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The Family Expenditure and Food Survey feasibility study

R. Barnes, Chief Social Survey Officer and R. Redpath, Principal Social Survey Officer, Office of Population Censuses and Surveys

Between the end of 1979 and the end of 1981, serious consideration was given to merging the Family Expenditure Survey (FES) and the National Food Survey (NFS). This article summarises the background to the investigations that were made, the experiments that were done and the main findings which led ultimately to the decision that the surveys should not be merged. A more detailed account is available in the New Methodology Series from Social Survey Division, Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS).¹

Background

There are a number of similar features in the procedures adopted for carrying out the FES and NFS. Both are household enquiries, both are carried out continuously throughout the year, both collect information on day to day food expenditure and require co-operating households to keep daily diary records, and both achieve roughly the same number of interviews per year.

Although the possibility that the two surveys might be combined in a single operation has been suggested from time to time, the idea had never been tried in practice before the recent study because of the belief that the FES questionnaires were already close to the maximum reporting burden that could be expected of informants. However, to help meet the OPCS cuts in public expenditure, Social Survey proposed towards the end of 1979 that there should be a study to examine the feasibility of undertaking a survey which would combine the data requirements otherwise met separately by the FES and NFS. Subsequently, and while the work was in progress, the idea of the merger was endorsed by Sir Derek Rayner's study team in its review of the Government Statistical Service.²

The main benefit of the merger would be a saving in costs but there were other perceived advantages which would produce better quality food data than that obtained from the NFS. These would arise because it was intended that the main design features of the merger would be basically those of the FES rather than the NFS. This would mean that food data of the kind collected on the NFS would be obtained from two weeks records per household rather than one, that all adult household members would keep records instead of just the housewife as on the NFS, and that the superior sample design of the FES would be used with its much larger number of primary sampling areas. Also, for the

merger to prove feasible, the response rate would have to be considerably higher than the 50-55 per cent normally achieved on the NFS: this higher response was expected, partly because the FES practice of making incentive payments to co-operating households would continue and partly because of the much longer field periods during which households could be contacted (an interviewer on the FES has about five weeks in which to contact sixteen households, whereas on the NFS interviewers attempt to contact twenty households in just three days).

On the other hand, it was recognised that there were risks attached to the merger. The growth in the scale of the FES questionnaires over the past two decades had already led to a recent policy that new questions could only be accepted if there were compensating reductions in existing questions. The combined load of the FES and NFS, especially the requirement to obtain quantity information for all food purchases recorded in the FES diaries, might prove over-burdening both for informants and interviewers. In particular, fresh food and 'unmarked' food would need to be weighed by informants as it is on the NFS. It was feared that this might depress response in comparison with FES. It was also possible that, given the greater detail required and the emphasis on food requirements, the merger would adversely affect the quality of FES data, particularly the recording of non food items in the expenditure diaries.

In order to examine the balance of advantages and risks, a feasibility study was undertaken to assess the difference in response that could be expected between a merged survey and the FES, whether the quality of data would be affected, and how the National Accounts requirements (from the NFS) for some advance data on food purchases could be met most cost effectively without delaying the processing of the main bulk of data.

The feasibility study

In February 1980, a small test was carried out in just five areas. The questionnaires used contained virtually the entire content of the FES and NFS.

Qualitative assessments based on the experiences of those who worked on this study encouraged the view that some kind of merged survey might prove feasible but the study also suggested that some simplification in the content of the survey would be likely to improve the chances of success. Accordingly it was agreed by the

interdepartmental group set up to steer the work that a number of modifications should be made for the main feasibility study. These were all reductions on the NFS side and included a reduction in the number of food item codes by about one third.

For the main part of the feasibility study, the merged survey was called The Family Expenditure and Food Survey (FEFS). The study involved field trials in the months of July and September 1980 when assignments of the experimental FEFS were carried out in parallel with control quotas of the on-going FES, i.e. in the same wards and, as far as possible, using interviewers of matched experience and judged ability. The sample for the study comprised fifty six additional quotas of sixteen addresses each – i.e. 896 addresses – in each month. These samples were interpenetrated with the FES samples for those months by selecting thirty two addresses from each second stage unit (i.e. wards) of the FES sample and then alternating these selections between the two surveys so that there were sixteen in each.

The survey documents used in the feasibility study comprised the standard FES Household and Income questionnaires, the FES Expenditure diary with additional columns for recording food quantities, and a Housewife diary containing questions about meals and details of home grown and welfare food.

Although a main purpose was to examine the difference in response *between* the two surveys, there was concern at the low levels of response in the July quotas on both FEFS and FES (see Table 1). In an effort to improve the situation, the payment to co-operating informants was raised from £2 to £5 for the September samples.

The FEFS questionnaires from these field trials were then coded and processed so that the average expenditure on both food and non food items could be compared with those obtained in the FES and, for food only, with the NFS.

Finally, the study was designed to develop a method of producing advance analyses most effectively since an important requirement from the FEFS would be to provide edited food data for the quarterly National Accounts series and for a range of *ad hoc* policy matters, within eleven weeks of the end of each quarter and without delaying the supply of coded forms for normal FES processing and analysis. Two alternatives were examined and compared under simulated conditions. One method was to increase the number of clerical staff sufficiently to code the information in a conventional way and then to transfer the data to tape using punch cards. The other was to use a system of computer assisted coding to key the data, as it was coded, direct to disk using on-line visual display units.

Response

A key criterion in assessing feasibility was the response rate. The raw response figures for both the July and September fieldwork, given in Table 1, show that the experimental merged survey (FEFS) achieved 6½ per cent less response than the FES. At the 95 per cent confidence level, this suggested a minimum difference of about 4 per cent. The figures also show that response increased by about 8 per cent on both FEFS and FES between July and September. This was probably due mainly to the increase in the level of incentive payment but possibly also to the fact that September is usually a better month for response than July.

Table 1
FEFS and FES response rates

	July		September	
	FEFS	FES	FEFS	FES
Response (per cent)	59½	66	67½	74
Base Numbers – addresses	845	834	855	856

Note. From 56 quotas per month and 16 addresses per month, the total base numbers would be expected to be 896 for each month. The difference between this and the numbers shown is due to ineligible addresses on the one hand and multi-household addresses on the other.

However, when adjustments were made because a perfect matching of the two field forces (in terms of experience and ability) by area could not be achieved, the standardised response rates were 9 per cent lower for FEFS in July but only 4½ per cent lower in September. This reduction in the gap between the two months was probably mainly due to the fact that increasing the incentive payment made a bigger difference to the FEFS than to the FES. There was also probably a small learning effect whereby interviewers working on the FEFS in both months (there were thirty two of them) improved in confidence and, as a result, achieved better response relative to FES in September than in July. Therefore, if the merged survey had been established on a permanent basis, there is some evidence that the difference in response rates between the FEFS and the FES would have been less than the 6½ per cent found in both months of the feasibility study.

The gap would probably have been narrowed still further if other recommendations, made as a result of the study, had been implemented. Apart from a more frequent review of the level of payment than had been made hitherto on the FES, it was proposed that additional checking calls should be made by interviewers at those households which they judged required extra help in completing the diaries – especially some elderly informants. This would have offset part of the cost savings from a merger.

Another modification which might have had an important effect in improving response was a further reduction in the content of the FEFS by omitting the Housewife diary. The idea of omitting this diary was tried out in the course of some 300 further 'practice' interviews carried out in the summer of 1981 as part of the preparation for the possible introduction of the merged survey. The samples for these interviews were not randomly drawn but the widespread opinion of some forty five interviewers who worked on these quotas was that, without the Housewife diary, the merged survey seemed scarcely more difficult to handle than the ordinary FES. Of course, the omission of the Housewife diaries would also have affected the requirements that could be met from the survey – notably data for nutritional analysis purposes.

Quality of expenditure data

A second key criterion in assessing feasibility was the effect on the quality of the information reported. Table 2 shows that recorded expenditure was lower on FEFS for every broad commodity group except housing and miscellaneous expenditure. Overall, recorded FEFS expenditure was about 7 per cent lower than on the FES. (Compared with the NFS for food items only, the difference was about 8 per cent.)

Table 2
Weekly household expenditure per commodity group – both months combined

Commodity group	FES	FEFS	Percentage difference
	£	£	
Housing	17.66	18.18	+ 3
Fuel	5.67	5.24	- 8
Food	20.53	19.59	- 5
Meals out	4.74	4.31	- 9
Alcohol	5.27	4.58	- 13
Tobacco	3.35	3.22	- 4
Clothing	8.72	7.53	- 14
Durables	7.66	7.08	- 8
Other goods	7.80	7.13	- 9
Transport	15.76	15.23	- 3
Services	14.31	11.80	- 18
Miscellaneous	0.45	0.52	+ 15
Total	111.91	104.40	- 7

Further analysis on a per person basis showed that the shortfall for food data fell from 10 per cent in July to about 5 per cent in September but that for non food items (excluding housing but including meals out) rose from about 8 per cent in July to 12 per cent in September. There was also evidence of an income effect for non food data in September in that the difference was more pronounced for the under £100 a week group

than for higher income groups. The same effect was not apparent for July.

It is difficult to identify the precise reasons for the lower expenditure on FEFS, but the evidence suggests that it was due to lower recording by sample households rather than sampling variation. Because the shortfall occurred on all diary items and not just food (which would have affected mainly the housewife) it is thought the lower recording was mainly attributable to interviewers being less persistent in pressing for detail and checking with informants. The changes between July and September may have been mainly due to interviewers placing an increasing emphasis on food at the expense of non food items as they became more familiar with the requirements of the merged survey. If the FEFS had been established on a permanent basis, it was expected that these problems would have been reduced to some extent by appropriate emphasis in interviewers' training and instructions, by additional checking calls at those households which interviewers judged required more help in completing the diaries, and by the omission of the Housewife diary referred to earlier. It is also possible that, as with response, the situation would have improved over time as interviewers became more confident in the survey.

Effect on the RPI

A crucial consideration was to assess the likely effect of the FEFS on the General Index of Retail Prices (RPI). Although Table 2 showed substantial variations in the percentage differences between FEFS and FES over the commodity groups, Table 3 below shows that the overall distributions for expenditure at broad commodity group level did not change very much. The distributions for the two months taken separately were also very similar between the two surveys.

However, there were more substantial differences at individual item level within the broad commodity groups. Moreover, the actual effects of a merger on the RPI would depend not only on the magnitude of the differences between detailed expenditure patterns but also on the pattern of movements in corresponding prices. The effects of the differences found in the feasibility study, taken in conjunction with price movements over recent years, are shown in Table 4.

Table 3

Weekly household expenditure per commodity group – percentage distribution for both months combined

<i>Commodity Group</i>	<i>FES per cent</i>	<i>FEFS per cent</i>
Housing	16	17
Fuel	5	5
Food	18	19
Meals out	4	4
Alcohol	5	4
Tobacco	3	3
Clothing	8	7
Durables	7	7
Other goods	7	7
Transport	14	15
Services	13	11
Miscellaneous	*	*
Total = 100 per cent	£111.91	£104.40

*less than 0.5 per cent.

Table 4

Effect on the RPI of using FEFS weights

<i>Year</i>	<i>Increase in RPI</i>	<i>Estimated effect of using FEFS weights in place of FES weights</i>
January 1979/1980	18.4	+0.22
January 1980/1981	13.0	+0.12
August 1980/1981	11.5	+0.14

These estimates are based on a single set of results and make no allowance for sampling variability and fluctuations in the pattern of price movements. Therefore, the Department of Employment made more wide ranging assessments to make some allowance for these factors. The Department have estimated that at the 90 per cent confidence level, the effect of the merger, as tested, on the twelve month change in the RPI would be in the range ± 0.4 per cent.

Income data

Another concern regarding the merger was that the income data might have been adversely affected either because of additional non-response bias or because the extra emphasis on recording expenditure might possibly have caused interviewers to be less persistent in probing for income details. Table 5 shows that, on the feasibility study, there was very little difference in the income distribution across three broad groups and that the mean household income on the FEFS was just 2 per cent higher than on the FES, which is not significant.

Table 5

Household income percentage distribution and mean for both months combined

	<i>FES per cent</i>	<i>FEFS per cent</i>
Under £100 per week	37	35
£100-£180 per week	31	32
Over £180 per week	32	32
Mean weekly household income	£149	£152

When the two months were analysed separately, the average income per person was 2 per cent higher on the FEFS than on the FES in July, but in September the average income was the same. (This analysis was on a per person basis because average household size was different between the samples for the separate months.)

Processing food data

Of the two methods for processing that were tried, the computer assisted coding system appeared to offer a number of advantages compared with a manual system in producing the advance analyses of food data. The trial indicated that such a system, especially if enhanced along the lines recommended as a result of the tests, could be expected to be more accurate, more complete in the number of records included in the advance analyses, preferred by coders and administratively more convenient, but above all it would probably be more cost effective. After allowing for initial capital investment costs, the best estimate from the study was that the total cost savings accruing from the merger would be of the order of one third greater with a direct data entry system than with a manual system.

