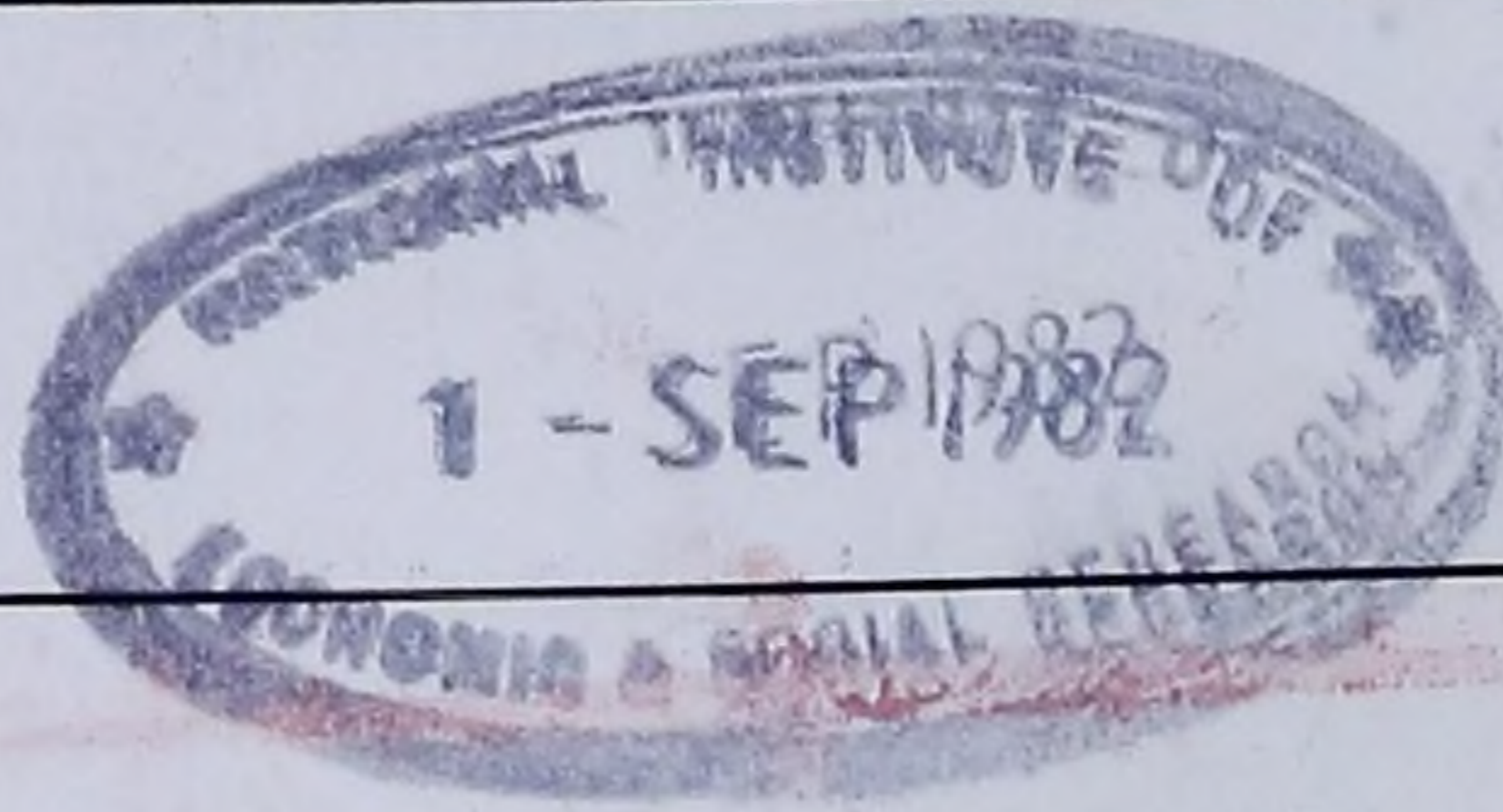


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STATISTICAL NEWS

Developments in British Official Statistics



A publication of the Government Statistical Service



Government Statistical Service

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Developments in British
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No. 58
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Disseminating statistics – the CSO experience

H. P. Lumsden, Chief Press Officer, Central Statistical Office

'Subsidy of statistical publications should be quickly curtailed'. So said the 1981 White Paper¹ on the Government Statistical Service (GSS). That recommendation affected most departments and in future issues we hope to let readers know how things are going on in other parts of the GSS. The Central Statistical Office (CSO), with a turnover of over £1 million a year on publications was affected more than most and makes a good starting point.

Press notices

Well before the review CSO had been thinking about charges for Press notices, so that was where we started in 1981. Press notices are for the media. However CSO had long been willing to let others, stockbrokers, trades unions, banks and the like, have copies – free; a clear case of an identifiable if small subsidy costing £12,000 a year in 1980. We were able to agree a basic approach quite quickly. First we agreed that no part of the editorial cost would be added to the price. That was because press notices, being an essential part of the Government's information effort, would continue to be supplied free to the media and the cost of writing them was a proper charge to government. Then we agreed that we were not in the business of making a profit so the price charged was aimed at recovering, and no more, the paper, reproduction and distribution cost plus a small amount for financial administration. We were led to the remaining decision ineluctably. The price of an individual press notice was so small we could only charge by annual subscription and, for the sake of economy, we settled on one subscription year, 1 April to 31 March. Requests for subscriptions were sent to our free customers a month before the beginning of the 1981 subscription year.

Now over a year later our only surprise is at the simple way the innovation has gone and the readiness with which it has been accepted. The organisation, kept unsophisticatedly simple for cheapness has coped admirably and we have left around a hefty two-thirds of our old free customers. The one or two complaints have been more than balanced by subscribers' surprise that charges had not been introduced long before.

Publications

The elimination of subsidies on CSO books started well before the review of the GSS. For some years cover

prices had been held at a level at which they could make very little contribution to HMSO's publishing overheads. It was recognised that that situation could not continue and that prices would have to increase to permit them to make a fair contribution to publishing costs. At the same time Open University Educational Enterprises were appointed to market CSO books. The hope was, and is, that intensified, specialist marketing would increase sales and in the long term help to reduce unit costs. Marketing effort has to be paid for though. So the last couple of years have seen CSO books go up in price for these two separate reasons.

The need to recover editorial costs has meant a third upward element in the cover prices of CSO books. Of course prices are not out of line with similar commercial publications. The books still offer good value for money. However, even if in absolute terms prices are not unreasonable buyers do shy away from price increases, particularly at a time when just about everyone is examining their budgets carefully. There is another, psychological reason for buyer resistance to price rises. Buyers have been used, virtually for ever, to the philosophy that the prices of Government statistical publications will be kept very, even artificially, low. They accept this sort of subsidy almost as a fundamental right. Naturally it will take time for people to accept that the philosophy has changed. So, as with the first rounds of cost recovery increases, which are now behind us, the editorial cost recovery is being phased in over some years. A start has been made this year with a small contribution being sought with the intention of completing the process in two years' time.

The full editorial cost will not be recovered. The data in CSO books would have to be presented to Government in some form or other even if there were no public sales. It is reasonable therefore that the costs should be borne by Government as well as by non-Government buyers.

