on the European Community (EC) Labour Force Survey.

The survey, which samples approximately ½ per cent of the private household population, collects information relating mainly to various aspects of economic activity. It is carried out for the Department of Employment which, in turn, is required to sponsor such a survey as a requirement of the United Kingdom's membership of the European Community. Surveys are carried out every two years and have taken place in the United Kingdom since 1973. The 1981 survey was carried

out in May/June 1981 and results from this survey should be available from early next year.

The current report contains six chapters. The introductory chapter is followed by two chapters on technical procedures in which sample design and sampling errors and interviewing and data processing are described. The remaining three chapters describe the results of the survey. The first deals with employment, including comparative data from other EC member countries; the second covers results on country of birth, nationality and ethnic origin, and the last covers housing tenure, highest educational or training qualification, age at completion of continuous full-time education, migration during the year leading up to the survey, and household size.

A listing of all tables produced from the 1979 survey is given in Appendix 4.

Earlier surveys and results were described in the first of this series of reports published in December 1980.

References

Statistical News 29.25, 30.31, 47.47, 51.33 (HMSO)

Labour Force Survey 1973, 1975 and 1977 Series LFS No 1 (HMSO 1980) (Price £5.60 net)

Labour Force Survey 1979 Series LFS No 2 (HMSO 1982) (Price to be announced)

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Agricultural censuses and surveys

Annual estimates of crop production 1980 harvest

The annual estimates of production (with the area and estimated average yield per hectare) for the principal agricultural crops in England, England and Wales and the United Kingdom were published in Statistical Information Notices Stats No. 269/81 on 18 September 1981 and 284/81 on 5 October 1981.

The Production of Crops/England and Wales statement giving county and regional estimates of yield for England and Wales was issued in November 1981.

The 1980/81 egg yields survey

The estimates of the annual yield per laying fowl by system of management for England and Wales were published in Statistical Information Notice Stats No. 299/81 on 16 October 1981.

The June 1981 agricultural census

The provisional results of this census, for England, were published in Press Notice No. 323 on 5 October 1981; those for the United Kingdom were published in Statistical Information Notice Stats No. 322/81 on 10 November 1981.

The final results of the June 1981 census for England will be published shortly.

The statistical material mentioned above may be obtained from:

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

Provisional results of the June 1981 Scottish Agricultural Census

The provisional results of the Scottish Agricultural Census held on 1 June 1981 were published as a Scottish Office Press Notice on 20 October 1981 (Press Notice 1063/81).

Self-sufficiency in food

Figures showing the United Kingdom's self-sufficiency in food in 1980, together with revised figures for the previous ten years, were published in *Food Facts No 7* on 2 November 1981.

The present system for measuring self-sufficiency was described in an article published in *Economic Trends* No 312 in October 1979. The latest series are based on the same methodology but incorporate a number of revisions and use improved definitions where, for example, additional detail is nowadays available in the overseas trade statistics. Food supplies are valued at farmgate or landed value, and an adjustment is also made in the home contribution to total consumption to allow for the net foreign trade cost of agriculture's use of imported feed, seed and livestock.

Tables showing self-sufficiency are also published in the *Annual Abstract of Statistics* together with figures of total consumers' expenditure on food and the cost of processing and distribution.

Copies of *Food Facts* may be obtained from:

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Press Office
Whitehall Place
London SW1A 2HH
Telephone 01-233 5171

INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS

Labour productivity: output per person hour in manufacturing

A new statistical series – output per person hour in manufacturing industries – has been developed by the CSO in collaboration with the Department of Employment. It will be introduced in the January 1982 issue of *Employment Gazette*.

Regularly published series of output per person employed do not fully reflect changes in labour input as they take no account of changes in hours worked. Comprehensive series of output and employment exist for the economy as a whole but rather less information is available on hours worked.

For this reason, the index, which is compiled quarterly, relates only to manufacturing industries as a whole. A short description of the methods used to compile this index appears in the January editions of *Economic Trends* and the *Employment Gazette*. These index numbers appear in the publications above and in the *Monthly Digest of Statistics*. A longer description of this series appears in an occasional paper (No. 15) available on request from:

Branch 4
Central Statistical Office
Great George Street
London SW1P 3AQ

References

Employment Gazette January 1982 (HMSO) (Price £2.25 net)
Economic Trends January 1982 (HMSO) (Price £9.75 net)
Monthly Digest of Statistics (HMSO) (Price £5.00 net)

Stock of consumer durables in the United Kingdom

An article in the March 1978 issue of *Economic Trends* (subsequently reprinted in *Studies in Official Statistics* No 35) by J R Calder entitled 'The stock of consumer durables in the United Kingdom' provided a selection of figures over the run of years end-1966 to end-1976 for the total and major components of consumer durables. Six variants were considered, two methods of calculating depreciation (straight-line and reducing balance) for each of three life-length assumptions (short, medium and long). Estimates were provided at current (end-year) prices and at constant (1970) prices.

The results for the reducing balance, medium life-length variant were used in the compilation of the balance sheets for the personal sector which formed part of the CSO's evidence to the Royal Commission on the Distribution of Income and Wealth.

The exercise has been extended annually to include the end of more recent years. The base-year of the constant price figures has been up-dated from 1970 to 1975.