Conclusion

The study carried out in 1980 indicated the kind of problems that would have to be overcome if the two surveys were to be successfully combined. The modifications that were proposed later, particularly the elimination of the Housewife diary, the experiences of those who tried out the revised FEFS in the summer of 1981, and the possibility that interviewer confidence would increase over time, gave some grounds for optimism that the problems would have been reduced. However, without further experimental work, there remained doubts about the reliability of the information from a combined survey. This was important for all uses of FES data but particularly in regard to the RPI and the need to maintain public confidence in it, especially in view of the large volume of financial arrangements now linked to the Index. Given these uncertainties, it was decided at the end of 1981 not to proceed with the idea of the merger.

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2. *Review of Government Statistical Services: Report to the Prime Minister by Sir Derek Rayner* (Cabinet Office 1980) (Price £2.90 net). *Government Statistical Services*, Cmnd. 8236, (HMSO 1981) (Price £2.10 net).

The Work of the Survey Control
 F. Johnson and P. Kilbey, Statistician

Change in the work of the Survey Control
 At the end of 1981 a major change took place in the way in which the Survey Control (SCU) operates. This followed three years of development work during the SCU made in the context of the Central Statistical Office by Sir Derek Rayner. These years...

As the SCU will no longer be required to produce a wide range of statistical products and indicators it is likely that maintaining a good technical record of work done will be a high priority. We have to remind people of the importance of the central record and we are providing a key word system to assist survey managers which may be of interest to statisticians. Of course the value of such a system is greatly diminished if the record is not comprehensive and its maintenance will be restricted to the light of the number of actual surveys reported and referred to the SCU. It is the aim of this paper to describe the work of the SCU and to outline the changes that are being made to the SCU to ensure that it remains a central point of reference for the Survey Control.

The SCU was established in its present form in 1973. Computerised records were begun at the end of 1977 and in the first year period 1978-1981 about 1,800 surveys were referred to the SCU out of which over 500 were actually conducted. The SCU probably does not represent all the surveys which took place and which were within the scope of the Survey Control. It is not clear that the non-central government respondents were likely to be some studies where the people involved were likely to be used to contact the SCU. However, we think that the central government respondents were referred centrally in departments with their survey activity.

The SCU does not have, and has never sought, a central record of all surveys. It has always been recognised that the Survey Control should be the centre of the quality of the data for a survey and of the quality of the information provided to the public. The SCU does not have a central record of all surveys. It has always been recognised that the Survey Control should be the centre of the quality of the data for a survey and of the quality of the information provided to the public. The SCU does not have a central record of all surveys. It has always been recognised that the Survey Control should be the centre of the quality of the data for a survey and of the quality of the information provided to the public.

The Work of the Survey Control Unit

F. Johnson and P. Kilbey, Statisticians, Central Statistical Office

Changes in the scope of the Unit's work

At the end of 1981 a major change was made in the way in which the Survey Control Unit (SCU) operates. This followed three main recommendations concerning the SCU made in the review of the Central Statistical Office by Sir Derek Rayner. These were:

- a. Control of social surveys should be exercised by departments themselves and such surveys need no longer be assessed by the SCU.
- b. Regular surveys to businesses should be reviewed at least once every five years.
- c. That all new surveys to businesses must have ministerial approval and that submissions to ministers should include any SCU comments.

The principal reason for this change is to concentrate attention on the burden placed on businesses by government form filling and to ensure that surveys are technically sound, that they do not duplicate other sources and that the information provided justifies the burden imposed on the form filler. At the same time the benefits from SCU assessment of social surveys (i.e. surveys to households and individuals) were not thought to justify central control and this work is being taken on by departments, though the SCU will maintain a record of basic information on such surveys as a central reference point.

These are the first major changes in the Unit's work since it was established in its present form in 1972. Computerised records were begun at the end of 1977 and in the four year period 1978-1981 about 1,800 surveys were notified to the Unit, out of which over 500 social surveys and over 400 business and local authority surveys were fully assessed by the Unit. This probably does not represent all the surveys which took place and which were within the scope of the Unit (broadly, those to more than ten non-central government respondents); there are likely to be some studies where the people involved were unaware of the need to contact the SCU. However, we think that the great majority of studies were reported, certainly in departments with extensive survey activity.

The Unit does not have, and has never sought, a veto on surveys. It has always been recognised that in the final analysis departmental ministers should be the arbiters on the need for a survey and on the quality of the information they are prepared to accept. The new directive on the work of the SCU emphasises that surveys to businesses and local authorities must be cleared by a minister and that he should be aware of the

SCU's views about the proposals. We hope that this will give ministers a clearer view of the work carried out on their behalf and of the consequent form filling burden on respondents.

As the SCU will no longer be assessing surveys to households and individuals it is likely that maintaining a good reference record of work done will be difficult. But we hope to remind people of the usefulness of the central record and we can provide a key word analysis to extract surveys on topics which may be of interest to researchers. Of course the value of such a service is greatly diminished if the record is not comprehensive and its maintenance will be reviewed in the light of the number of social surveys reported and requests for details of surveys. A full list of surveys notified to the Unit will continue to be published in *Statistical News* and requests for further details will be passed on to sponsoring departments.

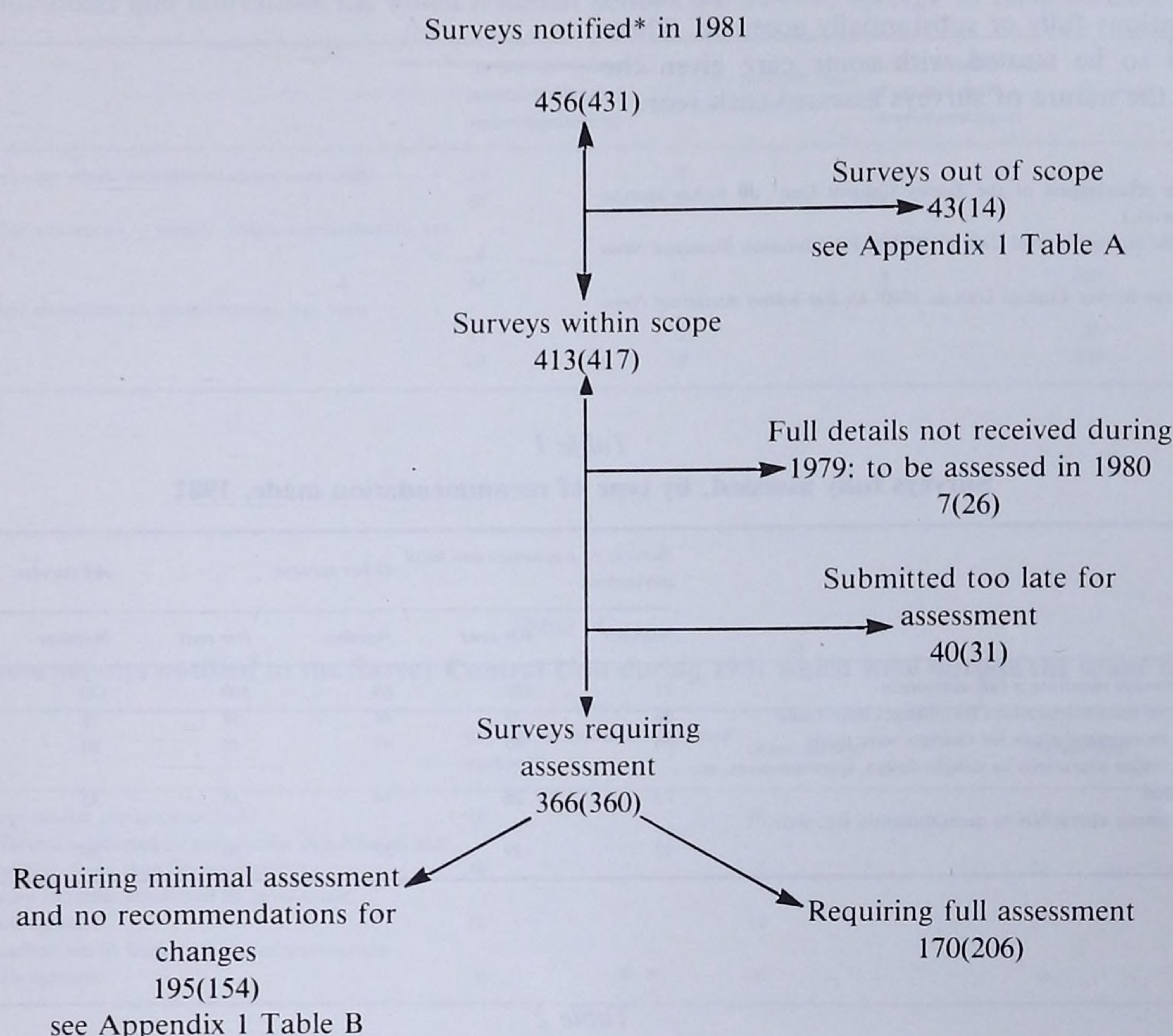
The work of the Unit in 1981

The Survey Control Unit have published three previous articles¹ on the work of the Unit and its effectiveness in terms of the proportion of recommendation which were implemented. This article now looks back at the work of the Unit in 1981. The reader is referred to the first article in *Statistical News* No. 45 for further details of the Unit's methods and criteria used in assessing surveys.

The Unit was notified of 456 surveys during the year, slightly more than in 1980. However not all surveys require detailed assessments and Figure 1 shows the main categories. The slight increase in the number of surveys notified was mainly due to a special exercise conducted during the year to update the SCU records on regular surveys to local authorities, households and individuals. The exercise resulted in an unusually high number of surveys out of scope and in an increase in the number of surveys requiring minimal assessment (Tables A and B).

The decline in the number of surveys requiring full assessment continued in 1981 (Table 1), 170 surveys were fully assessed—a drop of seventeen per cent between 1980 and 1981. The number of surveys to businesses and local authorities dropped slightly but there was a reduction of a quarter in the number of surveys to households and individuals. Activity is continuing at about the same level (for business and local authority surveys) so far in 1982.

Figure 1: The Unit's work in 1981 (1980 figures in brackets)



*Including surveys notified earlier for which full details were first received in 1980.

Recommendations for changes were made in fifty five per cent of surveys fully assessed – a decrease mainly reflecting the lower proportion of surveys (notably to households and individuals) for which the Unit recommended major changes.

The Unit records the actions that have been taken on its recommendations and groups them into three categories – Tables 3 and 4. It takes some time for the action taken on SCU recommendation to be reported back but there are currently only six outstanding surveys from 1981 (Table 2).

The Appendix contains versions of Tables 3 and 4 for 1980, updated to include the surveys where actions are now known. As might be expected, the updated tables show a drop in the percentage of recommendations fully or substantially accepted. It is now possible to look back at updated figures for 1978, 1979 and 1980 and the table below compares percentages of recommendations fully or substantially accepted for these years.

Surveys for which actions fully or substantially met the recommendations

	<i>Surveys to businesses or local authorities</i>			<i>Other surveys</i>		
	1978	1979	1980	1978	1979	1980
Number of surveys for which major alterations were recommended	21	11	11	15	28	15
per cent	60	55	50	37	57	54
Number of surveys for which minor alterations were recommended	21	14	22	23	22	25
per cent	57	78	74	49	65	72

1980 shows a decline in the level of acceptance except for household or individual surveys where only minor recommendations were made. This is rather worrying, however, there was a general increase in the proportion of recommendations partially accepted. Although full

information is not yet available for 1981 there appears to have been an increase in the percentage of major recommendations fully or substantially accepted. These results need to be treated with some care given the variation in the nature of surveys assessed each year.