All CSO publications have been reviewed to assess the proportion of their content produced primarily for Government. The editorial costs attributable to Government then become abatements of the total cost to be recovered. Abatements vary from 90 per cent for all the plain statistical publications including the Pink and Blue Books, *Financial Statistics*, the *Monthly Digest of Statistics*, the *Annual Abstract* and the *Economic Trends Annual Supplement*, to 75 per cent for the analytical publications such as *Economic Trends*, *Social and Regional Trends*. The final group comprising the *Guide to Official Statistics* and other guides and

1. *Government Statistical Services* (Cmnd. 8236) (HMSO) April 1981. (Price £2.10 net) and *Statistical News* May 1981 (HMSO).

explanatory handbooks receive only a 50 per cent abatement.

This means for example that only 10 per cent of CSO editorial costs for the first group find their way through to cover prices.

Cutting costs

Nobody likes putting prices up. CSO is working very hard to offset increases with savings elsewhere. All CSO books are being subject to painstaking examination to find ways of producing them more cheaply. Lay-out, type-sizes, editorial content are all being assessed to see where space can be used more economically so that the same amount of information can be presented in smaller packages. Contents too are being analysed for duplication or superfluties.

By far the biggest contribution to cost cutting will come from modern technology.

A project to computerise the *Monthly Digest of Statistics* is now making progress and will eventually lead to the introduction of Camera Ready Copy (CRC), section by section, beginning in 1983. This development will also serve the purpose of adding valuable data to the new Central Database being developed by CSO computer services. Work on the introduction of CRC for *Financial Statistics* has already begun and will continue on a sectional basis with the target of completion by 1984. HMSO estimate that savings of up to 40 per cent on production costs are possible by the introduction of CRC, although limited staff resources are obviously a restricting factor on the rate of progress that can be achieved. It is hoped that *Economic Trends* and the *Annual Abstract of Statistics* will eventually move to CRC.

Word processors may help too. The *Guide to Official Statistics* is clearly a candidate for production on the word processor and trials have commenced to assess the style of the material produced in this way.

Prestel

CSO has maintained on behalf of the GSS a database on Prestel almost since Prestel's inception. The database has consisted of topical statistics from a number of departments and a comprehensive selection from CSO publications. It was recommended that 'CSO should discontinue its staff input to the Prestel service by 1981/82 but should allow COI (Central Office of Information) (or others) to take data from its databank...'

CSO's first step was to find out if any other Government department wished to take our role over. After exhaustive discussions with other departments, it became clear that the CSO input could not be taken over by any other department nor would there be financial support for CSO to continue as an information provider.

Early in 1982, CSO decided to seek a commercial agency to take over and maintain the database. Viewtel, the Prestel arm of the *Birmingham Post* and a very large and successful information provider, agreed to take over and maintain the database from 3 May 1982. Viewtel will offer the principal economic indicators free but, after an introductory period, will charge an annual subscription for access to the bulk of the data. Although Viewtel will run the service they will consult CSO on all editorial matters.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE 'DISSEMINATION OF COMPUTER READABLE DATA'

Industrial Economic Indicators: A successful experiment in the use of computerised databases for industrial statistics

John Imber, Statistician, Departments of Industry and Trade

Introduction

Within the Department of Industry (DI), one of the statistician's main functions is the interpretation and analysis of the mass of figures being produced. Too often in the past, much of his effort has been absorbed in the more mundane tasks of marshalling the figures and organising the calculations necessary before his interpretive and analytical skills can be called into play. This article outlines the development of a computer system and an associated database which are proving to be invaluable tools in making relevant industrial statistics and data manipulation facilities more readily available to the statisticians and economists in the Department. The system is known as the Industrial Economic Indicators (IEI) Database.

Statisticians in DI have been conscious of a need for a more systematic approach to data handling, whether computerised or not, for a long time. Indeed, in some limited fields specialised systems have been set up and have provided useful service. However, with individual statisticians having responsibility for briefing on particular sectors of industry or particular statistical series, there was little to be gained by any one section putting substantial resources into developing a general-purpose system covering the whole of manufacturing industry. The trigger to effective action came in late 1980 with an approach from economists within the Department for help in up-dating a wide-ranging collection of computerised statistical data prepared some years earlier for use in inter-industry comparisons. While the demand for this one specific use was unlikely to justify the resources involved in its implementation, this time the proposal had features in common with other work currently dealt with in a piecemeal fashion in the Department. If these various overlapping activities could be brought into a single structure, the potential savings were considerable, and might well justify the substantial expenditure of effort required. Figure 1 (see below) shows the more significant of these activities and their overlap in terms of data and processing requirements.

First steps

With a substantial range of benefits in prospect, a decision was made to set up an experimental computer system, initially to provide the 'Economic Indicators' data the economists required but with a view to expansion, if successful, to cover the additional uses envisaged. It was felt that a new system was required to meet the specific needs involved rather than attempt to adapt a generalised package. It was therefore decided to prepare a purpose-built COBOL program to run on the Business Statistics Office (BSO) computer at Newport. COBOL was chosen as the language because it is the most commonly used language in DIT data processing and therefore the most transferable between programmers. The approach was essentially a step-by-step one, first providing just systematic storage for the data with some minimally labelled tables and means for selecting industries.

The structure of the data as seen by the potential users was that imposed by the various standard industrial classifications which had to be considered. In the first instance, the most important of these was the United Kingdom's Standard Industrial Classification (SIC(68)) which divides industry into 27 Orders and 181 Minimum List Headings (MLH). For each industry within the classification most of the data consisted of time series. Against this overall background, one of the first decisions which had to be made was on the data storage structure. The aim was for substantial blocks of related data to be manipulated with single short instructions and the decision was therefore made to constrain the data within what is convenient to regard as a 3-dimensional array: variable (sales, employment, etc) by industrial sector (motor vehicles, plastics products, etc) by time period. Most of the data manipulation likely to be needed required extraction of figures for all sectors of industry for one or more variables and one or more time periods. Frequently the extraction of several time periods would be required for a single variable. The data were therefore arranged so that the selection of an item of data was achieved by narrowing down the field of search first by variable, then by time period and finally by industrial sector. Physically, within the computer, the data are packed into an 'indexed sequential file' on magnetic discs.