The latest extension of the exercise, to end-1980, has now been completed. A short paper summarising the results is available, updating some of the tables given in the *Economic Trends* article, of which off-prints are also available. A small charge, of £1 each including postage, is made for these items.

Enquiries to:

Mr T C Jones
Central Statistical Office
Great George Street
London
SW1P 3AQ
Telephone 01-233 7431

References

Economic Trends No 293 March 1978 (HMSO)
Personal sector balance sheets and current developments in Inland Revenue estimates of personal wealth *Studies in Official Statistics* No. 35 (HMSO 1978) (Price £2.25 net)

Housing and construction statistics 1970-1980

The second edition of this annual publication is designed to provide a broad perspective on developments in construction and housing over the past decade. It complements the recently introduced two-part quarterly publication also called *Housing and Construction Statistics* (see *Statistical News* 49 page 49.27) which, for the main series published in this volume, provides the latest monthly and quarterly statistics as they become available.

The publication is prepared by the Statistics Directorate of the Department of the Environment in collaboration with the Scottish Development Department, the Welsh Office and other government departments.

Most of the tables provide data for the 11 years 1970-1980 although some span shorter or longer periods and some contain forecasts for years ahead. In addition, there are many detailed tables providing cross-sectional data for the latest year.

There are 16 new tables and 14 significantly amended tables in this edition. Two of these new tables show contractors' output by region (table 12) and by type of work (table 13). Thirteen of the new tables (tables 32-44) considerably extend the results obtained from the Private Contractors' Construction Census. This is because the results from this census are no longer published separately. The 16th new table, table 71, is extracted from the Government's White Paper on public expenditure (Cmnd 8175) and shows capital expenditure on construction work in the United Kingdom at constant 1980 survey prices for the 7 year run of financial years from 1975/6 to 1981/2.

A notes and definitions section gives explanatory notes appropriate to the tables in both the annual and the quarterly publication and an index is provided at the back of the publication.

The link between tables in the annual and quarterly volumes is indicated after the notes and definitions, as is a list of contact points for each table and queries relating to individual tables should be addressed to the appropriate source branch.

A further source of information is *Local Housing Statistics* prepared by the Department of the Environment and Welsh Office and published quarterly by HMSO. This provides up to date information on housing progress and housing renovations by regions, counties and local authority areas.

Unless otherwise stated, the tables relate to Great Britain.

References

- Housing and Construction Statistics 1970-1980* (HMSO 1981) (Price £17.00 net)
The governments expenditure plans 1981-82 to 1983-84 Cmnd. 8175 (HMSO 1981) (Price £9.30 net)
Local Housing Statistics (HMSO, Price £5.50 net)

TRANSPORT

Commuting in London and the South East

A recent publication, *Commuter travel trends in London and South East 1966-1979 - and associated factors* reports a study undertaken by the Department of Transport in association with British Rail.

The main part of the report is concerned with trends in commuting by British Rail to Central London but commuter travel by other modes is also examined, in less detail, and commuting by BR to other areas in the South East. The report also discusses the possible role of factors such as fare levels, petrol prices, changes in employment and residential location, earnings and house prices.

The study is largely based on a new analysis of British Rail ticket sale information covering in the main the period 1973-1979. A longer view back to 1966 is taken using travel to work tables from the 1966 and 1971 censuses.

The study was undertaken in response to the remit in Section 134 of the 1977 *Transport Policy White Paper* (Command 6836) to monitor changes in the pattern of transport, employment and housing in the South East. This monitoring will be continued as further information becomes available e.g. more recent British Rail data, 1981 census.

Copies of the report may be obtained from:

The Department of Transport
Room S19/19
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 3EB
Telephone: 01-212 7513

Reference

- Commuter travel trends in London and South East 1966-1979 - and associated factors*, by A H Brown (Price £15.00 net)

Scottish transport statistics

A compilation of transport statistics relating to Scotland initially prepared last year for use in the Scottish Office and by local transport authorities has been updated and is being made available to the general public as *Scottish Transport Statistics No 2*.

The volume contains 58 tables, some of which have not been published elsewhere, dealing with all modes of transport in Scotland. There are major sections on vehicle licensing and registration, public service vehicles, road freight, rail and air transport and public expenditure on transport.

Copies, priced at £2.00 including postage, can be obtained from:

Scottish Office Library
Orders Section
Room 2/64
New St Andrew's House
St James Centre
Edinburgh EH1 3SX

DISTRIBUTION AND OTHER SERVICES

Monthly retail sales inquiry

The monthly retail sales indices are being rebased on the results of the 1978 retailing inquiry. The results are expected to be published early in 1982, probably in February, and will be introduced in *British business*.

The indices are being adjusted to agree with the estimates of growth in turnover shown by the more comprehensive annual retailing inquiries for 1978, 1979 and 1980. With the rebased series the adjustments are also being made to all the detailed components on an approximate basis so that all component series will be fully consistent.

Reference

- British business* (HMSO weekly) (Price £1.10 net)

TRADE STATISTICS

UK trade by mode of transport

An article published in *British business* 18 December 1981 describes the relative importance of the different modes of transport used in the movement of UK imports and exports. It intended to summarise some of the lesser known statistics of overseas trade.