References

1. 'Measuring the effectiveness of the Survey Control Unit' by Robin Horton *Statistical News* 45.1
- 'The work of the Survey Control Unit in 1979' by Fred Johnson *Statistical News* 50.1
- 'The work of the Survey Control Unit in 1980' by Pat Kilbey *Statistical News* 53.4

Table 1
Surveys fully assessed, by type of recommendation made, 1981

	<i>Surveys to businesses and local authorities</i>		<i>Other surveys</i>		<i>All surveys</i>	
	Number	<i>Per cent</i>	Number	<i>Per cent</i>	Number	<i>Per cent</i>
Total number of surveys requiring a full assessment	81	100	89	100	170	100
Surveys for which no recommendations for changes were made	28	35	48	54	76	45
Surveys for which recommendations for changes were made	53	65	41	46	94	55
Surveys for which major alterations to sample design, questionnaires, etc. were recommended	21	26	14	16	35	20
Surveys for which minor alterations to questionnaires, etc. were recommended	32	39	27	30	59	35

Table 2
Surveys for which resultant actions are not yet known, by type of recommendation made, 1981

	<i>Surveys to businesses and local authorities</i>		<i>Other surveys</i>		<i>All surveys</i>	
	Number	<i>Per cent</i>	Number	<i>Per cent</i>	Number	<i>Per cent</i>
Total number of surveys for which resultant actions are not yet known	4		2		6	
Surveys for which cancellation was recommended	1		0		1	
Surveys for which major alterations to sample design, questionnaires, etc. were recommended	1		1		2	
Surveys for which minor alterations to questionnaires, etc. were recommended	2		1		3	

Table 3
Surveys to businesses and local authorities for which results are known, by type of recommendation, 1981

	<i>Actions completely or substantially meet recommendations</i>		<i>Actions partially meet recommendations</i>		<i>Actions slightly meet or do not meet recommendations</i>		<i>All surveys</i>	
	Number	<i>per cent</i>	Number	<i>per cent</i>	Number	<i>per cent</i>	Number	<i>per cent</i>
Total number of surveys for which recommendations were made	33		12		4		49	
<i>per cent</i>		67		25		8		100
Surveys for which major alterations to sample design, questionnaires, etc. were recommended	13		5		1		19	
<i>per cent</i>		69		26		5		100
Surveys for which minor alterations to questionnaires, etc. were recommended	20		7		3		30	
<i>per cent</i>		67		23		10		100

Table 4

Surveys to households and individuals for which resultant actions are known, by type of recommendation, 1981

	<i>Actions completely or substantially meet recommendations</i>	<i>Actions partially meet recommendations</i>	<i>Actions slightly meet or do not meet recommendations</i>	<i>All surveys</i>
Total number of surveys for which recommendations were made	25	9	5	39
<i>per cent</i>	64	23	13	100
Surveys for which major alterations to sample design, questionnaires, etc. were recommended	8	4	1	13
<i>per cent</i>	61	31	8	100
Surveys for which minor alterations to questionnaires, etc. were recommended	17	5	4	26
<i>per cent</i>	65	19	16	100

Table A

Summary of those surveys notified to the Survey Control Unit during 1981 which were outside the scope of the Unit

	<i>Surveys to businesses and local authorities</i>	<i>Other surveys</i>	<i>All surveys</i>
Total number of surveys outside the scope of SCU	23	20	43
Number of statistical surveys conducted by government departments and their agencies addressed to fewer than ten respondents	10	6	16
Number of administrative enquiries conducted by government departments and their agencies	13	14	27
Number of enquiries carried out by bodies other than government departments and their agencies	0	0	0

Table B

Surveys requiring minimal assessment and no recommendations for change, 1981

	<i>Surveys to businesses and local authorities</i>	<i>Other surveys</i>	<i>All surveys</i>
Total number of surveys requiring minimal assessment and no recommendations for change	147	48	195
Surveys carried out by OPCS and GRO(S) for which survey control aspects had been considered prior to notification	1	5	6
<i>Ad hoc</i> surveys for which methodology and questionnaire design were similar to earlier surveys recognised by SCU	8	36	44
Regular surveys re-submitted to SCU, for which revisions made were insubstantial	} 138	} 7	} 145
Surveys which had been considered by CSO or other committees on which SCU was represented			
Regular surveys already in existence and submitted to SCU for the first time in 1981 as part of the review of regular surveys			

Updated Tables for 1980

Table 3 (Updated)

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

	<i>Actions completely or substantially meet recommendations</i>	<i>Actions partially meet recommendations</i>	<i>Actions slightly meet or do not meet recommendations</i>	<i>All surveys</i>
Total number of surveys for which recommendations were made	33	10	9	52
<i>per cent</i>	64	19	17	100
Surveys for which major alterations to sample design, questionnaires, etc. were recommended	11	6	5	22
<i>per cent</i>	50	27	23	100
Surveys for which minor alterations to questionnaires, etc. were recommended	22	4	4	30
<i>per cent</i>	74	13	13	100

Table 4 (Updated)

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

	<i>Actions completely or substantially meet recommendations</i>	<i>Actions partially meet recommendations</i>	<i>Actions slightly meet or do not meet recommendations</i>	<i>All surveys</i>
Total number of surveys for which recommendations were made	40	13	10	63
<i>per cent</i>	63	21	16	100
Surveys for which major alterations to sample design, questionnaires, etc. were recommended	15	9	4	28
<i>per cent</i>	54	32	14	100
Surveys for which minor alterations to questionnaires, etc. were recommended	25	4	6	35
<i>per cent</i>	72	11	17	100

Recently available statistical series and publications

The following publications containing social statistics have recently, or will soon become available during April–June 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

Statistics of Education, Volume 3 1978–Further Education

Statistics of Education, Volume 3 1979–Further Education

Statistics of Education, Volume 5 1979–Finance and Awards

Statistics of Education, Volume 6 1979–Universities

Department of the Environment

Housing and Construction Statistics, fourth quarter, 1981 Part 2, No 8

Housing and Construction Statistics, first quarter 1982 Part 1, No 9

Local Housing Statistics. Issue 61: figures for the fourth quarter 1981.

Digest of Environmental Pollution and Water Statistics No 4

Home Office

Report of the Police Complaints Board 1981 (HMSO)

Report of the Gaming Board for Great Britain 1981 (HMSO)

Report of the Prison Department, England and Wales 1981 (HMSO)

Control of Immigration Statistics United Kingdom 1981 (HMSO)

Report on the work of the Equal Opportunities Commission 1981 (HMSO)

Report of the Parole Board 1981 (HMSO)

Report of HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary 1981 (HMSO)

Report of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales 1981 (HMSO)

Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis 1981 (HMSO)

Statistics on the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Acts 1974 and 1976, 1st quarter 1982 (Statistical Bulletin)

Statistics on the operation of section 62 Criminal Law Act 1977, England and Wales 1982 (Statistical Bulletin)

Persons arrested in serious incidents of public disorder July–August 1981, England and Wales (Statistical Bulletin)

Unrecorded offences of burglary and theft in a dwelling in England and Wales: Estimates from the General Household Surveys of 1972, 1973, 1979 and 1980 (Statistical Bulletin)

Statistics of deaths in police custody in England and Wales 1981 (Statistical Bulletin)

Summary probation and after-care statistics, England and Wales, 1981 (Statistical Bulletin)

Control of Immigration Statistics United Kingdom 1st quarter 1982 (Statistical Bulletin)

Serious offences recorded by the police in England and Wales, 1st quarter 1982 (Statistical Bulletin)

Mentally disordered offenders admitted to hospitals (Statistical Bulletin)

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	Quarterly
<i>Abortions</i>	AB	Quarterly
<i>Deaths from accidents</i>	DH4	Quarterly
<i>Infectious Diseases</i>	MB2	Quarterly
<i>Census</i>	CEN	Occasional
<i>Congenital malformations</i>	MB3	Occasional
<i>Deaths by birth place</i>	DH1	Annual
<i>Cancer Statistics</i>	MB1	Occasional
<i>Hospital In-patients Enquiry</i>	MB4	Occasional
<i>General Household Survey</i>	GHS	Annual

Scottish Education Department

Statistical Bulletins on the following subjects: –

Pupils and Teachers in Education Authority Primary and Secondary Schools

Pre-Service Teacher Training

Education Authority Schools in the 1970's

Schools, Pupils and Teachers

Autumn Enrolments of students in Vocational Further Education (1981)

Pre-school Provision for children

Department of Health and Social Security

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

Scottish Health Service

Scottish Health Statistics 1980

Table with multiple columns and rows, containing statistical data and titles. The text is very faint and difficult to read, but appears to be a list of publications or statistical series.

Table with multiple columns and rows, containing statistical data and titles. The text is very faint and difficult to read, but appears to be a list of publications or statistical series.

New Surveys assessed by the Survey Control Unit

December 1981 to February 1982

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 December 1981 to February 1982

Title	Sponsor	Those approached	Approximate number approached	Location	Frequency
Business surveys					
Company Reporting: Intermediate Production	BSO	Manufacturing firms	300	GB	AH
Fishermen's Costs and Earnings Survey 1981	DAFS	Fishermen	1,000	S	AH
Women and Job Evaluation and Working of the Equal Pay Act	DEM	Employers	100	UK	AH
Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme	DI	Manufacturing, service and construction firms	90	UK	AH
Incidence of Premature Incisor Tooth Loss in Hill Ewes	MAFF	Farmers	800	E	AH
Direct electronic Exports to Military Customers	MOD	Manufacturers	20	UK	AH
Survey of Exporters Using COI Services	MPO/COI	Exporting firms	120	UK	AH
Technological Change, Personnel Policies and Skill Deployment	MSC	Employers	20	UK	AH
Ceramics, Glass and Mineral Products Industry Training Board Statutory Return	MSC	Companies in scope	1,010	GB	A
Vacancies and Employers' Recruitment Practices Survey	MSC	Employers	2,000	GB	AH
'Fit for Work' Award Scheme - Proposals For Evaluation	MSC	Employers	600	GB	AH
Employment of Disabled People - Code of Practice	MSC	Employers	325	E	AH
New British Personality Questionnaire	MSC	Employers	NK	GB	AH
Service of Catering Equipment Spare Parts Supply	OFT	Service firms and distributors	190	GB	AH
Survey of Soil From Fields Growing Swede Turnips	SCRI	Farmers	100	S	AH
Survey of Aggregate Workings - Scotland	SDD	Mineral operators	250	S	AH
Local authority surveys					
Induction and In-Service Training of Teachers	DES	Education departments	104	EW	AH
Survey of School Visits and Exchanges Overseas 1981-82	DES	Maintained secondary schools	1,500	E	I
English House Condition Survey 1981 - Postal Questionnaire	DOE	Housing departments	280	E	AH
Minerals Survey 1982	DOE	Planning departments	48	E	AH
Derelict Land Survey 1982	DOE	Planning departments	365	E	AH
Return on House Sales (Scotland)	SDD	Housing departments	56	S	Q
School Accommodation Survey	SED	Education departments	12	S	AH
Other surveys					
Reliability of Underground District Heating Mains	BRE	Operators, manufacturers and installers of DH schemes	40	UK	AH
Seat Belt Attitude Survey in Northern Ireland	COI/DENI	Adults	2,200	NI	AH
Leaflet Cover Design Research	COI/DHSS	Claimants	150	GB	AH
Study of Selected Classes of Home Accidents to Children	DT	Parents	260	EM	AH
'Spring Into Summer '81' - Brochure Research	ETB	Tourists	2,000	UK	AH
Southern Tourist Board Exhibition Survey	ETB	Visitors	300	EW	AH
'England's Northcountry' ITV Campaign	ETB	Adults	2,000	E	AH
British Survey of Eating Out	MAFF	Adults	1,200	GB	AH
Survey of Ethnic Minorities (Control Sample)	OPCS	Households	2,500	EW	AH
Traffic Club Booklet Usage Survey 1981/82	TRRL	Mothers	50	E	AH
Ticket Survey of Long Distance Rail Travellers at Euston	TRRL	Passengers	80,600	SE	AH
Consumer Survey of Mobile Services	WO	Households	805	W	AH

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Sponsors

<i>BRE</i>	<i>Building Research Establishment</i>
<i>BSO</i>	<i>Business Statistics Office</i>
<i>COI</i>	<i>Central Office of Information</i>
<i>DAFS</i>	<i>Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland</i>
<i>DEM</i>	<i>Department of Employment</i>
<i>DENI</i>	<i>Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland</i>
<i>DES</i>	<i>Department of Education and Science</i>
<i>DHSS</i>	<i>Department of Health and Social Security</i>
<i>DI</i>	<i>Department of Industry</i>
<i>DoE</i>	<i>Department of the Environment</i>
<i>DT</i>	<i>Department of Trade</i>
<i>ETB</i>	<i>English Tourist Board</i>
<i>MAFF</i>	<i>Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food</i>
<i>MOD</i>	<i>Ministry of Defence</i>
<i>MPO</i>	<i>Management and Personnel Office</i>
<i>MSC</i>	<i>Manpower Services Commission</i>
<i>OFT</i>	<i>Office of Fair Trading</i>
<i>OPCS</i>	<i>Office of Population Censuses and Surveys</i>
<i>SCRI</i>	<i>Scottish Crop Research Institute</i>
<i>SDD</i>	<i>Scottish Development Department</i>
<i>SED</i>	<i>Scottish Education Department</i>
<i>TRRL</i>	<i>Transport and Road Research Laboratory</i>
<i>WO</i>	<i>Welsh Office</i>

Location

<i>E</i>	<i>England</i>
<i>EM</i>	<i>East Midlands</i>
<i>EW</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
<i>GB</i>	<i>Great Britain</i>
<i>NI</i>	<i>Northern Ireland</i>
<i>S</i>	<i>Scotland</i>
<i>SE</i>	<i>South East England</i>
<i>UK</i>	<i>United Kingdom</i>
<i>W</i>	<i>Wales</i>

Frequencies

<i>A</i>	<i>Annual</i>
<i>AH</i>	<i>Ad hoc (or single time)</i>
<i>I</i>	<i>Intermittent</i>
<i>Q</i>	<i>Quarterly</i>

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

Population Trends

The latest edition of *Population Trends*, the quarterly journal of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS), was published in April and contains the following articles:

The proportion of marriages ending in divorce

This article, by John Haskey of OPCS Population Statistics Division, describes a lifetable method to estimate the proportion of marriages ending in divorce: if current divorce rates were to continue at their present levels, one in three marriages in England and Wales could end in divorce.

In the second part, remarriages rates of the divorced population and trends in the proportions of remarriages with civil/religious ceremony, are discussed.

Socio-demographic differences in mortality

John Fox (The City University) and Peter Goldblatt (OPCS Medical Statistics Division) summarise some of the results and main findings of a report, published in May, describing how mortality can be related to a wide range of social and demographic characteristics of the population using the OPCS Longitudinal Study.

Family and household statistics from the 1981 Census

Every ten years the Census of Population provides an opportunity to review the social and economic characteristics of households and families and to compare patterns of size and composition over long periods as well as between different neighbourhoods within the country. This article explains how OPCS derives statistics about families from the questions asked in the Census and how the categories of families and households appearing in the published tables are constructed. New developments in the analysis of the 1981 Census are stressed.