Figure 1A Basic Data Requirements

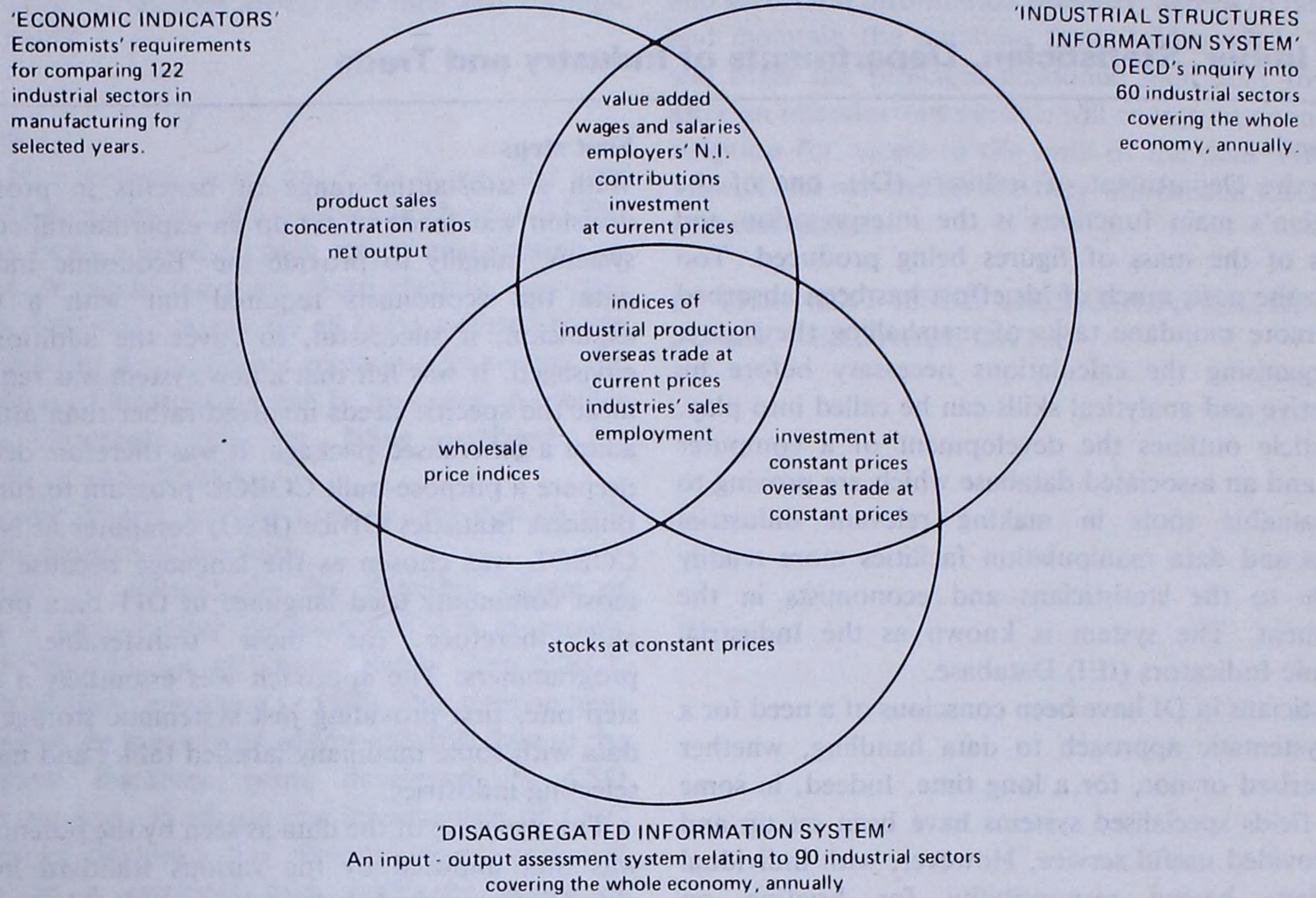
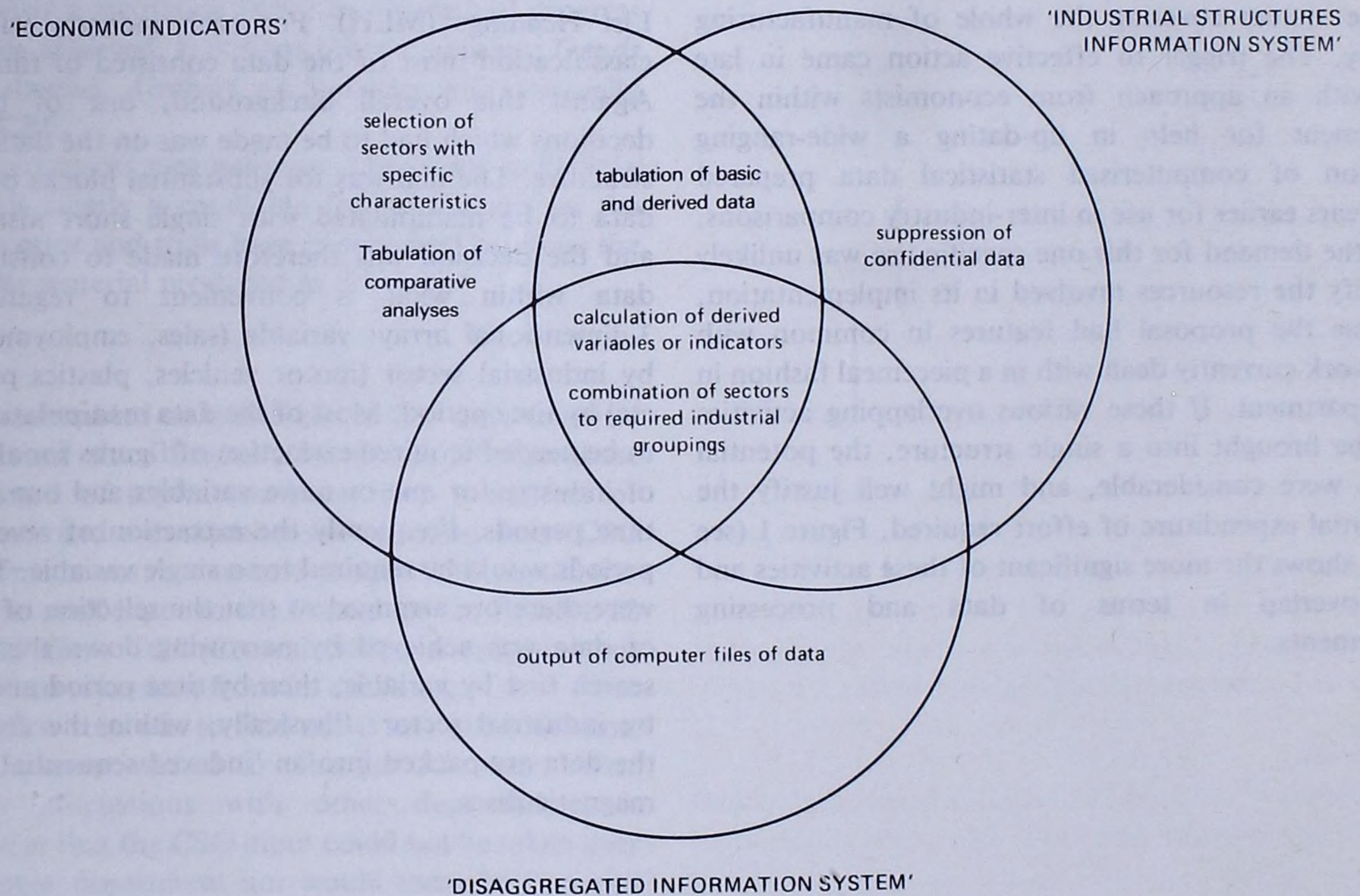


Figure 1B Manipulative Requirements



Further developments and problems

Though the data are arranged within the confines of an array structure, this places very few restrictions on flexibility, as there is scope for expansion in each dimension. As it now stands, the system is capable of storing a thousand different variables for up to twelve hundred industrial sectors. The number of time periods is virtually unlimited. Although initially only the annual data were held, they may now be stored at the greatest frequency with which they are available, say monthly, with quarterly and annual totals or averages as appropriate. They may also be acquired at the maximum available industrial detail, e.g. the 'Census Industries' of the Annual Census of Production and stored alongside totals at MLH, Order and higher levels of aggregation. At the outset only data at MLH and one sub-MLH level were provided. For the analysis of structural change in industry, a worthwhile data set has to cover a full economic cycle and provisional data for 1979, a peak year, were generally available so 1973, the previous peak, was chosen as the first year of the range to be included. The variables stored in the database at June 1982 are listed in the appendix.