Some related articles and sources are given. Analyses mentioned in the article can be broken down into more detail. Country and commodity analyses of trade by air or sea, by port or flag of vessel, by container, road or rail

vehicle can be purchased from the Bill of Entry Unit, HM Customs and Excise Statistical Office, Portcullis House, 27 Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS2 6AL.

A previous article, *UK trade by mode of transport*, which gives 1979 statistics, was published in *British business* 12 December 1980.

UK shipping – an international industry, an article describing the international operations of the UK sea transport industry, which earned £3.7 bn in 1980, was published in *British business* on 11 September 1981. A special article describing the geographical pattern of UK shipping earnings was published on 26 September 1980. This detailed analysis of earnings by trade route is only possible once every four years and presents the results of a census conducted by the General Council of British Shipping.

Nationality of vessels in UK seaborne trade is a third *British business* article published on 14 August 1981, it describes the pattern of UK seaborne trade in 1980 and the nationality of ships carrying it. More detailed statistics are given in the *Business Monitor* of the same title, MA8, available from HMSO price £6.50.

General trends in shipping is a handy reference book of shipping statistics with special emphasis on the United Kingdom merchant fleet. The third issue of this twice yearly *Business Monitor*, MR15, is available from HMSO price £5.20.

Port Statistics 1980 was published on 1 February. A joint publication of the Department of Transport and the British Ports Association it contains detailed figures on foreign and coastal traffic through British seaports by commodity and mode (i.e. containers and ro/ro statistics) and is based on returns made by port authorities. It is available from the British Ports Association, Commonwealth House, 1-19 New Oxford Street, London, WC1A 1DZ, price £20.00 net.

Port Statistics for the foreign trade of the United Kingdom describes the pattern of imports and exports through UK seaports in 1980. It is based on Customs and Excise data and is published by, and available from, the British Ports Association address above.

Reference

British business (HMSO weekly) (Price £1.10 net)

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE

Territorial analysis of public expenditure

The Treasury has updated its series of identifiable public expenditure in the four countries of the United Kingdom for the years 1976-7 to 1980-81. Identifiable expenditure is expenditure which can be identified from official records as having been incurred in a particular country. It amounts to about 80 per cent of all public expenditure. The series shows expenditure by all spending authorities on the various functional programmes of the public expenditure survey. Summaries of the results are published in *Regional Trends* and *Social Trends*, and more detailed results for Scotland and Wales in the *Scottish Abstract* and *Welsh Economic Trends* respectively. Further information for all four countries is also available showing analyses by economic category for central and local government. Any enquiries should be addressed to:

Miss J Dougharty
HM Treasury
Parliament Street
LONDON SW1P 3AG
Telephone: 01-233 4488

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

Production accounts

The September 1978 issue of *Economic Trends* contained a short article entitled 'Progress report on the construction and use of commodity balances within the national accounts'. This described briefly the development of a new system of economic accounts, covering thirty industries, designed to help locate and eliminate the causes of the discrepancies between the output and expenditure measures of gross domestic product at constant prices. Because the system draws on input-output methodology as well as on the macro-economic national accounts, it also opens the way to undertaking analysis of the economy with an industrial dimension based on contemporary data.

Since then the system, now usually referred to as the production accounts, has been extended so that thirty seven industries are distinguished instead of the original thirty. The results of the 1974 input-output tables have been incorporated, and the whole system is now expressed in constant 1975 prices. The accounts are updated quarterly in line with the national accounts, though at present they do not extend into 1981 because of the interruption to the overseas trade statistics caused by the Civil Service dispute. The most recent set of accounts covers the period from the first quarter of 1974

to the fourth quarter of 1980 and is consistent with the data in the 1981 Blue Book and in the national accounts article in *Economic Trends*, October 1981.

Copies of the accounts, together with a note explaining their derivation, are available to the public subject to the normal conditions of Crown Copyright. The price is £10 for a single set of tables or £25 for an annual subscription covering four quarterly issues. Anyone wishing to receive the accounts or to enquire further about them should contact Mr M J G Lockyer at the:

Central Statistical Office,
Great George Street,
London SW1P 3AQ;
Telephone 01-233 7350.

Cheques should be made payable to the Cabinet Office.

References

Economic Trends No 338, December 1981 (HMSO) (Price £8.50 net).

National Income and Expenditure 1981 Edition (HMSO, September 1981) (Price £12.25 net)

HOME FINANCE

Regional accounts 1980

The November issue of *Economic Trends* includes the latest annual article on Regional accounts, which gives estimates for the years 1971 to 1980. The estimates include GDP at current factor cost analysed by industry and type of factor income, personal income, consumers' expenditure and gross investment by selected industry groups and by purpose of government.

During the first half of the seventies the tendency was for the poorer regional economies to grow faster, with the North showing the fastest growth rate of all. Meanwhile, the two most prosperous regions, the South East and the West Midlands, grew slower than the national average. Since 1976, this pattern has largely reversed, with the North, for instance, moving from the position of fastest growth to that of slowest, and the South East and East Midlands from below to above average growth. The notable exception to this picture was the West Midlands, where growth has remained low throughout the decade.

Also included in the article for the first time are estimates of GDP for 1977 for the English and Welsh counties and the local authority regions of Scotland.