Recent population growth and the effect of the decline in births

In earlier commentaries on the preliminary results of the 1981 Census, the geographical patterns of overall population change have been analysed. For England and Wales as a whole the large decline in growth between 1971 and 1981 compared with that during the previous

decade was mainly due to the decline in births. This article shows that this decline in births was fairly uniform geographically and that the regional and local differences in growth rates are mainly attributable to other changes, chiefly migration.

References

Population Trends 27 Spring 1982 (HMSO 1982) (Price £4.10 net)

Census 1981, Preliminary Report, England and Wales (HMSO 1981) (Price £4.80 net)

Census 1981, Preliminary Report for Towns (HMSO 1981) (Price £4.80 net)

Census 1981

Census 1981 County Monitors are available from OPCS (Price £0.30 each or £20 per complete set – with binder) and have been published for most of the counties of England and Wales with supplements for the Special Areas of:

Lambeth
Hackney – Islington
Docklands
Manchester
Liverpool
Birmingham
Newcastle – Gateshead

and additional Monitors for:

Greater London and the metropolitan counties
Wales

Census 1981 County Reports (Part 1) have been published for the following counties:

	Price net
Cleveland	£6.30
Greater Manchester	£7.40
Isle of Wight	£5.30
Merseyside	£6.30
Shropshire	£6.30
Tyne and Wear	£6.30
West Midland	£7.40
West Yorkshire	£6.30
Gwynedd	£6.30
Powys	£5.80
South Glamorgan	£7.40
South Yorkshire	£6.30
Nottinghamshire	£7.80

100 per cent Small Area Statistics are available, from OPCS (price on application), for all counties for which the County Report (Part 1) has been published.

Household estimates

Estimates of the numbers of households in England and Wales and the regions for the years 1979, 1981, 1986 and 1991 were published in *Housing and Construction Statistics 1970-80* (see *Statistical News* 56.19).

More detailed figures, including estimates down to county level, may be obtained on application to Room S13/15, Department of the Environment, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB. A charge will be made for the provision of this information.

This arrangement allows a more flexible response to users needs and replaces the publication of the booklet announced in *Statistical News* 56.

Reference

Housing and Construction Statistics 1970-1980 (HMSO 1981) (Price £17.00 net)

Electoral statistics

A report from OPCS giving electoral statistics for 1981 was published in February. The volume is divided into two sections:

- a. The Parliamentary section contains tables showing, for 1981, numbers of Parliamentary electors, the size of constituencies, those with the largest and smallest numbers of electors and the largest in terms of physical size.
- b. The table on local government relates to England and Wales only and gives local government electors on the 1981 register.

Reference

Electoral statistics 1981 Series EL No. 8 (HMSO 1982) (Price £3.50 net)

1981 Census – Scotland

1981 Census Regional Bulletins have been produced for Borders, Grampian, Lothian, Strathclyde, Tayside and Highland and it is intended that those for the remaining areas will be published over the next two months.

The first three Regional Reports giving more detailed information for Borders, Grampian and Lothian have also been produced.

1981 Census Small Area Statistics (SAS) for 100 per cent topics are now available for much of Scotland; and for 10 per cent topics are available for the first few regions.

Vital Statistics (Scotland)

The Registrar General's Annual Report for 1980 was published in May (price £23.75 net). Vital statistics tables relating to the 4th Quarter of 1981 appeared in the Registrar General's Weekly Return from WR 8/82. Provisional Annual Statistics for 1981 have also been published.

SOCIAL STATISTICS

Regional Trends: 1982 Edition

The 1982 edition of *Regional Trends* was published on 23rd March. The volume contains over 170 tables and 60 maps or diagrams, and brings together detailed information on the regions of England and constituent countries of the United Kingdom. Summary information is also given at sub-regional level.

Data cover a wide range of topics – social, demographic and economic – highlighting regional variations and similarities. Variations within regions are also drawn out where possible, as is each region's position relative to the United Kingdom as a whole.

Regional Trends is an important reference document for anyone with regional interests e.g. multi-site companies and enterprises, as well as regional planners, marketing managers and academics.

In the new edition the sub-regional data have been expanded to include sections on social services, GDP, and local council elections; there are also new data on housing and education. Preliminary results from the 1981 Census are also included.

Results from the latest Family Expenditure Survey are given, together with those from the 1981 New Earnings Survey. Other new subjects covered are inter-regional migration, vital statistics for health authorities, disabled people, education for under fives, special employment programmes and fresh water pollution. The information given on law has also been expanded to form a separate chapter.

Further details can be obtained from:

Mr I S McCulloch
Branch 10
Central Statistical Office
Great George Street
London
SW1P 3AQ
Telephone: 01-233 7525

Reference

Regional Trends 1982 Edition (HMSO) March 1982 (Price £15.95 net).

Family Expenditure Survey 1980

The *Family Expenditure Survey Report for 1980* was published in March 1982. The report contains 54 tables and 6 charts detailing average weekly expenditure on 94 commodities and services by households, classified by income level and household composition, together with complementary information on household income and characteristics.

The report includes a commentary which discusses the main features of the results. Two new topics have been covered in the report this year, namely the income and

expenditure patterns of households with married women working and the expenditure patterns of households with an employee head not working.

Some preliminary annual results were published in the November 1981 issue of the *Employment Gazette*, whilst further results appeared in the February 1982 issue, including some from the two new analyses mentioned above. The March 1982 *Employment Gazette* carried the annual article showing the expenditure pattern from the survey for the year ended June 1981 and the weights to be used in 1982 for the General Index of Retail Prices derived from it, together with a new item showing trends in the Retail Price Index group weights since 1950.

References

Family Expenditure Survey Report for 1980 (HMSO) (Price £13.00 net)
Employment Gazette November 1981 (Price £2.00 net), February 1982, March 1982 (Price £2.25 net each) (HMSO)

Fire Statistics United Kingdom 1980

Detailed fire statistics for 1980, compiled from reports submitted by United Kingdom local authority fire brigades, were published on 26 February 1982. Publication had been delayed by the need to make detailed estimates for the period of industrial action by fire brigades in November and December 1980, when not all fires were fully reported. Summary 1980 statistics, in the context of the preceding decade, were published on 3 November 1981 as a Home Office Statistical Bulletin.

The main volume *Fire Statistics United Kingdom 1980* contains a review of fire statistics covering the period 1970-1980 and also detailed tables for 1980. These tables give statistical information on many aspects of fires, such as location, cause, spread and method of extinction and also on the circumstances of fire casualties.

The supplementary volume *Supplementary Tables by Country and Fire Brigade Area* gives statistics of fires and casualties in each brigade area, and also analyses by country.

Both volumes, and those for earlier years, can be obtained from S3 Division, Home Office, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1 9AT: telephone 01-213 3394. The Statistical Bulletin can be obtained from Home Office Statistical Department, Room 1813, Tolworth Tower, Surbiton, Surrey: telephone 01-399 5191, extension 298.

References

Fire Statistics United Kingdom 1980: (Price £8.90 net)
Fire Statistics United Kingdom 1980 - Supplementary Tables by Country and Fire Brigade Area: (Price £1.65 net)
Summary Fire Statistics United Kingdom 1980: (Price £1.00 net)

Scottish Housing Statistics

The fourteenth issue of *Scottish Housing Statistics* was published in December 1981 and contains the regular tables on housebuilding, improvement work, housing finance and sales. Also in No. 14 are additional tables on: Improvement grants to private owners; Rates and Rateable Values; Housing Revenue Account Estimates for 1981-82 and local authority and public authority mortgages.

The fifteenth issue of *Scottish Housing Statistics* published in March 1982 contains an article on 'Housebuilding and the Housing Market in Scotland' along with the regular tables. This issue also contains details of Progress in Housing Action Areas (April 80 - March 81) and Housing Revenue Account (80/81), Housing Support Grant (79/80 - 81/82) and information and details of Homelessness in Scotland from April 1980 - March 1981.

Reference

Scottish Housing Statistics No. 14 (HMSO, December 1981) (Price £6 net) and No. 15 (HMSO March 1982) (Price £7.00 net)

Welsh House Condition Survey 1981

The 1981 Welsh House Condition Survey, like its English counterpart is split into three distinct parts: social, physical and local authority surveys. All three parts of the survey are now completed and are being processed. It is hoped that the report will be published early in the autumn.

For the first time in Wales, the physical survey has been based on a stratified sample of responses to the social survey thus concentrating the use of professional surveyor resources on those properties most in need of repair.

Further information on this survey may be obtained from:

Survey Section
Economic and Statistical Services 1
Welsh Office
Cathays Park
Cardiff

Social Trends 12: amendments

The 1982 edition of *Social Trends* was published by HMSO on 10 December 1981. The following errors have since been discovered:

Page 73, Table 4.22

Row *West Indies*, delete in toto and insert 220, 15, and 7.0.

Row *East Africa*, delete in toto and insert 89, 8, and 8.8.

Row *Rest of New Commonwealth*, delete in toto and insert 171, 13, and 7.7.

Page 113, Text

2nd paragraph, **delete** in toto and **insert** the following: 'The social class and age of savers varies with different types of holding. For example, 32 per cent of adults who held National Savings certificates in 1978 were aged 65 and over, whereas only 14 per cent of current bank account holders were in this age group. Over 40 per cent of adults holding unit trusts, stocks, and shares were in households whose head was in a higher or intermediate management or professional occupation; in contrast almost three-quarters of Trustee Savings Bank account holders were in households headed by a manual worker, state pensioner, or widow.'

Page 125, Table 7.11

Row *Average weight (kilograms)*, column *All men*, **delete** 73.9 and **insert** 73.6.

Page 198, Table 11.21

Row *London Boroughs, 1978*, column *Number of seats - Labour*, **delete** 899 and **insert** 881, column *Number of seats - Liberal*, **delete** 12 and **insert** 30.

Page 203, Table 11.29

Row *Children's Hearings (Scotland)*, columns *1971 to 1979* **delete** 5.2, 13.2, 24.2 and 28.6 and **insert** 8.7, 29.1, 28.6, and 25.9.

Page 203, Table 11.30

Stub: **delete** 'Applications considered during the year²' and **insert** 'Applications received and considered during the year'. **Delete** footnote 2.

Page 230, Table 13.5

Columns *1979* and *1980* **delete** in toto and **insert** the following:

1979	1980
12.8	12.6
9.2	9.1
8.8	8.6
3.2	3.2
3.1	3.0
2.5	2.4
35.9	36.9
18.7	18.5
5.7	5.7
100.1	100.2
10.5	10.6
64.7	65.2
24.8	24.3

Page 109, Table 6.12

Row *Total energy provided (Calories per person per week)* **delete** in toto **insert** 17,458, 14,284, 15,553, 13,878, 13,754, 15,347, 17,819.

Row *Calories obtained for one penny*, column *3 or more adults, 1 or more children*, **delete** 24 **insert** 23.

Any enquiries should be referred to:

John Cresswell
Central Statistical Office,
Telephone: 01-233 8387

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Hospital day case statistics

An OPCS Monitor, published in March, announced the availability of a new data set - day cases - from the Hospital In-patient Enquiry (HIPE), which is a 10 per cent sample of records from non-psychiatric and non-maternity hospitals in England and Wales. Since 1974, Regional Health Authorities have voluntarily submitted a 10 per cent sample of day cases to HIPE and these records have been processed separately from those relating to in-patient discharges and deaths. Due to a lack of resources only a small number of day case tabulations of very limited use were initially produced. However, some of these difficulties have now been resolved and the Monitor contains information for 1975-78. The coverage and definitions for this data set are identical to those used in the main HIPE tables.

References

Day case statistics 1975-78 OPCS Monitor MB4 82/1 (OPCS 1982). Available free from OPCS, Information Branch, St. Catherines House, 10 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6JP
HIPE Main tables 1978 Series MB4 no. 12 (HMSO 1981) (Price £17.00 net)

Communicable diseases

The second annual report on infectious diseases in England and Wales to be produced jointly by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS) and the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (CDSC) of the Public Health Laboratory Service (PHLS) was published in April. The tables are comparable to those previously published; since 1974 in *Statistics of infectious diseases* and for previous years in the *Registrar General's Statistical Review of England and Wales, Part I*. The commentary has been expanded to give more detail about cases of communicable diseases in England and Wales in 1980.

Reference

Communicable disease statistics 1980 MB2 no. 7 (HMSO 1982) (Price £6.20 net)

Sudden infant deaths (cot deaths)

A collection of studies into sudden death in infancy has recently been produced by OPCS containing contributions from members of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and OPCS itself. The papers consist of three studies into post-neonatal deaths, three related particularly to sudden death of infants, and an additional paper which reviews the incidence and mortality of non-accidental injury in children both in infancy and at later ages.

Reference

Studies in sudden infant deaths SMPS 45 (HMSO 1982) (Price £3.40 net)

Infant feeding

A report of a survey carried out by the Social Survey Division of OPCS for the Department of Health and Social Security was published in April. The results are based on a postal survey of 6,165 mothers of babies born in Great Britain in August and September 1980. The main aim of the survey in England and Wales was to monitor changes in infant feeding practice since 1975 when a previous survey had been carried out. Mothers in Scotland were included for the first time.