Once the database was established, the system facilitated a closer look at the detailed figures. Comparisons over time and between sources revealed a number of discontinuities and discrepancies which would create problems in any subsequent economic analyses. In a number of cases, wide consultation was necessary to establish whether some revision was desirable and if so to agree on the best estimate to be incorporated in the database. In some areas, for example employment, information has been provided from more than one source, supplemented by guidance on which should be used in particular circumstances. All this has been carefully documented and should make a worthwhile contribution to the quality of whatever analyses are undertaken.

Gaps in the data pose a number of problems. When there were missing values in the system the common, but dangerous, practice of using a numeric dummy value (for example the largest possible negative number) was avoided because of the risk that it could be used in a calculation resulting in nonsensical or, even worse, not obviously wrong results. The conventional presentational symbol of a pair of dots was employed and calculations attempting to draw on a cell containing such a symbol generate the same symbol as the result.

A more serious 'missing data' problem but not one of major extent for those attempting cross-sectional analysis arises when a particular figure is not available at the required level of detail. Two of our potential uses of the system – Information System for Industrial Structures (ISIS) and the Disaggregated Information System (DIS) – demand comprehensive coverage of the

economy with a fairly high degree of sectoral detail and the third, 'economic indicators', needs full coverage of manufacturing with even more detail. The system could only become a satisfactory source of data if estimates were constructed to fill the gaps where necessary and estimation techniques were devised accordingly. An example is the lack of investment data at constant prices below the level of Orders of the SIC. After consultation with the statistician responsible for the series, techniques were devised which used current price Census of Production figures to produce calendar year estimates at the detailed level, which were then converted to constant prices using approximate deflators. Though of imperfect quality, these estimates are consistent with published aggregates and considered sound enough to make a useful contribution to sectoral analysis. In due course it is hoped also to make estimates of the volume of individual industries' stocks.

Using the system

As far as possible, the facilities in the system for the manipulation of data have been built up in a way which allows quite complex operations to be carried out with a minimum number of instructions. After setting up an 'edit' function to put data into the array and a 'print' function to see what was there, a 'calculation' function was provided, allowing a range of arithmetic operations to be performed on one or more variables, for some or all industries, for one or more time periods. For example, a single calculation could take indices of production by sector, divide them by the corresponding employment figures and produce estimates of the annual percentage rate of growth in output per employee for each sector between, say, 1975 and 1981 (trough to trough) by answering four simple questions: –

WHICH VARIABLE DO YOU WISH TO CALCULATE?

101

(i.e. in which variable do you want the result placed? for example '101').

WHAT TYPE OF CALCULATION DO YOU WISH TO PERFORM?

RATE

(RATE selects a growth rate calculation).

PLEASE INPUT THE FUNCTION TO BE CALCULATED

S3/S39

(in our example 'S3/S39' divides series 3, valued added, by series 39, UK employment).

INPUT THE RANGE OF PERIODS

75 TO 81

(the information about the two years completes the instructions).

In order to analyse the results of operations like this, selecting sectors of industry satisfying certain criteria, the system was given an 'interrogation' function. This function builds up information for display in response to single-line instructions of two broad types, either selecting values within a range or putting them into rank order and selecting the highest or lowest values. Taking the above example a stage further, we could pick out the industries where output per employee had grown over the period with the interrogation: —

101 RANGE > 0

a typical computer response might be.

15 INDUSTRIES SELECTED

This would indicate that 15 industries satisfied the criterion. In the use of the selection function it is important to restrict the range of choice to a homogeneous group of industries if the results are to be of greatest value. Such groups might be the Orders of the SIC or the complete set of MLH's. Alternatively a user may wish to restrict consideration to a smaller group of MLH's and sub-MLH's within a single Order of the SIC. To assist in such selections, the user is allowed to pre-define the groups of industries to be analysed using either or both of two additional functions. Each industry in the system is allocated to a level of aggregation, numbered 1 and 99 and by specifying 'LEVEL 7' the user would choose to look only at Minimum List Headings. In addition, by selecting 'INDUSTRY 2110 TO 4990' he could limit the analysis to MLH's within manufacturing industry.

Once the means of looking at any desired groups of industries had been provided, there was no barrier to including the data matrix values of variables at several levels of aggregation, other than the effort of putting the data in place. The next link in the chain, therefore, was a function that added up values for groups of industries and put the result into the appropriate cell of the data matrix. This 'aggregation' function will:—

- (a) add sub-MLHs to MLH totals;
- (b) add MLHs to total manufacturing;
- (c) generate Order and other intermediate totals;
- (d) combine industrial sectors according to present weighting patterns. One example included in the system is the weighting pattern for the index of industrial production.

Some applications of the system

By the autumn of 1981 the system was beginning to come into its own. An urgent request came to look at the recent pattern of change in output, employment and labour productivity, in as much detail as possible, to bring up to date the results of an earlier study. The IEI system readily produced the necessary figures, calculated the growth rates required and sorted the

results into a form suitable for further analysis, enabling the statistician to respond to the original request in the same working day.

At much the same time, a quarterly exercise in which statisticians provided assessments of the situation and prospects of industrial sectors, mainly based on the CBI *Industrial Trends Survey*¹, was deemed in need of expansion. Up-to-date figures on output, employment and productivity were required for the industrial sectors identified in the survey. Though IEI had no data more frequent than annual at that stage, its capabilities for performing calculations and for adding-up sectors from those available to the combinations required were sufficiently valuable to justify the rapid inclusion of some monthly figures, pretending to the computer that they were annual ones. Despite a tight deadline, the IEI system proved able to play a useful part in the exercise.

With the newly-added capacity for handling quarterly and monthly data IEI has become capable of taking over the work of some specialised data systems previously existing in DI. In two cases in the engineering field it was agreed to consolidate the small existing databases into IEI. To achieve this it was necessary to provide the special tabulations these systems required by means of a 'reporting' facility, now available to all users and enabling them to specify the content and format of tables in considerable detail.

Security

It was important to maintain the security of sensitive data in the IEI database and it was soon apparent that a comprehensive system of protection was needed. Each data cell can therefore be given a security code. Though most of the figures are either published or freely available and are open to any user, proper privacy protection is given to figures that are only available with reservations, or that would disclose commercially confidential information. A user who is entitled to access the most confidential data may choose to use only figures that are freely available, for example in preparing a table for publication.

The ability to make permanent alterations to the contents of the database is also restricted to a selected few, although any user can perform temporary calculations and analyses and obtain tabulations of his results in a single session.