Further information can be obtained from Mr M W Kirsop, Central Statistical Office (01-233-3612).

Reference

Economic Trends No 337, November 1981 (HMSO) (Price £8.50 net)

Private sector pension funds

The Department of Trade statistics of investments by self-administered private sector pension funds have been rebased on to information relating to the population of such funds at the end of 1978. This information, which includes estimates for the market value of the funds at that date, has been compiled from various published and unpublished sources.

The rebased statistics relate to the self-administered pension and superannuation funds of the private sector, including those of companies, co-operative societies, universities and non-profitmaking bodies. They cover assets of self-administered funds whose investment policy is managed from within the United Kingdom. Funds which operate wholly through insurance companies are not included.

The quarterly figures of transactions in assets reported by those funds responding to the Department of Trade's voluntary inquiry have been grossed-up (to allow for non-response and for funds who are not asked to contribute to the inquiries) using changes between successive quarters' figures for a matched panel of respondents. This panel is stratified by size, as measured by net assets at the end of 1978.

The annual balance sheet statistics have been grossed-up for each stratum using the ratio of 1978 total net assets for the population in each stratum to the 1978 total of net assets for those funds in the stratum responding to the annual inquiries.

The rebased statistics have already been published in *Business Monitor MQ5, Insurance Companies' and Pension Funds' Investment*, for the second quarter of 1981. Further information is available on request from:

Statistics Division 2c,
Department of Industry and Trade,
Room 345,
Sanctuary Buildings,
20 Great Smith Street,
London SW1P 3DB
Telephone 01-215 5224

Retailers' credit business

The Department of Trade statistics of credit sales by, and associated amounts outstanding to, retailers have now been rebased on to the results of the 1976 Inquiry into Retail Trading. The rebased statistics relate to credit financed directly by selected kinds of retail business (clothing, household goods and mixed retail businesses, including general mail-order houses). They have been constrained, where necessary, to the results of the credit questions included in the 1979 Inquiry into Retail Trading.

The results of the 1976 and 1979 Inquiries into Retail Trading have already been published in *Business Monitor SDA 25, Retailing*. Details of the rebasing exercise are given in the December 1981 issue of *Business Monitor SDM8, Consumer Credit Business of Retailers*. Further information is available on request from Statistics Division 2c, at the address given above.

Distribution of the national debt

The Bank of England's December 1981 *Quarterly Bulletin* includes an article, continuing the annual series which began in 1962, which analyses the national debt by instrument and by holder. British government stocks (+ £15½ billion nominal) and national savings (+ £3½ billion) were the main constituents of the increase in the outstanding debt over the year. Non-bank financial institutions, the largest market holders of the debt, invested a further £6¾ billion (net).

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

Money and banking figures: forthcoming changes

The Bank of England's December 1981 *Quarterly Bulletin* includes a note describing the main features of the statistical changes associated with the new monetary control arrangements and their implications for the money and banking figures. It also introduces a revised presentation of the external and foreign currency counterparts to sterling M₃ and a list of institutions constituting the monetary sector (at 18 November 1981).

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

Financing of North Sea oil

The Bank of England's December 1981 *Quarterly Bulletin* includes a table showing 'Loans and commitments by banks in the United Kingdom for North Sea oil development' and another showing 'North Sea lending as a share of total advances to UK residents'. They bring up to date figures in the article 'The financing of North Sea oil 1975-80' in the March 1979 *Bulletin*. Total loans outstanding rose in sterling terms by 21% over the year to mid-August 1981, but most of this apparent increase arises from the effect of the sharp fall in sterling on the value of lending denominated in foreign currencies. Additional commitments showed a marked increase, with those denominated in sterling

rising by 25%, and those denominated in foreign currencies by almost 60% (in foreign currency terms). The latest Bank estimate of the outstanding North Sea financing requirement is £9.0 billion for 1981 and £9.3 billion for 1982.

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

Changes to the statistical annex

A few minor changes were introduced to the *Statistical Annex* to the Bank of England's December 1981 *Quarterly Bulletin*.

- (1) Table 2, Liabilities of the monetary authorities. This table has been expanded to take account of the new arrangements for monetary control introduced on 20 August. From that date, bankers' deposits are divided into operational deposits and non-operational cash ratio deposits.
- (2) Tables 3.1-3.10, Banks in the United Kingdom. These tables now include figures for eligible liabilities.
- (3) Eligible liabilities, reserve assets, reserve ratios and special deposits (formerly Table 4). This table has been discontinued, but eligible liabilities can be found within Table 3.
- (4) Table 19, Financial transactions accounts. The matrix is now shown both unadjusted and seasonally adjusted.

Personal saving

A new presentation of personal saving – the most important source of funds for the rest of the economy – is introduced in an article in November *Economic Trends* 'Committed and discretionary savings' by Sue Toland, Central Statistical Office.

The article contains a detailed analysis of saving according to its committed and discretionary elements. From the early 1960s, most of the fluctuations in the saving ratio (personal saving as a proportion of personal disposable income) can be attributed to variations in discretionary saving, while committed saving – defined by the article as transactions where an initial decision results in regular transactions in that form in the future – has remained fairly steady.