The survey showed a significant increase in the proportion of mothers in England and Wales attempting to breast feed from 51 per cent in 1975 to 67 per cent in 1980. This trend was apparent in all social classes and regions and was proportionately greater among mothers of second or subsequent babies. Mothers who started to breast feed were continuing to do so over a longer period than did mothers in 1975. The report examines a number of factors which might have contributed to these changes and looks particularly at the influence of health personnel who came into contact with women during pregnancy and after the birth.

The survey also collected information about the introduction of mixed feeding and shows that mothers are starting to introduce solid food into their infant's diet later than did mothers in 1975.

References

J. Martin and J. Monk, *Infant feeding 1980*, SS 1144 (OPCS 1982) (Price £3.00 net)

J. Martin, *Infant feeding 1975: attitudes and practice in England and Wales*, SS 1064 (HMSO 1978) (Price £7.00 net)

EDUCATION

Shared use of schools

Department of Education and Science (DES) statistical bulletin 1/82 publishes the main results of a sample survey of the extent of shared use by members of the public and extended use outside the formal school day by pupils and/or staff of the facilities of maintained primary and secondary schools in England during the educational year 1978-79. The survey was undertaken to provide a detailed assessment of the facilities being used in schools and the types of user.

The results of the survey suggest that a substantial level of demand for the use of schools outside of the formal school day is being met, although constraints on public expenditure since the survey was undertaken may have reduced the extent of shared and extended use. Approaching two-thirds of primary schools and almost all secondary schools were being regularly used at least once per week during the evenings and weekends of term-time. During school holidays about one-fifth of schools were being regularly used at least once per week. The bulletin gives comparisons of the use of schools by type and size of school and by type of local authority area. Frequencies of use of types of facility and by types of user are also given.

Reference

Survey of shared and extended use of schools in 1978-79, DES statistical bulletin 1/82 available free from Statistics Branch, DES, Elizabeth House, York Road, LONDON SE1 7PH.

Pupil/teacher ratios

DES statistical bulletin 2/82 is the latest in an annual series to give, for January 1981, the numbers of pupils, teachers and pupil/teacher ratios for maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools in each local education authority in England. The bulletin shows pupil/teacher ratios for qualified teachers within nursery, primary and secondary schools separately. In addition, overall pupil/teacher ratios of the total number of qualified teachers, student teachers and instructors paid for service by each local education authority are shown and are comparable with the national pupil/teacher ratios published in the Government's plans for public expenditure. A time series of total pupil and teacher numbers and pupil/teacher ratios for England is given for the years 1974 to 1981.

Reference

Pupil/teacher ratios for each local education authority in England—January 1981, DES statistical bulletin 2/82 available free from the address given above.

Pupils under five years

DES statistical bulletin 4/82 gives information for each local education authority in England about the education provided in January 1981 for pupils under five years in maintained nursery and primary schools. Published annually, the bulletin shows the numbers of schools with nursery classes, together with the numbers of pupils aged two, three and four years in nursery classes and infant classes, proportions of total pupils under five compared with the relevant population age group, and the staffing of nursery classes. Summary totals are given for each region in 1981, and for England as a whole for the years 1975 to 1981. There is an additional table which shows how the total numbers of pupils under five in England have changed for selected years from 1950 to 1981.

Reference

Pupils under five years in each local education authority in England – January 1981, DES statistical bulletin 4/82 available free from the address given above.

Advanced further education

Department of Education and Science Statistical Bulletin 6/82 presents early statistics of enrolments in Autumn 1981 of students on advanced courses at higher and further education establishments in England and Wales. Comparable figures for earlier years are also shown. Details of enrolments both on the first year of course and on all years of course are given, in addition to analyses by subject of study and qualification aim. Separate figures are given for the polytechnics. A bulletin is also in preparation giving early estimates of enrolments by overseas students in 1981-82.

Reference

Enrolments on Advanced Further Education courses 1981-82, DES Statistical Bulletin 6/82, available free from the address given above.

Schools, pupils and teachers: Scotland

This third bulletin in a series on the subject gives information about all categories of education authority and grant-aided schools in Scotland for the sessions 1973/74, 1978/79 and 1979/80. It includes details of the numbers of pupils and teachers and pupil/teacher ratios; statistics of the age and sex of pupils in these and other schools are given for sessions 1979/80 and 1980/81.

Autumn enrolment of students in vocational further education: Scotland

Published annually, this bulletin contains a summary of the enrolment of students to vocational further education in Autumn 1981 and provides a comparison with the same figures for Autumn 1980. Details of students on advanced and non-advanced level courses by mode of attendance and sector of college are included.

Pre-school provision for children: Scotland

A statistical bulletin giving information on the provision of nursery education in education authority schools in Scotland including, for the first time, data on day care services such as day nurseries, pre-school playgroups and child minding facilities provided by local authorities or approved by them.

Copies of statistical bulletins can be obtained from:

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

MANPOWER AND EARNINGS

First employment of young people

The main results of a sample survey of sixteen and seventeen year olds who entered their first employment in 1979 were published in an article in the March 1982 issue of *Employment Gazette*.

The survey, which is carried out by local authority careers offices, collects information on the industry and occupation of first employment, on training received in this employment and on the educational qualifications of the entrants.

The results of a previous survey, in 1978, which covered sixteen year olds only were presented in the December 1980 issue of *Employment Gazette*.

References

'First employment of young people' *Employment Gazette* March 1982 (HMSO) (Price £2.25 net)
'First Off – 16 years olds entering employment in 1978' *Employment Gazette* December 1980 (HMSO) (Price £1.65 net)

Quarterly report on labour market trends (Manpower Services Commission)

Originally designed as an internal document to provide up-to-date briefing on labour market trends for the MSC Commissioner, the *Labour Market Quarterly Report* is now also circulated to a much wider readership including government departments, researchers, local authorities, press correspondents and academics. The first issue generally released was in May 1978. Drawing on a wide range of statistical sources, the report looks at recent trends in employment, unemployment and other features of the labour market, in the context of the general economic situation. Special attention is given to aspects of particular concern to the Commission such as the impact of the recession on the young, the disabled and other disadvantaged groups, and the recent large

increase in the number of long-term unemployed. The latest issue is due to be published at the end of May.

Reference

Labour Market Quarterly Report: Great Britain (Manpower Services Commission) Published in February, May, September and November (available free of charge from Manpower Services Commission, Selkirk House, 166 High Holborn, London WC1V 6PB)

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Agricultural censuses and surveys

The June 1981 agricultural census

The final results of this census for England were published in Statistical Information Notice STATS No. 67/82 on 4 March 1982.

The final results for the United Kingdom were published in Statistical Information Notice STATS No. 89/82 on 22 March 1982.

The county and regional results for England and Wales were published in March.

October 1981 vegetable and flower census

The results of the 1981 census in England and Wales were published in Statistical Information Notice STATS No. 84/82 on 17 March 1982.

The county and regional results for England and Wales have also been published.

The December 1981 agricultural census

Results for the United Kingdom (provisional) and England (final) were published in Press Notice STATS No. 84/82 on 2 March 1982.

The statistical material mentioned above may be obtained from:

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

Basic horticultural statistics 1972-81

The latest edition of this annual publication became available in March. It contains the usual ten-year run of estimates of the area, yield, production and output value of a wide range of horticultural crops grown in the United Kingdom. There have been some improvements to the presentation of international trade data and tables on the pattern of marketing and the principal production areas have been added. Copies are available free from:

Mr J. Fewings
MAFF
Stats 1B
Room 500A
Great Westminster House
Horseferry Road
SW1P 2AE
Telephone: 01-216 6411

Production of canned and bottled fruit and canned vegetables in the United Kingdom

Results of the third quarter 1981 survey were published in Statistical Information Notice STATS 55/82 on 23 February 1982. Details of the annual levels of production for 1981 were published in Statistical Information Notices STATS 80/82 and 81/82 on 16 March 1982.

Potato crisps and snack foods

Results of the fourth quarter 1981 survey were published in Statistical Information Notice STATS 79/82 on 16 March 1982.

Provisional results of the December 1981 Scottish Agricultural Census

The provisional results of the Scottish Agricultural Census held on 1 December 1981 were published as a Scottish Office Press Notice on 1 February 1982 (Press Notice No. 87/82).

INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS

Commercial and industrial floorspace statistics – Wales No. 1 1980

This is a new publication to parallel *Commercial and Industrial Floorspace Statistics – England*, produced by the Department of the Environment (DOE). Previously, Welsh figures have been included with the English statistics, published jointly by DOE and Welsh Office.

Publication of a separate volume has enabled the Welsh Office to make available more detailed information for counties, statistical sub-divisions and for districts. The information is categorised into seven non-domestic use classes for most of which absolute and percentage changes are shown for the periods 1974-80 and 1979-80. This publication, priced £3.00 net, is available only from:

Publications Unit
ESS1
Welsh Office
Cathays Park
Cardiff CF1 3NQ.

Business Monitors – Annual Census of Production 1979

PA 1002 – Summary Volume

The Summary Volume of the 1979 Annual Census of Production (PA 1002) is available price £15.60 net. As in previous years this summarises results previously published in the separate industry monitors (PA 101 to PA 603). It also provides analyses of the census data by enterprise and size analyses by net output, employment and sales. Further tables show information relating to foreign enterprises.

Business Monitors – Annual Census of Production 1980

Readers of *Statistical News* are made aware of the results of the 1980 Census of Production as the Business Monitors become available. A list of the first of these monitors to be published is given below:

<i>Business Monitor Number</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Standard Industrial Classification 1980 Group</i>
PA 1001	Introductory notes	
PA 170	Water supply industry	170
PA 245	Working of stone and other non-metallic minerals	245
PA 329	Ordnance, small arms and ammunition	329
PA 466	Articles of cork and plaiting materials, brushes and brooms	466

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

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

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

TRANSPORT

International road haulage in 1980

The Department of Transport published in March a new report on its International Road Haulage Survey, presenting results for the twelve month period January – December 1980. The survey was begun in July 1979 to meet the requirements of the European Community (EC) Directive 78/546 and is complementary to the Department's Continuing Survey of Road Goods Transport which covers national road haulage under the same directive. An earlier report entitled *International Road Haulage by British Registered Vehicles* covered the first six months of the survey and was published in December 1980. The new report is therefore the first to examine a full year's data and to include vehicles registered in Northern Ireland; it will therefore be the benchmark for future surveys.

The statistics presented show commodities carried (based on the Nomenclature Statistique de Transports (NST) classification), the type of service – whether for hire or reward or for own-account, and areas of loading and unloading in terms of foreign countries or United Kingdom regions. The report consists mainly of statistical tables with a commentary and a certain amount of background information. Survey methodology is also described in detail.

Reference

International Road Haulage by United Kingdom Registered Vehicles. Available from Department of Transport, Room S12/02A, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB, price £5.00 plus 30p postage and packing. Cheques/postal orders should be made payable to Department of Transport and crossed.

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE

The Government's Expenditure Plan 1982-83 to 1984-85

The annual *White Paper on the Government's expenditure plans* (Cmnd. 8494) was published on Budget day, 9 March 1982. It sets out in detail the Government's plans for public expenditure for the years 1982-83 to 1984-85. Following the move to cash planning all the figures quoted in the White Paper are in cash terms i.e. they show the amounts of money spent in the past or now planned to be spent in the future. An explanation of the transition to cash planning is included in the White Paper.

This year the White Paper is published in two volumes. Volume 1 consists of the usual Part 1. That is, it includes tables and charts showing the planned expenditure at an aggregate level, and sets out the main changes in planned expenditure since the previous white paper (Cmnd. 8175). The revised expenditure plans for

1982-83 onwards are higher than the cash equivalent of those in Cmnd. 8175. In 1982-83 the main increases in the plans are for local authority current expenditure, nationalised industries' total net external finance, social security, employment services, and defence. These increases have been partly offset by reductions elsewhere.

Volume 2 contains parts 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the White Paper. Part 2 sets out the plans for each main programme of expenditure and includes text highlighting the important features in each area. Expenditure within the responsibilities of the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales is identified in separate programmes. Some measures of output are also included in the text accompanying the main expenditure tables.

Part 3 of the White Paper shows the plans for the nationalised industries' capital requirements and financing. Figures for each of the industries are given, including the external financing limits for 1982-83.

Part 4 of the White Paper includes tables on cash limits in 1982-83, further data on local authority expenditure, debt interest, and special sales of assets. It also lists the estimated cost of tax reliefs and allowances in 1981-82. Part 5 sets out the concepts underlying the measurement of public expenditure and includes technical notes and a glossary of terms used.

Certain expenditure measures were decided too late to be taken into account in the White Paper. They are shown in the *Financial Statement and Budget report*.

References

- The Government's Expenditure Plans 1981-82 to 1983-84* (Cmnd 8175) (HMSO)
The Government's Expenditure Plans 1982-83 to 1984-85 (Cmnd 8494) (HMSO),
March 1982 (Vol I Price £4.15 net, Vol II Price £7.45 net).
Financial Statement and Budget Report 1982-83 (HC 237) (HMSO) (Price £4.30 net).

HOME FINANCE

Inland Revenue Statistics 1981

This volume, published in January, contains a wide range of statistics derived from Inland Revenue sources relating to direct taxation, incomes, capital gains, wealth and property valuations.