Private data sets

Another valuable feature of the system is a facility for users to hold their own data sets, not necessarily with the same industries or variables as the main data set, and to be able to operate on them freely. To achieve this, a 'personal data file' facility has been provided. A user who obtains one of these can transfer data from the main database (as far as confidentiality constraints

permit), supplement it with additional data and use all the manipulative facilities of the system. Results from such work can be fed back to the main system (by a user with the necessary status) where the industrial sectors of the personal file are compatible. This facility will be used for the work on the 'Industrial Structures Information System' (see fig. 1), which comprises data specially assembled onto the International Standard Industrial Classification. Data for other countries and the same industrial sectors can be stored in the same file.

Future developments

Not yet implemented, but in quite close prospect, is the full take-over by IEI of the data storage and supply operations of the DIS model and of the trade ratio analyses published in Business Monitor *MQ12*². Work is also in hand to use the system for preparing estimates of a number of Census of Production variables on the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification for years prior to 1979. It may also be possible to construct estimates for years after 1979 on the 1968 SIC for use until transition to the new classification is complete.

Similarly looking to the future, but with regard to the manipulation facilities of the system, a number of developments are envisaged. Many are improvements on the existing facilities, like the ability automatically to add footnotes to tables where appropriate and more flexible specification of formulae in calculations. Entirely new facilities in prospect are the presentation of data in graphical form, scope for the user to store a sequence of instructions for use whenever required and interfaces to complementary programs already in existence. For example, it is hoped to use a package for seasonal adjustment of time series and link with packages for econometric work.

There are no immediate plans to make the IEI Database itself accessible to users outside the Department of Industry. The computer program supporting the database however may be of wider interest. Indeed a number of users not foreseen in the original development of IEI have expressed interest in applying the system to the solution to their problems. The IEI users' manual gives a fuller indication of the system's facilities than is possible here and a copy is available on request from S1 Division Computer Unit, Department of Industry, Room 2009, Millbank Tower, London SW1P 4QU.

References

1. *Industrial Trends Survey*, CBI Publications.
2. Business Monitor *MQ12*, *Import penetration and export sales ratios for manufacturing industries* (HMSO) quarterly.

APPENDIX

Variables stored in the Industrial Economic Indicators Database System

Basic variables

	<i>Source</i>	<i>Units</i>
Output – related		
Index of industrial production	CSO	1975 = 100
Sales of principal products	DIT	£m
Sales of goods produced, work done, etc	ACOP	£m
Sale of merchanted goods	ACOP	£m
Net output	ACOP	£m
Value added at factor cost	ACOP	£m
Concentration-ratio (value-added basis)	ACOP	per cent
Employment – related		
UK employment, including working proprietors	ACOP	Thousands
Employees in employment, Great Britain	DEm	Thousands
Employees in employment, Northern Ireland	NIDMS	Thousands
Wages and salaries of employees	ACOP	£m
Employers' National Insurance contributions, etc	ACOP	£m
Working-days lost through stoppages	DEm	Thousand days
Prices – related		
Wholesale price index (home sales)	DIT	1975 = 100
Investment – related		
New building work	ACOP	£m
Plant and machinery acquisitions	ACOP	£m
Plant and machinery disposals	ACOP	£m
Vehicles acquisitions	ACOP	£m
Vehicles disposals	ACOP	£m
Land and existing buildings acquisitions	ACOP	£m
Land and existing buildings disposals	ACOP	£m
End-year stocks of materials and fuel	ACOP	£m
End-year work in progress	ACOP	£m
End-year stocks of finished goods	ACOP	£m
Research and development expenditure	DIT	£m
Overseas-trade – related		
Exports (MQ 10 series)	DIT	£m
Imports (MQ 10 series)	DIT	£m
Exports (Production accounts series)	CSO	£m
Imports (Production accounts series)	CSO	£m
Exports (constant price prod. accts. series)	CSO	£m, 1975 prices
Imports (constant price prod. accts. series)	CSO	£m, 1975 prices

Derived and estimated variables

Output – related		
UK demand		£m
Sectors' shares of manufacturing net output		per cent

Employment – related

Employees in employment, United Kingdom
Sectors' shares of manufacturing employment

Thousands
per cent

Prices – related

Export price index
Import price index
New building work price index
Vehicles capital expenditure price index
Plant and machinery price index

1975 = 100
1975 = 100
1975 = 100
1975 = 100
1975 = 100

Investment – related

Total net capital expenditure
New building work (Blue-book compatible estimates)
New building work
Plant and machinery, net
Plant and machinery, net
Vehicles, net
Vehicles, net
Land and existing buildings
Sectors' shares of manufacturing investment
Investment/sales ratio

£m
£m
£m, 1975 prices
£m
£m, 1975 prices
£m
£m, 1975 prices
£m, 1975 prices
per cent
per cent

Overseas-trade – related

Exports
Imports
Crude trade balance
Import penetration
Exports-sales ratio
Sectors' shares of manufactured exports

£m, 1975 prices
£m, 1975 prices
£m
per cent
per cent
per cent

List of abbreviations

ACOP *Annual census of production*
CSO *Central Statistical Office*
DEm *Department of Employment*
DIT *Departments of Industry and Trade*
NIDMS *Northern Ireland Department of Manpower
Services*

The Statistical Services in District Audit: Current developments

Roger Sellwood, Chief Statistician, Department of the Environment

The last year has seen the successful contribution of a member of the Government Statistical Service (GSS) working in the District Audit (DA) Headquarters at Bristol. The post is funded entirely from DA's resources and is supervised managerially within the Audit Inspectorate headed by the Chief Inspector of Audit. Professional ties within the GSS are maintained through the Chief Statistician, Statistics Planning, Population and General Division (SPPG), Department of the Environment (DOE).

Background

The District Audit Service dates back to 1834 and has built up a long tradition of numerical analyses in terms of both inter and intra authority comparisons. In the main its statistical work has been undertaken under the auspices of the District Auditors Society Statistics Panel (DASSP) and has involved bilateral discussions with Local Authorities (LAs), the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), and central government departments. Computing resources within the District Audit Service have been developed to enable much of the current statistical analysis to be undertaken using a terminal in the offices of the Audit Inspectorate at Bristol. Recently, microprocessing facilities have been installed on an experimental basis.

Extensive developments have taken place in the last two years resulting in much closer ties between DA and the various information flows needed for Audit to undertake its responsibilities. These have included local authority 'performance' indicators work, comparison exercises, data access and transference and a wider application of statistical methodology in the Audit's work. Against this background the Chief Inspector of Audit decided to appoint a government statistician on an experimental and trial basis.

Work To Date

For some years, routine statistics of the unit cost type have been compiled on the advice of DASSP and circulated to District Auditors. The statistician appointment in the Inspectorate has now provided an opportunity to build on this basic activity in a number of ways.

The wide range of new work includes an attempt at analysing local authorities' performance where up to date and consistent statistics (from several sources) are required in comparative contexts. The work also covers more sophisticated analysis of expected levels of resource use, the compilation of standard expenditure

profiles of individual authorities, and the derivation of clusters of similar authorities, in conjunction with consultants.

The statistician has made major contributions also in the management of the DA information system and in applying statistical methodology in Audit operational applications.

The developments in Audit statistics are based on a requirement to identify cost variations arising from specific factors such as differences in practices. Analysis of this kind enables the attention of both the auditor and management in local government to be focussed upon areas where further enquiries may be made with the possibility of cost savings. Use of statistical techniques such as regression are helping in these analyses.