Most saving through life assurance and superannuation schemes, deposits under regular savings schemes with building societies or national savings and regular repayments of borrowing are examples of committed saving, while borrowing, all withdrawals from building society or national savings accounts and deposits in building society ordinary share accounts are examples of discretionary transactions.

The article is illustrated with detailed charts, and all the available information on personal saving is included in the tables in an appendix.

Reference

Economic Trends, No. 337, November 1981 (HMSO (Price £8.50 net))

Company Sector – Occasional paper on sources and methods

An occasional paper, prepared by Mr Michael Barker, setting out the sources and methods relating to the compilation of company sector appropriation accounts was issued at the beginning of January 1982.

It contains detailed sources and methods and describes how these accounts are compiled and the relationship between industrial and commercial companies and financial companies and institutions within the company sector.

A description is also given of the various items which comprise these accounts including gross trading profits, stock appreciation, interest and dividend flows, income from and to abroad and United Kingdom taxes on income. A separate chapter deals with North Sea operations. Annexes to the paper include descriptions of how leasing and royalties are dealt with in the accounts together with an annex on the reliability of the estimates used.

The occasional paper is available at a cost of £3 (including packing and postage) from:

Mr K. M. Macafee
Central Statistical Office
Great George Street
London SW1P 3AQ
Telephone 01-233 7461

Financial Statistics

In the September edition of *Financial Statistics* there were revisions to the tables on external claims and liabilities. External sterling deposits with banks, etc. were split to show separately deposits from banks abroad and deposits from non banks, the geographical analysis is no longer shown. An additional table was introduced showing external claims in sterling reported by banks, etc. in the United Kingdom. There was also a revised presentation of external liabilities and claims of United Kingdom banks in foreign currencies.

The November issue introduced figures for supplementary petroleum tax and the special tax on banking deposits in the Inland Revenue duties table. The Customs and Excise duties table now shows separate detail for (i) wine and (ii) made wine, cider and perry and also for agricultural levies. The table on taxes received by other departments gives payments into the consolidated fund of National Insurance surcharge and

also the gas levy. A new table showing investment by local authorities was included in Section 4.

Reference

Financial Statistics (HMSO, monthly) (Price £7.50 net)

OVERSEAS FINANCE

A broad look at exchange rate movements for eight currencies, 1972-80

As econometric attempts to explain exchange rate movements have been notably unsuccessful an alternative approach is adopted in an article in the Bank of England's December 1981 *Quarterly Bulletin*. Charts of exchange rate movements and of factors likely to have influenced them were studied in the hope that they might be more illuminating, possibly even providing insights which could later be tested more rigourously. The article looks at changes in the value of sterling or other major currencies, not in isolation, but in the context of currency movements generally, since exchange rates are by definition interrelated, and there may be common influences. Some of the findings are:

- (1) Movements in exchange rates have not been closely related to changes in relative price levels in the short run, so they have fluctuated widely in real as well as in nominal terms. Moreover, purchasing power parities may not hold over longer periods.
- (2) Changes in preferences for different currencies may have contributed to exchange rate movements, as may shifts in global wealth between countries whose preferences differ – in particular, shifts associated with current account imbalances induced by oil price changes.
- (3) Current account developments may also frequently have been influential through their impact on expectations.
- (4) Relative interest rate movements have also been associated with exchange rate fluctuations – but not in any obviously stable way.

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 financing of Japanese industry

An article in the Bank of England's December 1981 *Quarterly Bulletin* examines the main characteristics of, and trends in, the financing of Japanese industry. The rapid expansion of the Japanese economy has been founded mainly on a high rate of productivity growth stimulated by a high level of investment. The banks have played the major financing role, encouraged by high personal savings, tax incentives and the group structure of Japanese industry. One consequence is that industrial companies typically have high debt ratios and low equity ratios – although this feature is exaggerated by differences between Japanese and Western accounting practices. Despite its success in contributing to Japan's economic growth, this system has some disadvantages and problems, and changes are in evidence. Following the first oil crisis, industry is becoming more reliant on internal funds and is diversifying its sources of external finance away from the banking system and towards the capital markets, both at home and overseas. These trends are likely to continue, with the result that equity ratios in Japanese industry will rise, if only slowly, and the financial behaviour of industry and the banking system may move closer to that obtaining in other developed countries.

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

Services in the United Kingdom balance of payments

An article in the Bank of England's December 1981 *Quarterly Bulletin*, which continues the series of explanatory articles designed for the general reader, describes and analyses the contribution of the services account to the United Kingdom balance of payments. Since the late 1960s, services have been replacing interest, profits and dividends as the major contributor to the 'invisibles' surplus. Growth of the services surplus was particularly rapid from 1973 to about 1978, reflecting in part buoyant overseas income and trade and sharply improving UK price competitiveness. Financial and 'other' services made a significant contribution to this growth, as did the combined travel and aviation surplus up to 1977. Subsequently, the surplus has risen more moderately, and this slower growth may continue for the next few years. 'Other' services have continued to grow strongly since 1978, but the surplus on travel and civil aviation halved between 1978 and 1980. The sea transport account has remained, perhaps fortuitously, remarkably close to balance. In real terms the surplus on the services account has recently been contracting.