The income statistics mainly relate to companies and have been derived from tax assessment data. Detailed income statistics for individuals are given in *The Survey of Personal Incomes 1978-79* published in November 1981.

Estimates of the distribution of personal wealth derived from Capital Transfer Tax statistics and other sources are given, together with estimates which include the value of pension rights.

The valuation data include figures of rateable values,

floorspace, agricultural land prices and conveyancing statistics.

The volume is in five sections: general, income from employment (PAYE), company incomes, capital and wealth, and valuation and stamp duties. Brief notes relating to each section are given below:

i. General

This section gives a new analysis (Table 1.2 of income tax receipts broken down by schedule). The table shows that in 1980-81, 78 per cent of income tax receipts was from income from employment charged under Schedule E (mainly paid through the PAYE system), while 13 per cent was from rents, profits of the self-employed, bank, building society and local authority interest, and other income charged under Schedules A, B and D. These percentages had varied little in the previous few years.

Table 1.5 repeats the table of revenue costs of tax reliefs first published as Table 4.14 in the 1981 Public Expenditure White Paper Cmnd 8175. It is followed by Table 1.6 which lists other tax allowances and reliefs where it has not been possible or practicable to calculate costs.

ii. Income from employment

This section gives estimates of the amounts of pay and pensions within the operation of the PAYE system and estimates of the tax deducted within the system.

iii. Company incomes

This section includes a Table (3.1) showing the breakdown of company profits analysed by industry, and Tables (3.2 and 3.3) showing the distribution of profits chargeable to corporation tax. Other tables provide analyses of capital allowances and company distributions. Table 3.12 is a new table analysing petroleum revenue tax assessments made by 31 December 1980.

iv. Capital and wealth

Capital Transfer Tax statistics are provided, giving analyses by size of estate, age of deceased and types of property. This section also contains a variety of tables relating to capital gains tax and to development land tax. As usual, the section includes tables giving estimates of the distribution of personal wealth.

v. Valuation and stamp duties

This section contains, in addition to the tables, two charts which illustrate recent trends in the composition of stamp duties and agricultural land prices.

The volume concludes with a number of appendices, including detailed tables of tax rates and allowances for the past five years.

References

- Inland Revenue Statistics 1981* (HMSO) (Price £7.95 net)
The Survey of Personal Incomes 1978-79 (HMSO) (Price £6.60 net)

Corporation tax

A Green Paper on Corporation Tax was published in January to contribute to public discussion of the structure of the tax. It reviews the operation of the present tax and explores a wide range of possible major changes to the system of corporation tax.

The Green Paper contains a considerable quantity of previously unpublished statistics including estimates of the effect of possible changes in the tax. They fall into three main groups.

- i. Historical estimates of the yield of the present tax, its distribution by broad subsector of industry, the value of the main reliefs and allowances, the numbers of tax-paying and 'tax-exhausted' companies, and the extent of tax losses currently available (discussed in Parts I and IV of the Green Paper and Appendices Four and Five).
- ii. Estimating the effects of alternative forms of corporation tax (discussed in Parts II and III) including a tax based on profits at current cost, on profits before or after deducting depreciation at historical cost, a company expenditure tax, and a return to a 'classical' system of corporation tax. These estimates were done on a 'revenue-neutral' basis i.e., within an unchanged total of corporation tax, they measured the diverse effects upon different sectors of industry of the alternative systems. The Green Paper also gives estimates of the effective rates of corporation tax on profits at historical cost and on 'real' profits as measured in current cost accounting terms (Appendix Six).
- iii. Estimates of the effects of changes to the existing tax system, such as extensions of capital allowances, changes to the relief for small companies, and possible ways of giving relief for previous payments of advance corporation tax which at present cannot be used to reduce the liability to mainstream corporation tax.

The statistics were largely derived from the Inland Revenue's data of corporation tax receipts and tax assessments which detail income and reliefs available in assessing the tax liability. The estimates of the effects of changes to the tax were obtained from the Inland Revenue's computer simulation model of corporation tax which uses data from a representative sample of companies. However, extensive use was made of other central government statistics, in particular the national accounts, the Central Statistical Office's model of capital consumption and capital stock, and the Departments of Industry and Trade's price indices for current cost accounting and analyses of company finance based on a summary of the accounts and balance sheets of large companies.

A note on the methods used for the estimates, including a brief description of the computer model, is available from

Statistics Division (S3)
Room S13
West Wing
Somerset House
Strand
London
WC2R 1LB

Reference

'Corporation Tax' (Green Paper) Cmnd. 8456
(HMSO January 1982) (Price £7.10 net).

North Sea oil and gas—costs and benefits

An article in the Bank of England's March 1982 *Quarterly Bulletin* examines the implications for the future of the United Kingdom onshore economy of the development and exploitation of oil and gas reserves in the North Sea. Part I discusses the size of the reserves and the cost of their exploitation. It presents estimates of real flows for the last decade, during which the United Kingdom has become roughly self-sufficient in oil, and illustrative projections to the mid-1980s, when the United Kingdom will probably be a net oil exporter. Part II addresses some broader issues. The present value of the economic rents arising from the oil and gas fields could be of roughly the same magnitude as current annual GNP. The effect on economic welfare is best measured by seeing how much can be consumed while not impoverishing future generations – perhaps between 3 per cent and 6 per cent of GNP compared with a situation where the United Kingdom had no indigenous oil.

The Bank's *Quarterly Bulletin* (at £5.00 per copy) may be obtained from:

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

The supplementary special deposits scheme

The Bank of England's March 1982 *Quarterly Bulletin* contains an article reviewing the supplementary special deposits scheme, known as the 'corset', as an instrument of monetary control. The scheme was introduced in response to the growth of 'liability management', which made it difficult for the authorities to restrict the growth of the broad monetary aggregates in the face of strong demand for credit. It was designed to have the minimum impact on the structure of financial markets. The scheme was largely effective in containing the growth of wholesale deposits, but it tended to encourage the diversion of banking business into other channels. The

scheme exemplifies the difficulties of relying excessively on direct controls on the banking system as a means of influencing monetary developments.

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

The role of the Bank of England in the money market

The Bank of England's March 1982 *Quarterly Bulletin* contains an article reviewing the role of the Bank of England in the money market. As main banker to the Government and ultimate banker to the banking system, the Bank of England is necessarily involved in day-to-day operations in the sterling money market. During the past eighteen months there have been a number of changes to the Bank's operating techniques: the Bank has ceased to announce a minimum lending rate, and its dealing arrangements now permit market forces to influence the structure of short-term interest rates to a greater extent than before. Nevertheless, the authorities continue to hold firm views on the appropriate level of very short-term rates, and seek to keep these within an undisclosed band. The Bank now publishes each day its estimate of the cash position of the money market, and details of its own operations. After sketching the historical background to these changes, the article describes how the present arrangements evolved, and provides a detailed account of the Bank's daily procedures for deciding what action to take in the money market and for executing it. Finally, these money market arrangements are placed in the context of overall monetary policy.

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

Recent changes in the monetary and regulatory framework

The Bank of England's March 1982 *Quarterly Bulletin* reprints a speech the Governor gave to the Finance Houses Association, in which he discusses three topics. First, the response of the finance houses to developments in the industrial and consumer credit market, then the stance of monetary policy and finally the supervision of deposit-taking institutions.

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 March 1982 *Quarterly Bulletin*.

- i. Table 10, official operations in the money market
This new table provides details of the daily operations by the Bank of England in the money markets.

- ii. Table 11.3, public sector borrowing requirement and other counterparts to changes in money stock
The presentation of this table has been changed, domestic credit expansion is now shown in a supplementary table in the additional notes.

Company finance

The twelfth issue of Business Monitor *MA3—Company finance* is now available. This issue of the annual monitor sets out the first results of a new analysis of the accounts of a fully representative sample of companies, and estimates are given for all industrial and commercial companies registered in Great Britain. A description of the basis of the new series and its aims was given in an article 'Constructing a sampling frame of industrial and commercial companies' in *Statistical News* 44.6. Previous issues of the monitor only covered the large companies and excluded companies in agriculture, mining and quarrying, and shipping as well as those whose activities were mainly overseas.

As before, the data, which are analysed by type of company, are presented in the form of tables which summarize the balance sheet, income and appropriation account, sources and uses of funds, and supplementary information. The data mainly covers 1977 and 1978, and 1979 data are given for large companies only. The main accounting ratios for 1969-79, and size distributions of companies in terms of capital employed, turnover, etc are also included.

Reference

Business Monitor *MA3—Company finance* (HMSO) (Price £8.00 net)

Cyclical indicators of the United Kingdom economy: calculation and interpretation

Recent movements of the cyclical indicators of the United Kingdom economy are published monthly by the CSO in *Economic Trends*. General descriptions of the methodology and of the component series used have appeared in *Economic Trends*. More detailed descriptions of the methods used and of the interpretation of movements in the indicators are given in an Occasional Paper (No. 16) available on request from

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

References:

Economic Trends No. 257 March 1975, No. 271 May 1976, No. 319 May 1980 (HMSO).

Company sources and uses of funds

A recent article in *Economic Trends* 'Quarterly survey of UK company sources and uses of funds: Summary of results 1977-1980' by Moira O'Connor, Departments of Industry and Trade puts on record, for the first time, the results of the quarterly survey. The survey was started in 1976 and terminated early in 1981 as part of the recent economies in Government statistics.

Reference

Economic Trends No. 340, February 1982 (HMSO) (Price £9.75 net)

Manufacturing capital expenditure – leasing

February *Economic Trends* includes an article by Stephen Penneck and Roy Woods, Departments of Industry and Trade on 'Effects of leasing on statistics of manufacturing capital expenditure'.

The leasing industry has grown in a very short time to become one of our major investing industries; its current rate of capital expenditure is over £3bn per year. The article gives a short description of how the capital expenditure figures are compiled for manufacturing industry, how the leasing industry has grown, the importance of taking account of finance leasing when assessing manufactures' investment and how we are trying to ensure that the growth of leasing is not distorting our investments intentions inquiry.

Reference

Economic Trends No. 340 February 1982 (HMSO) (Price £9.75 net)

Births and deaths of firms in the United Kingdom

An article in *British business* of 2 April looks at the regional distribution of births and deaths of firms in the United Kingdom in 1980. An earlier article published in *British business* on 29 January (see *Statistical News* 56.29) described the use of information available from the administration of VAT to define and then produce estimates of births and deaths of firms in the various sectors of the United Kingdom economy during 1980. Special attention was paid to the limitations of the VAT data, a clear understanding being fundamental to the proper use of the results that flow from the data.

Inquiries, comments and views about 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

References

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

British business, 2 April 1981 (HMSO weekly) (Price £1.10 net)

OVERSEAS AID

British Aid Statistics 1976-1980

The 1981 edition of *British Aid Statistics* was published in March. The volume contains 34 tables analysing Britain's aid flows by type and by recipient country.

The introductory text is little changed from that of the 1980 edition. It explains the various concepts and definitions used in measuring aid flows and contains short summary tables for the major aggregates over the period 1976 to 1980.

Tables 1 to 4 in the body of the publication set out the United Kingdom flows to developing countries according to the international basis of 'official development assistance' and relate this to the 'public expenditure' basis used for the remaining tables. Public expenditure on overseas aid is broken down into bilateral (direct to recipient countries) and multilateral (channelled through institutions such as the United Nations, the World Bank and the European Community); project and non-project; grants and loans; economic sector. Tables showing the geographical distribution of these major types of expenditure follow.

The number of people working overseas who are financed by the aid programme is shown by country and field of activity. There are similar tables giving the number of students and vocational trainees supported by the aid programme. The volume concludes by giving three tables of comparative figures for other aid donors who are members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee.

Figures for Export Credit Guarantee Department support for export credits have been substantially revised in this edition. Details can be found in Tables 1 to 3 and are explained on page x of the introduction.

Reference

British Aid Statistics 1976-1980 (HMSO) (Price £11.75)

INTERNATIONAL

United Nations Statistical Computing Project – Report on Steering Committee meeting

The Statistical Computing Project (SCP) is a European Regional Project of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and is being managed on their behalf by the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) mainly through four international Working Groups guided by a Steering Committee. The main

objective of the project is to help less developed European Countries in their statistical computing. The Project was intended to terminate in 1983 but it may now be extended to 1984.

The participants are mainly the less developed European countries. The Steering Committee meeting on 28-30 October 1981, was also attended by observers from the United Kingdom, West Germany, France, Italy and Ireland. Mr Pat Kenney, Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS) was the only observer from the United Kingdom.

The Steering Committee received reports from the Project Co-ordinator (Mr Stander, a Hungarian) followed by reports from each of the four Working Groups. (See page 57.33).

The Data Editing Group is led by Mr Dornyei of the Hungarian CSO. They have adopted the Hungarian AERO editing package and have in hand some enhancements, as well as assisting in its distribution. The Group also intends to give some attention to a 'generalised survey processing system' and will probably begin by examining existing packages.

The Database Group is led by Mr B. Sundgren of Norway, with major support from Canada. They have adopted the Canadian database system RAPID, and are concentrating on extending its use to new sites and enhancing it. RAPID is written in PL/1 and is only available to IBM users. (OPCS and the Business Statistics Office are planning to test RAPID on behalf of the Government Statistical Service; depending on the results, it may ultimately be converted to ICL.)