Currently DA is also producing standard profiles of local authorities in which authorities within the same type and cluster are compared on all service basis. Whilst this is a basic form of comparison, it has proved very useful as a starting point for further analysis by pointing to particular services where expenditure appears to be out of line.

In order to provide clusters of comparable authorities DA are continuing to develop the work originally commissioned for use by auditors. The clusters used by DA are shortly to be reassessed on the basis of 1981 Census data.

A prime requirement of Audit statistics is that they can be easily understood and readily assimilated by both auditors and the local authority officers they deal with. This puts a premium on the development of straightforward indicators, well presented sets of tabulations and good supporting notes. Work is continuing to improve and standardise these aspects.

The work has involved detailed meetings with auditors centrally and regionally, and formal and informal contacts with many central government statisticians and computer specialists. The statistician represents Audit on some National and Local Government Statistical Liaison Committee sub groups and the several Statistical Information Service sub groups of the CIPFA.

Interface with CIPFA and GSS

In the development of the Audit statistics there has been a close co-operation between DA and the CIPFA. A statistician has been seconded to CIPFA from the GSS and is actively involved in the co-operation. Interests under consideration include avoidance of duplication in

information gathering, the establishment and improvement of a common database, improvements in the quality and definition of local authority statistics, the application of advanced technology in the fields of data collection, exchange and dissemination and the possibility of giving wider circulation to the results of District Audit's analyses. The CIPFA has circulated examples of the new Audit statistics to SIS subscribers and the experiment is likely to be extended.

Maintaining professional ties with DOE's SPPG Division has proved effective because of the latter's focus in central/local government information policy including the Secretariat of the National and Local Government Statistical Liaison Committee, and the benefits from dove-tailing LA/CIPFA/DA/GSS professional interests in cost effective ways.

The Way Ahead

With the rapid introduction of new technology in local authorities, CIPFA and the DA, and the proposed future position of the DA, Audit are developing an information strategy for the mid 80's. Currently the statistician is contributing professionally to the development of the Code of Audit Practice.

This will govern the activities of auditors from both DA and the private sector when the new Audit Commission comes into being shortly. The use of sampling techniques in audit work may be another area in which statistical advice will be desirable. It is possible that the Commission will develop a fully integrated policy on the use of statistics in audit and as a consequence make use of hitherto untapped sources of data. Whatever happens, because of its unique role Audit will require some information not available from other than local authority sources, and will continue to employ a range of statistical methodology in meeting its operational needs.

Conclusion

The last year has seen the successful introduction of a government statistician in the DA. The statistician works directly under the Audit management, and has a useful professional link with SPPG Division in DOE. The contribution of this statistical post is growing, and new and exciting challenges will be presented over the next two or three years as the information strategy develops in the DA, and with the introduction and application of new technologies.

Recently available statistical series and publications

The following publications containing social statistics have recently, or will soon become available during the July–September 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 Employment

Employment Gazette, published towards the end of each month, contains indicators on earnings, unemployment and prices. The following Family Expenditure Survey articles were published in the first half of 1982:

Pattern of household spending in 1980

Retail Prices Indices – annual revision of the weights

Household spending in the first half of 1981

Department of the Environment

Housing and Construction Statistics, first quarter, 1982
Part 2 No 9

Housing and Construction Statistics, second quarter 1982 Part 1, No 10

Local Housing Statistics. Issue 62 figures for the first quarter 1982

Local Government Financial Statistics England and Wales, 1980/81.

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

Home Office

Criminal Statistics, England and Wales, 1981

Prison Statistics, England and Wales, 1981

Statistics of experiments on living animals, 1981

Report of HM Chief Inspector of Fire Services, 1981

Statistics of persons acquiring citizenship of the United Kingdom and colonies, 1981

Report of the Commission for racial equality, 1981

Statistical Bulletin: Control of immigration statistics, 2nd quarter 1982

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

Statistical Bulletin: Statistics on the misuse of drugs, United Kingdom, 1981

Statistical Bulletin: Offences of drunkenness England and Wales, 1981

Statistical Bulletin: Serious offences recorded by the police, England and Wales, second quarter, 1982

Statistical Bulletin: Offences relating to Motor Vehicles, England and Wales, 1981

Statistical Bulletin: Reconviction and recall of life licencees, England and Wales

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

Scottish Education Department

Statistical Bulletins on the following subjects:

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

Excess and Deficit of Teachers by subject.

Welsh Office

Digest of Welsh Statistics 1981

Welsh Housing Statistics 1981

Statistics of Education in Wales 1981

Mental Health Statistics for Wales 1981

Health and Personal Social Services Statistics for Wales 1981

The above publications are now available only from:

Publications Unit
Economic and Statistical Services Division
Welsh Office
Cathays Park
Cardiff CF1 3NQ

New Surveys assessed by the Survey Control Unit

March to May 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 March to May 1982

<i>Title</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Those approached</i>	<i>Approximate number approached</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
Business surveys					
'British Business' Development Research	COI	Businessmen	80	E	AH
YOP/New Programme Development Research	COI	Employers	120	GB	AH
Guidance Notes for Central Heating Installers—Booklet Research	COI	Central Heating Installers	20	E	AH
ECGD Advertising Pretest	COI/ECGD	Exporting Firms	25	GB	AH
Survey of Young Workers Scheme	DEM	Employers	2,500	GB	M
Effect of Wages Councils Minimum Rates on Earnings and Employment	DEM	Retail Outlets	80	E	AH
Young Adults in the Labour Market	DEM	Employers	30	E	AH
Helping Small Firms Grow	DI	Manufacturing Firms	360	N	AH
Present and Future Demand for Electronic Occupations	MSC	Employers	490	EW	AH
Manpower Information April 1982 – ISITB	MSC	Companies in Scope	277	GB	A
Investment Survey to the Printing Industries	NEDO	Printing, Stationery and Packaging Firms	2,800	GB	AH
Domestic Electrical Appliance Export Survey	NEDO	Exporting Firms	100	UK	AH
Local authority surveys					
EEC Directive on Education of Children of Migrant Workers	DES	Education Authorities, teacher training establishments & University Departments	300	UK	AH
Entitlement to Supplementary Benefit – Youth Aid '21' Hours Study	DES	Schools and Further Education Colleges	350	E	AH
Improvement for Sale Scheme Enquiry	DOE	Housing Departments	95	E	AH
Direct Labour Organisations – Tendering Threshold	DTP	Highways Authorities	76	E	AH
Mobile Homes Act: Local Authority Return	SDD	Housing Departments	56	S	AH
Student Needs and Guidance in Further Education Colleges in Scotland	SED	FE Colleges and Students	10	S	AH
School Placing Requests Survey – Scotland	SED	Education Departments	12	S	A
Other surveys					
Soldier Recruitment Publicity Research	COI/MOD	Youths	376	E	AH
Young Adults in the Labour Market	DEM	Youths	1,800	E	AH
Use and Perceptions of General Practitioner Services	DHSS	Adults	2,560	NW	AH
Study of Knife Accidents in the Home	DT	Patients	400	EW	AH
M1/A1 Link Traffic Study	DTP	Drivers	5,500	EA	AH
Duplicate Diet Survey of Pre-School Age Children	MAFF	Children	105	SE	AH
Transport, Job Search and Job Choice	MSC	Unemployed	1,000	YH	AH
Additional Teachers Return	SED	Teachers	800	S	A
Parental Choice of School	SED	Parents, Teachers, Councillors, etc	NK	S	AH
Ticket Survey of Long Distance Rail Travellers – Euston	TRRL	Travellers	80,000	GB	AH
Self-Catering Accommodation Survey	WTB	Adults	1,250	W	AH