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

INTERNATIONAL

Taxes and social security contributions: international comparisons

An article published in the December 1981 issue of *Economic Trends* gives comparisons of taxation in 18 countries within the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) for the years 1970 to 1979. The tables are based mainly on national accounts returns supplied to OECD by member countries and show, for each country, total taxes and social security contributions as a percentage of gross national product; main categories of tax as percentages of gross national product and total taxation; and taxes on income and social security contributions paid by households as a percentage of total personal income. Also included are provisional figures for 1980 derived from *Revenue Statistics of OECD Member Countries 1965-1980*.

References

Economic Trends, No 338, December 1981 (HMSO) (Price £8.50 net).
Revenue Statistics of OECD Member Countries 1965-1980 (1981) (OECD, Paris) (£7.80 net, available from HMSO).

PUBLICATIONS

Economic Trends Annual Supplement

The 1982 edition of the *Economic Trends Annual Supplement* was published on 13 January. This seventh issue of the Supplement brings together long runs of quarterly and annual data for the key series of economic statistics and is of special value to economists, planners, analysts and academic researchers. Some 300 series are included, linked to give continuous runs as far back as possible in the post-1945 period. In many cases there are both seasonally adjusted and unadjusted figures and over half the series span twenty five years or more. Tables in the Supplement are backed by concise notes and definitions and an index to further, more detailed, sources.

There are three new tables this year – 'Capital account and financial surplus/deficit of industrial and commercial companies'; 'Financial transactions including net borrowing requirement of industrial and commercial companies' and 'UK banks' advances and acceptances to UK residents'. Among other changes, an additional column showing consumer credit is included in the Retail sales, etc. tables. On pages 59 to 65 Building Society Association statistics now give 'Commitments on new dwellings' and 'Advances on new dwellings' in place of 'New commitments for mortgages' and 'Net increase in shares and deposits'. Inland energy consumption pages

no longer include 'Public supply: gas available (GB)'. The Tax and price index table now shows the retail price index. The balance for official financing has been dropped from the balance of payments summary. Investment and other capital transactions are shown in a revised presentation. The sterling effective exchange rate is now based on average 1975=100. The Money stock tables show personal sector liquidity (PSL1 and PSL2) in place of M3 and velocity of circulation. The public expenditure series has been deleted from the general government receipts and expenditure tables. On pages 194 to 197 British government securities long dated (20 years) yield replaces 2½ per cent consols yield. Four tables have been dropped, sources of capital funds, uses of capital funds, selected liquid assets, of industrial and commercial companies and Banks' reserve ratios.

The following amendments should be made to this edition:

Page 14 Expenditure on the gross domestic product

Last column, heading

delete footnote 6: insert footnote 5

Page 113 Wage rates and earnings

Wages and salaries per unit of output: manufacturing industry

1971 Q4 delete 47.8: insert 57.8

Page 132 Balance of payments: current account

Imports

1972 Q2 delete 2,480: insert 2,490

Page 186 Financial transactions including net borrowing requirement of industrial and commercial companies

Net identified trade and other credit received

1978 Q1 delete 315: insert - 315

Reference

Economic Trends Annual Supplement No 7 1982 Edition (HMSO) (Price £9.50 net)

Annual Abstract of Statistics

The 1982 edition of the *Annual Abstract of Statistics*, No 118, was published on 19 January 1982. The size is now A4 and the layout has been designed to bring this edition into line with other Central Statistical Office publications. It contains over 400 tables that provide important economic, industrial and social statistics for the United Kingdom. Annual statistics from 1970 to 1980 are published as available and a few tables give monthly figures for early 1981.

The Scottish Justice and Crime tables have been completely revised. Four other chapters include new tables, two of which are in the Defence Section. Eight

tables have been revised to give different information and seven have been deleted.

The following amendments should be made:

Table 2.7 Age distribution of the Total population of the United Kingdom: mid-year estimates

Females 35-39

1977 delete 1613: insert 1585

1978 delete 1585: insert 1613

Table 5.6 Pupils remaining at school beyond the statutory minimum leaving age

1977/78 Northern Ireland, age 18

delete 4.6: insert 5.6

Table 7.6 Deployment of Service personnel

UK Service personnel, Regular forces

1970 to 1974

delete rows 3 to 6: insert new figures as follows:

	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
England	222.3	216.9	224.8	215.2	202.0
Wales	8.4	7.3	6.6	6.1	5.6
Scotland	18.6	17.6	19.2	17.5	16.0
Northern Ireland	8.8	11.1	16.1	18.9	18.5

Reference

Annual Abstract of Statistics, No 118, 1982 Edition (HMSO) (Price £17.50 net)

Engineering Industry Training Board

The Engineering Industry Training Board (EITB) have recently produced a reference paper, *Employment and training in the engineering industry in Wales*. The report sets out statistics available on the engineering industry (as defined by the EITB) in Wales. It deals with data on employment and training and also includes an analysis of current economic trends and the economic outlook for the industry in Wales. The employment and training statistics are obtained from the Board's statutory returns and grant claim forms, while the economic data were provided by the Welsh Office and the Business Statistics Office.