The Table Generation Group is led by Mr J. Lundgaard of Denmark. They have begun by drawing up a draft specification for an ideal tabulation system which they have called 'INTERTAB'. They have looked at existing tabulation systems and have decided that none remotely matches their ideal specification, but they are now making a full examination of TAU, which they think is very promising (TAU is the tabulation program being developed by OPCS, the first phase of which is due to be completed by the end of 1982).

The Meta Information and Glossary Group is led by Mr A. Klas of Czechoslovakia. The Group is addressing itself to the general aims and definitions of a meta information system 'dealing with an inventory of its present state in statistical offices and methods of formalised description of statistical information systems (SIS), rather than with technical and programming questions'. The Steering Group, however, showed more interest in the glossary of database usages, the first chapter of which was distributed during the meeting.

The UK Observer has some concern that the Project could miss its main objective of assisting less developed European countries and that the advanced systems being

discussed could perhaps be incompatible. He has therefore advocated that the Steering Committee, or a technical sub-group of it, should define a minimum objective of the project which would help most of the countries concerned.

Enquiries about the project should be addressed either to:

Mr T. Griffin
Central Statistical Office
Great George Street
London
SW1P 3AQ

or
Mr P. H. Kenney
Office of Population Censuses and Surveys
Computer Division
Titchfield
Fareham
Hants
PO15 5RS

International banking markets in 1980-81

The Bank of England's March 1982 *Quarterly Bulletin* contains an article, intended as the first of a regular series, which describes recent developments in the international banking markets. It concentrates on 1980-81 but also includes some data for earlier years.

The Bank's *Quarterly Bulletin* (at £5.00 per copy) may be obtained from:

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

PUBLICATIONS

Guide to Official Statistics

The fourth edition of the *Guide to Official Statistics* is expected to be published on 28 June. New to this edition will be sections on 'Consumer credit' and 'Exchange rates'. There will also be a further annex listing articles published in *Population Trends*.

Reference

Guide to Official Statistics (HMSO, 1982) (Price £25.00 net).

Scottish Economic Bulletin

The latest issue contains three articles which may be of interest to readers. The first 'Special employment measures in Scotland' outlines the main features of the various measures and assesses their impact on the Scottish labour market over recent years.

The second 'Overseas-owned manufacturing establishments in Scotland: output, investment and employment' is the second in a series looking at aspects of manufacturing business in Scotland. It looks in detail at some aspects of the comparative performance in Scottish manufacturing industry of overseas-owned and UK-owned establishments.

The third 'The comparative birth rate of enterprises new to manufacturing in Scotland and the UK' examines evidence which has recently become available on this subject.

In addition to the articles, the charts and statistics section includes two short notes on labour supply in Scotland and the catering and allied trades inquiry; information from the Retailing Inquiry has been updated to give results for 1979. A new table showing population, employment, and unemployment by Scottish Regions has been included using preliminary Census 1981 results. The average weekly earnings section giving April 1981 results includes a new chart showing average earnings in the Scottish Regions. Also updated to 1980 in this issue are the European Regional expenditure tables and fuel consumption in Scotland and the United Kingdom.

Reference

Scottish Economic Bulletin, Number 24/Spring 1982 (HMSO Edinburgh) (Price £6.00 net)

OPCS publications

Annual reference and other publications that have recently appeared and have not been mentioned in recent issues of *Statistical News* include:

Mortality statistics: infant and perinatal – social and biological factors 1978-79 DH3 No. 7 (HMSO) (Price £5.25 net)

Longitudinal study 1971-75 LS No. 1 (HMSO) (Price £3.90)

Local authority vital statistics 1980 VS No. 7 (HMSO) (Price £4.70 net)

Morbidity statistics from general practice 1970-71: socio-economic analyses Studies in Medical and Population Subjects (HMSO) (Price £4.20)

Welsh Office publications

The following publications have recently become available:

Mental Health Statistics for Wales 1981, (price £3.00.)

Welsh Local Government Finance Statistics 1981, £3.00.

Digest of Welsh Statistics 1981, (price £4.00.)

Welsh Housing Statistics 1981, (price £2.00.)

Commercial and Industrial Floorspace – Wales 1980, (price £3.00.)

Welsh Agricultural Statistics 1981, (price £3.00.)

The publications are only available from
Publications Unit
ESS1
Welsh Office
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF1 3NQ

They are post paid but payment with order is essential.

Enquiries about other Welsh Office Statistical publications should also be made to the Publications Unit: Telephone 0222 825054.

National Institute Economic Review

Three special articles appeared in the February issue of the *National Institute Economic Review*. The first article, written by I. Jones is entitled 'The New Training Initiative – An Evaluation'. This argues that the high level of trainee wages in the United Kingdom is the most important reason for the UK's deficiency in vocational training provision vis a vis other Continental European countries with broadly similar training arrangements. This has important implications for the development of policy which are not properly recognised in either the White Paper or in recent Manpower Services Commission documents.

The second article, by K. Cuthbertson, entitled 'The Measurement and Behaviour of the UK Saving Ratio in the 1970s', discusses the discretionary and contractual saving of households. Movements in the discretionary saving ratio seem to be related to movements in the rate of growth of real income and the inflation loss on liquid assets. The 'inflation effect' on discretionary saving is less than found in studies which seek to explain movements in total (i.e. committed plus discretionary) saving and indicate that the scope for automatic recovery in output may be less than thought, hitherto.

The third article, 'Description and measurement' by D. Savage examines the conduct of fiscal policy since 1974. It is in two parts. The first contains a chronological narrative of the major policy developments during the period, while the second is concerned with the technical task of measuring the effects of policy changes.

Reference

National Institute Economic Review No. 99 (Price £10.00 net) available from the offices of the National Institute.

Engineering Industry Training Board

The Engineering Industry Training Board (EITB) recently produced four publications. The first is a report on *Manpower in machine tools – employment and training in the metal-working machine tools industry*. This report updated and substantially revised a previous report published by the Board in 1975. The definition of the industry used by various bodies differs but the one

used in the report is from the 1968 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC).

The main employment statistics used are from the Board's statutory returns, grant claim forms or from the Department of Employment. Training data are either from the Board's grant claim forms or its craft training file. Prices are, in general, given in constant (1975) prices and any indices used are defined in the appendix to the report.

The second publication is a Reference Paper, *A summary of information on the employment and training of clerical staff in the engineering industry*. Most of the information contained in the paper comes from the EITB's own sources. Advances are now being made in the application of microelectronics to the secretarial and clerical functions of offices. This manpower category may therefore be the most affected over the next decade by the new technology. The paper provides the background against which these changes can be measured.

Information is given on clerical employment in the industry since the mid 1960's. Additional information on clerical employment in general, drawn from data in population censuses from 1921 to 1971 is given in an appendix. This provides a commentary of what happened to clerical employment as a whole over that period.

The third publication is a research paper, entitled *The technician in engineering: an interim report*. This is an interim report on the findings of a survey of technicians which was first started in 1980 and which is still in progress. The full results of the survey are not yet available but some of the findings of the earlier stages of the survey, in some cases provisional estimates only, are presented in this report.

The fourth publication is a reference paper, *Selection of craft and technician trainees*. The report describes the relationship between initial selection measures and the destination of trainees on leaving the 1976/77 and 1977/78 Training Award Schemes. It concludes that selection tests and interview ratings had some value in predicting which trainees would continue apprentice training at the end of their EITB sponsorship.

For further information and copies of the publications write to:

Engineering Industry Training Board
54 Clarendon Road
Watford
WD1 1LB

References

- Manpower in machine tools—employment and training in the metal-working machine tools industry*, EITB Reference Paper RP/2/81. ISBN 0 85083 5291.
A summary of information on the employment and training of clerical staff in the engineering industry, EITB Reference Paper RP/3/81. ISBN 0 85083 530 5.
The technician in engineering: an interim report, EITB Research Paper RP/4 ISBN 0 85083 532 1.
Selection of craft and technician trainees—evidence available from the monitoring of the Training Award Schemes, 1976/77 and 1977/78, EITB Reference Paper RP/2/82, ISBN 0 85083 535 6.

British insurance broking

A statistical report by Kitcat and Aitken entitled *British Insurance Broking* was published in March by The British Insurance Brokers' Association (BIBA). The report aims to set in perspective the work and achievements of British insurance brokers against the background of United Kingdom and world insurance markets. It brings together new statistical information on the business of the insurance broking industry and on the UK and overseas markets it serves.

In the absence of any established mechanism for collecting statistics about insurance broking, the BIBA requested its members to complete questionnaires about the business they transacted in the calendar years 1977-79, or the nearest corresponding financial years. Numerically, although only 23.8 per cent of BIBA member-parent firms contributed to the survey, there was a high response rate among larger member companies, and the survey thus covered some two-thirds of all employees and an estimated 80 per cent of the general premiums handled by the BIBA membership.

To compile statistics on world and UK insurance markets, BIBA's analysts undertook new analyses of the multiplicity of figures on insurance published by different organisations for a variety of purposes. Statistics were provided by the Department of Trade, the British Insurance Association, the Life Offices' Association, the Corporation of Lloyd's, the Swiss Reinsurance Company and the Central Statistical Office. In order to allow data provided by BIBA members to be examined in the context of the United Kingdom and world insurance markets attention was concentrated on 1979 as the latest year for which full information was available.

At a later time it may be possible to revise the study to incorporate all updated information.

For further information on the above report contact:

The British Insurance Brokers' Association
Fountain House
130 Fenchurch Street
London EC3M 5DJ

Population and Social Survey 1981 – Skelmersdale New Town

This report presents the results of the eighteenth population and social survey to be held in Skelmersdale New Town. The Survey has been carried out annually by Skelmersdale Development Corporation since 1963, immediately prior to the start of physical development. A representative cross section of households is selected at random and asked to provide social and demographic information together with an indication of their views about Skelmersdale. The survey thus collects both factual and attitudinal information from respondents.

Although the layout and content of the questionnaire used in the survey have both changed considerably over the years, certain data has been collected consistently (e.g. age structure of the population). Consistency has been maintained in the presentation of demographic information to assist year by year comparison, but the presentation of the social information can vary from year to year. This is a reflection of current issues, a response to requests from other bodies, and an aid to forward planning.

The response rate of the survey has been maintained at the high level of previous years.

In addition to the Population and Social Survey, a report is included on a survey of school-leavers made in March 1981. This is the fifth such annual survey conducted by the Development Corporation.

Copies of the 1981 survey (priced £3.50 net) are available from:

The Librarian
Skelmersdale Development Corporation
Pennylands
Skelmersdale
Lancashire
WN8 8AR

World Fertility Survey

Recent publications by this world-wide survey of possible interest to readers of *Statistical News* include:

Trinidad and Tobago Fertility Survey 1977

The results of this survey conducted by the Central Statistical Office, Trinidad and Tobago, during April to June 1977 are contained in two volumes. The first volume deals with the administrative and technical aspects of the survey and summarizes the findings of the survey. The second presents tabulations derived from the survey data. Later publications which are planned will present analyses of selected areas of the survey data relating to fertility trends and behaviour patterns.

Scientific report series

- No. 17 *Illustrative analysis: marriage dissolution and remarriage in Sri Lanka and Thailand* by David P. Smith
- No. 18 *Contraceptive use in Sri Lanka* by George Immerwahr
- No. 19 *Evaluation of the Republic of the Philippines Fertility Survey 1978* by Florentina Reyes
- No. 20 *Modern contraceptive use in Indonesia: a challenge to conventional wisdom* by Ronald Freedman, Siew-Ean Khoo and Bondan Supratilah
- No. 21 *Evaluation of the Mexican Fertility Survey 1976-77* by Manuel Ordorica and Joseph E. Potter
- No. 22 *Preferences for number and sex of children and contraceptive use in Korea* by Nam Il Kim and Byoung Mohk Choi
- No. 23 *Factors affecting contraceptive use in Peninsular Malaysia* by Tey Nai Peng and Idris Abdurahman
- No. 24 *Contraceptive use in Java-Bali: A multivariate analysis of the determinants of contraceptive use* by Bindi Soeradji and Sri Harijati Hatmadji.
- No. 25 *Illustrative analysis: recent fertility trends in Sri Lanka* by Iqbal Alam and John Cleland
- No. 26 *Evaluation of the Guyana Fertility Survey 1975* by Sundat Balkaran
- No. 27 *Evaluation of the Malaysian Fertility and Family Survey 1974* by Masitah Mohd Yatim
- No. 28 *Methodology of the Response Errors Project* by C. A. O'Muircheartaigh

Comparative studies

- No. 9 *Contraceptive practice* by Enrique Carrasco
- No. 13 *Breastfeeding* by Benoit Ferry
- Summary of findings*
- No. 30 *Senegal Fertility Survey 1978*
- No. 31 *Haiti Fertility Survey 1977*
- No. 32 *Fertility Survey in France, 1978*
- No. 33 *Trinidad and Tobago Fertility Survey 1977*

Other publications

The World Fertility Survey and its 1980 Conference by E. Grebenik.

Basic documentation No. 11 *Data processing guidelines* in two volumes.