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

General

ISITB Iron and Steel Industry Training Board
 YOP Youth Opportunity Programme

Sponsors

BSO Business Statistics Office
 COI Central Office of Information
 DEM Department of Employment
 DES Department of Education and Science
 DHSS Department of Health and Social Security
 DI Department of Industry
 DOE Department of the Environment
 DT Department of Trade
 DTP Department of Transport
 ECGD Export Credits Guarantee Department
 MAFF Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
 MOD Ministry of Defence
 MSC Manpower Services Commission
 NEDO National Economic Development Office
 SDD Scottish Development Department
 SED Scottish Education Department
 TRRL Transport and Road Research Laboratory
 WTB Wales Tourist Board

Location

E England
 EA East Anglia
 EW England and Wales
 GB Great Britain
 N Northern England
 NW North West England
 S Scotland
 SE South East England
 UK United Kingdom
 W Wales
 YH Yorks and Humberside

Frequencies

A Annual
 AH Ad hoc (or single time)
 M Monthly

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 June and contains the following articles:

Sources of statistics on ethnic minorities

The Registrar General is responsible for reporting to Parliament and the public generally on the number and condition of the population, including the various groups which go to make up the population. Public policy and public discussion of the position of different racial and ethnic minority groups in British society need to be informed by relevant and reliable data. The first analyses of household composition and country of birth from the 1981 Census are almost complete for the counties and local authority districts of England and Wales and national analyses are in preparation; also the first results of the 1981 Labour Force Survey and General Household Survey are becoming available. This provides an appropriate occasion to review the various sources of statistics on ethnic minorities in Britain. The main conclusion of this review is one of broad consistency between the various sources, allowing for differences in definition and the sampling variability inherent in results given by sample surveys. The whole of this editorial is also published as an OPCS Monitor (Reference PP1 82/1).

Perinatal mortality and place of delivery

This article, by Rona Campbell of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Isobel Macdonald Davies of Medical Statistics Division, OPCS, and Alison Macfarlane of the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit, Oxford, finds that the analysis of perinatal mortality and place of delivery for 1975-1979 shows wide variations in the perinatal mortality rate within the overall category of births occurring at home. The rate is relatively low for legitimate births at home to women in their late 20s and early 30s but very high for illegitimate home births to women in their teens.

Census small area statistics (SAS): measuring change and spatial variation

The Census Small Area Statistics (SAS) are tables on most Census topics for 130,000 small areas in Britain. They are widely used by local government and commerce. It is possible for the first time to measure local

change in a systematic way—a development which requires both comparable zones and comparable variables. This article by Cheryl Morgan of Population Statistics Division, OPCS and Chris Denham of Census Division, OPCS reports progress in providing the SAS and illustrates the type of information which can be analysed using, as examples, 1971 and 1981 SAS for the Isle of Wight.

The effectiveness of different area groupings

A common way of summarising data for a whole country, which gives some broad indication of spatial variation within the country, is to use regional aggregates. But other broad aggregations are also possible. This article by John Craig of Population Statistics Division, OPCS compares and contrasts the effectiveness of various aggregations of data for local authority districts. In particular, aggregations using groupings produced by multivariate classifications are usually found to be considerably more effective than the aggregations of contiguous districts into standard regions.

In addition to these articles, the issue contains up-to-date statistics on population, births, marriages, deaths, migration and abortions.

References

- Population Trends* 28 Summer 1982 (HMSO 1982) (Price £4.10 net)
Sources of statistics on ethnic minorities OPCS Monitor Reference PP1 82/1 (OPCS 1982). OPCS Monitors are available, free of charge, from Information Branch (Dept SN), OPCS, St Catherines House, 10 Kingsway London WC2B 6JP.

1981 Census

National summary

The first detailed results for Great Britain based on answers given by householders to questions in the 1981 Census of Population, taken on 5 April last year, are given in a Monitor published in June by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

Figures of population and housing for individual counties of England and Wales have been published in OPCS County Monitors and for the regions of Scotland in GRO(S) Regional Bulletins. This Monitor, which has been laid before Parliament, contains a summary of those figures for Great Britain, for England, Scotland and Wales, and for the Standard Regions of England.

The 1981 Census Monitors and Regional Bulletins are being published so that some detailed county and regional results can be made available ahead of the full census reports. County Monitors can be obtained from OPCS Information Branch, (Department MC), St Catherines House, 10 Kingsway, London WC2B 6JP (Telephone 01-242 0262 ext 2208). The full set of Moni-

tors complete with loose leaf binder costs £20 including postage and packing. *Regional Bulletins* can be obtained from the address given in the item below.

Statistics from the 1981 Census for England and Wales appear on *Prestel* from page 500412 onwards.

Reference

Census 1981, Great Britain—national and regional summary. OPCS Monitor CEN 81 CM 57 (OPCS 1982) (Price 30p net)

County Reports

By the end of August most *County Reports* (Part 1) will have been published and Part 2 volumes for a handfull of counties will also be available. Small Area Statistics (100 per cent) are available from OPCS (price on application) for all counties for which the Part 1 Report has been published.

1981 Census of Population in Scotland

Regional bulletins have been produced for all the regions and islands areas in Scotland. Each bulletin contains a summary of the final figures of the population and housing in each region and its districts (price 30p net). A National Summary was published in July showing the region and district figures contained in the individual bulletins together with totals for Scotland (price £1.50 net). A Scottish Gaelic Bulletin containing a summary of the final figures compiled from responses to the Census question on Scottish Gaelic was published in April (price 30p net). Regional Reports (replacing the County Reports of previous censuses) will continue to be published during the coming months. Small Area Statistics are becoming available for enumeration districts and their aggregations to postcode sectors, local government districts, islands areas and regions.

Bulletins and small area statistics may be obtained from:

Census Customer Services
GRO (Scotland)
Ladywell House
Ladywell Road
Edinburgh
EH12 7TF

Population Estimates (Scotland)

Annual Estimates of the Population of Scotland, local government and health districts for mid 1981 (by sex and age) have recently been published.

Vital Statistics (Scotland)

Vital statistics tables relating to the first quarter of 1982 appeared in the Registrar General's Weekly Return from WR21/82.

SOCIAL STATISTICS

General Household Survey

An OPCS Monitor published in June gives preliminary results of the 1981 Survey in advance of the main report. The GHS is a continuous survey based on a sample of the general population resident in private households in Great Britain and has now been running ten years. The Monitor contains a short selection of preliminary tables and shows a number of the trends and changes that have taken place in some of the social fields covered by the survey since it began. Topics include: Household composition; Colour (interviewer's assessment); One-parent families; Family size; Tenure; Amenities; Consumer durables, central heating and cars; Economic activity; The unemployed; Educational qualifications.