For further information on the above paper contact:

The Engineering Industry Training Board,
54 Clarendon Road,
Watford,
Herts WD1 1LB

Digest of Environmental Pollution and Water Statistics No 4

This issue of the *Digest of Environmental Pollution and Water Statistics* updates the information, published in the previous three issues, on main trends in environmental pollution.

The tables and charts included are limited to those that are relevant to understanding main trends; fuller explanatory text and commentary have been placed alongside to highlight trends, give information on some of the factors likely to influence them and, where appropriate, link series together. Chapters cover air pollution, freshwater pollution, marine pollution, noise, waste and radioactivity. A separate chapter updates the series on water supply and use.

Previous issues have contained a wider range of tables than the current one. Sets of these, updated where possible, may be purchased separately from the:

Department of the Environment
EPSE
Room B3/62
Romney House
43 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 3PY

This new publication 'package' is intended to provide understandable statistics on broad trends, whilst also allowing users with an interest in particular areas to purchase sets of more detailed tables.

There are many government and non-government bodies engaged in research and monitoring in this field. However, much of the information which exists is contained in individual reports, some of them extremely technical; and it is not a simple task for the layman to get hold of the relevant documents. The *Digest* attempts, by abstracting figures from the many different reports and papers and bringing them together in standardised form, to make national statistics on environmental pollution available on a regular basis to a wider range of people and fill this gap in public information.

Reference

Digest of Environmental Pollution and Water Statistics No 4 (HMSO) (Price £5.95 net)

Pay inequalities in the European Community

The distribution of wages and salaries in Britain and European Community countries in the 1970s is analysed in *Pay Inequalities in the European Communities* (Butterworth, 1981, price £26.00) by Christopher Saunders and David Marsden. The analysis, done at the Sussex European Research Centre at Sussex University with SSRC funding, is based mainly on the New Earnings Survey and on the very detailed statistics of

labour costs and pay distributions published by Eurostat supplemented and updated from national sources. The study covers comparisons of dispersions of individual earnings, differentials between industries, occupational groups, men and women, age groups, size of establishment etc, in six countries, and of the relative importance of the various factors making for inequalities in pay, including differences in training systems and their influence on occupational mobility.

It is found that dispersions of earnings tend to be wider in Britain, France and Italy than in Belgium, the Netherlands or the Federal Republic. The size of the inter-country differences varies somewhat between different groups of the labour force, but in many respects the Federal Republic appears as the most egalitarian. Differentials between manual and non-manual workers are less in Britain than elsewhere but the differential between average pay of men and women is still greatest in Britain, even after the Equal Pay Act. Skill differentials appear to be much the same in Britain as in Germany. In Britain, where thanks to the NES, much more comprehensive and up to date information is available than for the other countries, dispersions of earnings narrowed moderately from 1970 to 1977, but have widened since.

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

1983 North American Time Series Meetings in Toronto: initial notice

- 1 11-14 August, Special Topics ITSM on Hydrological, Geophysical and Spatial Time Series.
- 2 18-21 August, General Interest ITSM.

This pair of International Time Series Meetings are being planned as satellites to the 15-18 August, American Statistical Association (ASA) Joint annual summer meetings – all three events being held at the Sheraton Centre in downtown Toronto.

The ITSM are organised independently of ASA by
Oliver Anderson,
9 Ingham Grove,
Lenton Gardens,
Nottingham NG7 2LQ,
England

– from whom further details may be obtained.

Third American Time Series Meeting (8th ITSM): Cincinnati (Ohio) 19-21 August, 1982

This relatively low-cost conference will feature both invited and contributed papers, the objects being to discuss recent developments in the theory and practice of

Time Series Analysis and Forecasting, and to bring practitioners together from diverse parent disciplines, work environments and geographical locations.

The conference will convene directly after the 1982 ASA annual summer meetings, and use the same headquarters hotel, Stouffer's Cincinnati Towers. Thus, interested participants will be able to conveniently and economically attend both events in a single trip without changing accommodation. Major time series themes will be: Statistical Methodology; Applications to Economics and in Econometrics; Government, Business and Industrial Examples; the Hydrosciences, such as Limnology, Hydrology, Water Quality Regulation and Control, and the Modelling of Marine Environments; the Geosciences, especially such areas as Oil Exploration and Seismology; Civil Engineering and allied disciplines; Spatial and Space-Time Processes – their theory and application – especially in Geography and related areas, such as city planning or energy demand forecasting; Biology and Ecology; Medical Applications and Biomedical Engineering; Irregularly Spaced Data (including Outliers and Missing Observations); Robust Methods; Seasonal Modelling and Adjustment, Calendar Effects; Causality; Bayesian Approaches; Box-Jenkins Univariate ARIMA, Transfer-function, Intervention and Multivariate Modelling; State Space; Nonlinear Modelling; Estimation; Diagnostic Checking; Signal Extraction; Comparative Studies; Spectral Analysis, especially for the Physical Sciences; Business Cycle and Expectations Data; Data Revisions; Computer Software and Numerical Analysis; Forecasting; and, no doubt, many other areas of the subject.