Further information about these and other WFS publications may be obtained from:

Publications Office
International Statistical Institute
428 Prinses Beatrixlaan
PO Box 950
2270 AZ Voorburg
Netherlands

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

On-line access to statistics

Statistical News readers may be interested to know of a one day seminar held on March 25 on the subject of on-line access to statistics.

Organised by the Library Association/Royal Statistical Society Committee of Librarians and Statisticians, the seminar was chaired by Martin Fessey and the final summing up was by Sir John Boreham. It was attended by some fifty people representing providers of statistical information, statistics users and companies with commercial interests in the subject. The event was the first time that representatives from all three groups had publicly debated a matter which, in recent years, has become increasingly important.

In addition to a number of short presentations from participants, two papers were presented for consideration. These were:

'Access to Statistics: A Survey and call for Action' by Geoffrey Hamilton

and

'On-line Access to Statistics' by Maria Collins.

Together, the papers presented a picture of developments over recent years and, more importantly, the needs of the future as indicated by detailed research. Comparisons were made with developments in other countries and details shown of some of the individual patterns evolving in the United Kingdom.

Although the seminar was basically the first step and there was not complete unanimity on the need for an all embracing centrally controlled service, there was general agreement that the subject should be given further attention. The Committee of Librarians and Statisticians have agreed to consider possible future developments.

International Forecasting Conference (IFC), Valencia (Spain), 24-28 May 1982

Amongst the best known of the invited speakers at this Meeting will be J. Durbin (UK), P. J. Harrison (UK) and P. A. W. Lewis (USA).

In all, papers by authors from twelve countries are expected: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Italy, Israel, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Romania, Spain, UK and USA; with representatives from Universities, Government, Business and Industry.

Further details from

Oliver D. Anderson,

IFC Valencia,

9 Ingham Grove,

Lenton Gardens,

Nottingham NG7 2LQ,

England.

Telephone: (0602) 708085,

International Code (44602).

GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL SERVICE

John Hancock

Many colleagues and friends will have been saddened to hear of the death of John Hancock, aged 70, on 18 March 1982. As a statistician in the United Nations, in the United Kingdom and all over the world, he made friends. He did so simply by his own infectious enthusiasm for life and companionship. His way was to tackle things with obvious enjoyment, he helped others to do so, and he enriched the life of everyone who knew him.

Appointments and Changes

Mr. V. C. Stewart, Registrar General for Scotland, retired on 12 April 1982 and has been succeeded by *Dr. C. M. Glennie* who transferred to GRO(S) from the Scottish Office on 22 February. From that date, *Dr. D. Wishart*, Chief Statistician in the Scottish Education Department, assumed responsibility as Head of Profession in the Scottish Office.

Mr. H. B. Lawson, Chief Statistician, General Register Office for Scotland, retired on 28 February 1982.

Mr. G. M. Goatman, Chief Statistician, Manpower Services Commission, retired on 26 March 1982.

Mr. D. E. L. Allnutt, Statistician, Departments of the Environment and Transport, transferred on promotion to Chief Statistician to the Department of Employment on 1 April 1982.

Mr. P. J. Stibbard, Chief Statistician, Central Statistical Office, transferred to HM Treasury on 13 April 1982.

Mr. R. G. Ward, Chief Statistician, HM Treasury, transferred to the Central Statistical Office on 13 April 1982.

Mr. I. B. Beerley, Chief Statistician, on loan to Sir Derek Rayner's office transferred to the Administration Group as Assistant Secretary on 1 April 1982.

Quarterly inquiries into capital expenditure and manufacturers' stocks – transfer of responsibility

As part of the programme of dispersing from London certain statistical work of the Departments of Industry and Trade, Branch 2 of the Business Statistics Office (BSO) has recently assumed responsibility for running the quarterly inquiries into capital expenditure and into manufacturers' stocks, and for compiling and publishing results. (Responsibility for running statistical inquiries into the stocks of the distributive and services trades was transferred to the BSO at the beginning of 1981). The transfer was recommended in the report on the statistical services of the Departments of Industry and Trade which was produced as part of Sir Derek Rayner's review of the Civil Service. The report also recommended dispersal of responsibility for the Departments' investment intentions survey, and this work will be transferred to the BSO after completion of the next inquiry in May 1982.

LATE ITEMS

International comparisons of real gdp

In the past the usual way of comparing the national accounts data of different countries has been to convert them by means of exchange rates to a common currency unit. But it is well known that exchange rates do not necessarily reflect relative price levels in the different countries. Such comparisons are therefore unreliable; they are also sensitive to the considerable fluctuations in the rates which have been a feature of recent years. Alternative conversion factors have therefore been devised which rely on direct price observations of comparable items in different countries. These factors are known as 'purchasing power parities'.

New comparisons of real GDP have recently been published as a result of two major international enquiries into purchasing power. Comparisons between member states of the European Community (EC) and between members of the OECD are available both in *National Accounts – ESA aggregates* published in April 1982 by the Statistical Office of the EC and in Part IV of the *OECD National Accounts* (Volume 1) published in March 1982. An article in the April 1982 issue of *Economic Trends* presents some of these new results.

Wider comparisons, covering thirty four countries involved in Phase III of the United Nations International Comparisons Project, have been published in the December 1981 issue of *Review of Income and Wealth* in an article 'New insights into the structure of the world economy' by Kravis, Heston and Summers.

References

- National Accounts – ESA aggregates 1960-1980* (Eurostat 1982) (available from HMSO. Price £5.20 net).
National Accounts 1951-1980 Volume 1 (OECD 1982) (available from HMSO. Price £3.80 net).
Economic Trends April 1982 (HMSO) (Price £9.75 net).
Review of Income and Wealth December 1981 (Journal of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth, New Haven, Conn, USA).

Use and development of postcodes

A study of the use and development of postcodes as a means for referencing and processing spatially-located data has recently been completed by a sub-group of the Scottish Central and Local Government Statistical Liaison Committee (SCLGSLC). The report of the study group, including the main findings and recommendations, was adopted by the SCLGSLC on 21st April 1982.

The work of the study group has concentrated principally upon the use of postcodes by local authorities in a Scottish context. Postcodes have particular significance in Scotland because they form the basis for the 1981 Census Enumeration Districts. This creates the possibility for 'locally' generated data sets, such as Development Control records or Electoral Rolls, to be matched directly and easily to the 1981 Census Small Area Statistics (SAS). Valuation records in Scotland are also maintained and held at regional rather than at national level and can form the basis for developing local authority property databases.

The main emphasis of the study group's work has been placed upon the uses to which data sources referenced by postcode are already put and the means by which these uses can be extended and improved. Particular emphasis has also been given to an assessment of data generated by Central Government Departments (e.g. birth and death 'events', census of employment establishment data, unemployment (JUVOS) records, vehicle registrations, etc.) which are, or may soon be, available for use by local authorities.

The format and content of the Central Postcode Directory are examined in the report and the relative costs and benefits of purchasing the Central Directory or of developing local directories are considered.

No 'ideal method' for referencing and computer-handling of postcode-based data is suggested in the report, but a number of technical difficulties are identified and the report includes proposals for overcoming some of these problems. In particular the group are of the opinion that the definition of an official standard for machine-handling of postcode information by Central Government Departments is essential if full potential use of such data by local authorities is to be achieved. The group have also noted that the inclusion of postcodes on centrally-held records should provide a particularly 'cost-effective' means of providing access to a large amount of data in aggregate (and therefore confidentially-secure) form.

The main findings and recommendations of the sub-group were:

Main findings

- i. Postcodes are widely used for referencing geographical data by local authorities and Central Government Agencies (paras 4.1-4.26 and 4.39).
- ii. Postcodes were used as the basis of 1981 Census Enumeration Districts in Scotland and are used by the General Register Office (GRO) to locate birth and death registrations (paras 4.2 and 4.14-4.22).
- iii. A Central Postcode Directory (enhanced for Scotland) has been prepared by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys and GRO and is available for purchase by local authorities at a substantial discount (paras 4.27-4.38).
- iv. Commercial support is available to postcode existing address records (paras 4.40-4.42) and digital data is available for computer mapping at sector, ward and Local Government District level.
- v. Unit postcodes are subject to frequent modification by the Post Office (paras 5.2-5.6).
- vi. Postcodes are likely to be used extensively in future by Scottish local authorities and Central Government to relate existing data sets to 1981 Census information (SAS) (paras 6.1-6.4).
- vii. The development of postcode-based information systems is highly dependent on:
 - a. the particular computer environment in which they will be used; and
 - b. recent and future decisions on maintaining and updating Central Postcode Directory and map records (paras 7.1-7.15).

Recommendations

1. Postcodes can be recommended as a fundamental 'building block' for the incremental development of information systems by Scottish local authorities (para 8.1 and footnote).
2. A long term commitment by GRO to maintain postcode unit maps and the (enhanced) Central Directory is essential (para 8.2).
3. Local Authorities should investigate purchase of the (enhanced) Central Directory and Scottish Development Department digital mapping data (para 8.4).
4. Central Government standards for using postcode information on computers should be reviewed as soon as possible (para 8.5).
5. Local authorities should take full advantage of GRO information and data available on postcode base (para 8.6).
6. The potential advantages and cost effectiveness of using postcodes for making data widely available should be brought to the attention of all Central Government Departments and Agencies (para 8.7).

7. Maintained quality control of postcode information held on Central Government data files is essential (para 8.8).

The paragraph numbers in brackets refer to paragraphs in the report, copies of which are available from:

Ian Bald,
Secretary of the SCLGSLC,
New St. Andrews House,
Edinburgh,
EH1 3SX

or by contacting:

Dr. Simon A. Hart,
Department of Physical Planning,
Fife Regional Council,
Fife House,
North Street,
Glenrothes,
Fife.

Telephone: Glenrothes (0592) 754411, Ext. 3321.

United Nations statistical computing project

A report on the steering group meeting of this project is included on page 57.26. Recently, staff from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS) have attended as observers meetings of the working groups concerned with Database systems and Table Generation.

Table Generation group meeting 17-18 February 1982

A second version of the specification for INTERTAB was discussed at the meeting, and further improvements were made. It was agreed that further refinement was necessary with the aim of producing a final specification during 1982.

The report of an *ad hoc* group set up to evaluate the facilities of TAU was discussed in conjunction with papers produced by OPCS. Although TAU largely matched the INTERTAB specification and had a modular structure which was suitable for further controlled development, the group concluded that they could not decide to use TAU at this point: a decision was deferred until the next meeting scheduled for June.

The group's future work programme was defined, with the aim of having the first version of INTERTAB running by the end of 1983. 20-25 man-years of effort, spread over a number of countries, will have been spent on the development when it is complete.

Database group meeting 1-3 March 1982

The installation of RAPID, the system on which the group is concentrating, at the statistical offices of the German Democratic Republic and Hungary was reported. Hungary had designed and were loading a RAPID database for their 1980 Population Census. Both offices have IBM, or IBM equivalent computers.

The Swedish Central Statistical Office reported the development of a utility called SARA, which permits a relational JOIN between two relations in the database. They are also developing an on-line update facility although this will not be suitable for large data files.

The group is planning to produce a manual entitled Guidelines for RAPID. A draft chapter covering the general nature and theory of relational databases was discussed.

The next meeting of the group is planned for 14-15 May when further draft chapters of the RAPID manual will be available. Also, proposals from member countries of the working group for additional RAPID utilities will be considered.

Although the RAPID system is written in PL/1 and Assembler, and is thus IBM orientated, it would be possible, if there was a demand, to re-write the system in a more portable language such as COBOL, FORTRAN or PASCAL. This proposal, however, has not been considered by the group.

Anyone requiring further information on these meetings, or the project generally, should contact John Dixie, Computer Division, OPOS, Titchfield, Fareham, Hants, PO15 5RS.

Scottish Health Statistics 1980

This twenty third volume in the series is published by the Information Services Division of the Common Services Agency for the Scottish Health Service. It includes statistics on a comprehensive range of health service topics and is a necessary adjunct to the Scottish Home and Health Department Annual Report – *Health in Scotland 1980*.

References

Scottish Health Statistics 1980 (HMSO Edinburgh) (Price £14.50 net)
Health in Scotland 1980 Scottish Home and Health Department Annual Report (HMSO) (Price £3.60 net)

Overseas transactions 1980

An article in *British business* of 14 May 1982 gives the main results of the Department of Trade's detailed inquiry into the annual flows of overseas direct investment and the earnings on it in 1980. Detailed results, giving figures for each main country and industry, will be published in the Business Monitor series MA4 *Overseas transactions 1980* later this year. Copies of this Business Monitor may be obtained from HMSO and from the Librarian, Business Statistics Office, Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent NPT 1XG.

The inquiry is voluntary, and the department expresses its appreciation for the cooperation of respondent firms. However, not all concerns

approached responded and while the estimates of total outward investment and earnings are thought to be fairly reliable, this is not the position for the outward investment and earnings of individual countries.

Estimates of the book value of direct investment holdings at the end of 1978 by country were published in *British business*, 27 February 1981.

Quarterly estimates of overseas direct investment and earnings for 1980 and the most recent quarters are given in the balance of payments accounts published in the June, September, December and March editions of *Economic Trends*.

References

British business (HMSO, weekly) (Price £1.10 net)
Economic Trends (HMSO, monthly) (Price £9.75 net)

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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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