A fine programme of invited speakers is planned for this event, and 150-word abstracts and offers to act as session chairmen should be sent to Oliver Anderson as soon as possible. As usual, the Proceedings will be published. Further information from:

O. D. Anderson,
ITSM Cincinnati,
9 Ingham Grove,
Lenton Gardens,
Nottingham NG7 2LQ,
England.

Telephone: National, (0602) 708085;
International, (44602) 708085

GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL SERVICE

Appointments and changes

Mr J A Rushbrook, Under Secretary, Central Statistical Office, retired on 31 December 1981.

Mr J Hibbert, Assistant Director at the Central Statistical Office moved to the Departments of Industry and Trade as Head of Statistics Division 2 on 1 January 1982. He was replaced at the CSO by *Mr P Dworkin*.

Mr J W Gardner, Department of Education and Science, was promoted to Chief Statistician on 5 October 1981.

Dr J R L Schneider retired from the Board of Inland Revenue on 4 November 1981 and was replaced by *Mr F A Fitzpatrick*, Chief Statistician, Departments of Industry and Trade who transferred on 1 October 1981.

Mr D E Bradbury, Chief Statistician, Department of Education and Science, transferred to Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on 5 October 1981.

Mr A H J Baines, Chief Statistician, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, retired on 4 October 1981.

Mr K V Henderson, Overseas Development Administration, retired on 19 October 1981.

LATE ITEM

General Household Survey 1979

The latest report on the *General Household Survey* was published in December 1981 (Price £8.75 net). This edition covers 1979 and contains new information on the type of fuel used by private households, economic activity of married couples, day care of children aged under five, and the use of hearing aids. A chapter on burglaries and thefts from private households compares findings for 1979 with those obtained from 1972 questioning on this topic. Some results, including data on cohabitation, are presented from the enlarged family information section introduced into the survey in 1979. The final chapter evaluates the new income section adopted in 1979: GHS income distributions are compared with those from the *Family Expenditure Survey*, on whose income schedule the new GHS section is largely modelled.

The report also updates earlier editions by presenting 1979 data on all the topic areas that are regular features of the survey: population, housing, employment, education, and health. In addition, tables are included showing trends in Great Britain over the 1970s in patterns of household composition, housing (including housing costs), and employment, and in measures of health status and the use of GP and outpatient facilities.

The GHS is a continuous survey based on a voluntary random sample of some 15,000 private households throughout Great Britain. It is carried out by the Social Survey Division of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys and is sponsored by the Central Statistical Office. The sample used since 1975 involves a two-stage stratified rotating design, described in Chapter 1 of the report. A detailed account of the survey's origins, aims, and methods was given in the Introductory Report.

Following the recommendations of the review by Sir Derek Rayner of statistical services throughout government, a White Paper was issued in April 1981 which confirmed that, from January 1982, the cost of the General Household Survey should be reduced by 28 per cent. From that date the sample size is being cut by approximately 15 per cent, and economies made in field and clerical procedures.

Nine annual volumes have been published to date. In addition to the tables included in the reports, tabulations for the years 1971 to 1980 are held by Social Survey Division and are available on request, subject to resources and reliability, provided that (a) the confidentiality of informants is preserved, (b) any work based on analysis of GHS data is the responsibility of the researcher only, and (c) any report or paper using additional data, whether prepared for publication or for a lecture, conference or seminar, is first submitted to OPCS for clearance. Copies for data tapes are available for specific research projects (subject to certain conditions) from the SSRC Survey Archive at the University of Essex. Copies of blank questionnaires can be obtained by writing to Social Survey Division.

Enquiries to:

Mrs Mary Durant
Principal Social Survey Officer
Room 404
Office of Population Censuses and Surveys
St Catherines House
10 Kingsway
London, WC2B 6JP

References

The General Household Survey: Introductory Report (HMSO 1973)
The General Household Survey 1972 (HMSO 1975)
The General Household Survey 1973 (HMSO 1976)
The General Household Survey 1974 (HMSO 1977)
The General Household Survey 1975 (HMSO 1978)
The General Household Survey 1976 (HMSO 1978)
The General Household Survey 1977 (HMSO 1979)
The General Household Survey 1978 (HMSO 1980)
The General Household Survey 1979 (HMSO 1981)

The effects of taxes and benefits on household income, 1980

The latest analysis of the redistributive effects of government taxation and expenditure appeared in the January 1982 issue of *Economic Trends*.

The analysis shows that, whether all households are considered together or separate analyses are carried out for each household composition type, the spread of household incomes is reduced by taxes and benefits.

This year's article also shows that the spread of income – both before and after taxes and benefits – was larger in 1980 than in 1976 and that taxes and benefits went a long way towards offsetting the increase in the spread of household incomes due to unemployment.

Reference

Economic Trends, No. 339, January 1982 (HMSO) (Price £9.75 net)

Births and deaths of firms in the United Kingdom in 1980

An article in *British business* showed that there were about as many births as deaths of firms in the United Kingdom in 1980 according to a recent Department of Industry survey. Believed to be the first of their kind, the findings, based on VAT information are the early results of a study of births and deaths of UK firms in 1980 and further results will be published as they become available. Inquiries about the technical aspects of the article and future work, but not for copies of the article, should be addressed to, Mr A Ganguly, Statistician, Small Firms Division, Department of Industry, Room 226, Ashdown House, 123 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6RB.

Reference

British business, 29 January 1981, (HMSO weekly) (Price £1.10 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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