Reference

General Household Survey—Preliminary results for 1981 OPCS Monitor GHS 82/1 (OPCS 1982) (Available free from OPCS)

Longitudinal study

Inequalities in health reflect differences in employment, in housing and household circumstances and in area of residence. In 1971, more people in manual social classes, compared with those in non-manual classes, were out of employment for health reasons, seeking work or retired early; in local authority housing, with reduced access to cars or amenities; and living in poorer areas. Each of these characteristics has been found to be associated with high death rates in the years following the census.

These are the main conclusions of the first report on mortality from the OPCS *Longitudinal Study* published in June. This study, based on a one per cent sample of the population of England and Wales, enables researchers to analyse mortality according to a much wider range of characteristics than previously. The report deals with deaths occurring in the sample between Census day 1971 and the end of 1975; deaths occurring between 1976 and Census day 1981 are currently being incorporated.

The report is in two parts. The first part looks at prospective mortality differentials by selected census characteristics such as economic activity, household structure, housing characteristics, marriage and fertility histories, education, area of residence, internal migration and immigration. The second part aims for a better understanding of mortality differences by looking at study design and selection, different approaches to occupational and social class mortality and the socio-economic classification.

Reference

Longitudinal Study: socio-demographic mortality differentials 1971-75 Series LS no. 1 by Professor A. J. Fox and P. O. Goldblatt (HMSO 1982) (Price £11.70 net)

Immigration from the Indian sub-continent

Immigration from the Indian sub-continent has been the subject of much public debate in recent years, including the scale of potential immigration. One proposal for assessing future immigration from the sub-continent has been to set up a register of dependants in the sub-continent who are entitled to come to the United Kingdom¹. Information which has been collated by the Statistical Department of the Home Office since 1 January 1981, and which has been published recently in a Home Office Statistical Bulletin² has shown how long ago those being admitted to the United Kingdom would have been entitled to be included on such a register. The data published in this bulletin show that many wives granted entry clearance in the Indian sub-continent in 1981 were married only recently. Some 25 per cent of those wives and children granted entry clearance in 1981 would have been entitled to register only in 1979 or later.

This information formed part of the Home Office evidence given recently to the Home Affairs Sub-Committee on Race Relations and Immigration for their enquiry into Immigration from the Indian Sub-Continent³. Several years' data from these new statistics would be required to build up a picture of how the pool of dependants is being drawn upon but these data should in due course provide more revealing information about the nature of immigration than a register, in that they relate only to those who have decided to take up their entitlement to come to this country. The cost of this new collation system is well under £100,000 per year, compared with an estimated cost of a register, which could run into several million pounds.

References

1. A proposal discussed in *A Register of Dependants*—Report of the Parliamentary Group on the feasibility and usefulness of a register of dependants Cmnd. 6698 (HMSO February 1977)
2. *Immigration from the Indian sub-continent—1981* (Home Office Statistical Bulletin 5/82—Price £2), obtainable from Home Office Statistical Department, Tolworth Tower, Surbiton, Surrey.
3. *House of Commons papers: Home Affairs Committee: Race Relations and Immigration Sub Committee: Immigration from the Indian sub-continent*, Minutes of Evidence 90—1, IV and V. (HMSO) 1982 (Prices £4.25, £3.25 and £3.25 net respectively).

Scottish Housing Statistics

The sixteenth issue of *Scottish Housing Statistics* which was published in June 1982, contains all the regular tables on house building, improvement work, housing finance and sales.

Also in No. 16 are tables giving details of public sector rents by size of dwellings, rebates and allowances, local authority dwellings in tenders accepted by storey height and by size of scheme and apartment sizes of new public and private sector dwellings.

Reference

Scottish Housing Statistics No. 16 (HMSO, June 1982) (Price £7.00 net)

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Hospital in-patient enquiry

Summary tables from the 1979 Hospital in-patient enquiry (HIPE) were published in June. The Enquiry is based upon a one-in-ten sample of in-patient records from National Health Service hospitals in England and Wales excluding hospitals and beds designated for the treatment of psychiatric diseases. This volume deals with non-maternity cases; statistics on maternity cases are published in an OPCS Monitor (Series MB4).

The summary tables, which replace the HIPE preliminary tables, include the following information:

- national and regional data on discharge rates and occupied bed rates;
- national and regional data on diagnosis, including identification of the major diagnoses;
- national and regional data on mean duration of stay;
- patient flows between regional health authorities;
- discharge rates by diagnoses, age and sex;
- source of admission by diagnosis and sex;
- mean and median waiting time;
- hospital specialties;
- national and regional data on surgical operations (including non-operative procedures), including the ten principal operations, and injuries by nature and place of injury.

It is not intended to produce a main volume of tables as in previous years. Instead tables will be available on microfiche. Details will be issued shortly in an OPCS Monitor (Reference MB4 82/2).

Reference

Hospital In-patient Enquiry: summary tables 1979 Series MB4 no. 13 (HMSO 1982) (Price £6.20 net)

Nurses working in the community

A report of a national survey of nurses working in the community was published in June. The survey was carried out in 1980 by the Social Survey Division of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Security.

Changes in recent years in the organisation and provision of community nursing have created a need for up to date information about the nurses and their work, a need which could not be met by statistics routinely collected by the National Health Service. The survey includes all nurses who spent a proportion of their time on clinical duties—district nurses, midwives, health visitors, auxiliaries, GP employed nurses and specialists such as school and community psychiatric nurses—but excluded those who worked solely in hospitals and as residential nurses in institutions such as schools and old peoples' homes.

The survey had three aims:

to provide a profile of the nursing staff working in the community, their training, experience, qualifications, organisation of the work and attitudes towards it;

to produce an outline of the activities carried out by the different types of nurses; and

to identify patterns of work within health districts and examine these patterns in relation to the characteristics of the health districts.

Reference

Nurses working in the community (SS 1141) by Karen Dunnell and Joy Dobbs (HMSO 1982) (Price £11.80 net)

Abortion statistics

The total number of terminations notified under the Abortion Act 1967 in England and Wales during 1980 was 160,903. This was 11,157 higher than during 1979; a rise of 7.5 per cent. Abortions carried out on resident women in England and Wales have risen by 8,316 to 128,927 (an increase of 6.9 per cent). The number of terminations to non-resident women increased by 2,841 to 31,976 (an increase of 9.8 per cent).

These figures are taken from tables in an OPCS report, published in June. The tables are divided into seven sections:

- i. General and demographic statistics: including age and marital status, category of premises, statutory grounds, gestation weeks, and operation, residents and non-residents, England and Wales.
- ii. Statutory grounds: a detailed analysis including number of existing children of the woman, whether the operation was with or without sterilisation.
- iii. Operation statistics: including abortion in NHS hospitals and non-NHS premises and duration of stay.
- iv. Complications: gestation weeks, operation and age of woman.
- v. Deaths: category of premises in which abortion performed 1968 to 1980.
- vi. Geography: a range of tables showing the geographical distribution of legal abortions in 1980 between England and Wales, Wales, standard regions, regional and area health authorities, and districts; and country of usual residence for non-resident women.
- vii. Medical: principal medical condition reported, for residents of England and Wales.

An OPCS Monitor (series AB) was published in July giving provisional statistics for legal terminations during 1981.

References

Abortion statistics 1980 Series AB no. 7 (HMSO 1982) (Price £6.20 net)
Abortion statistics 1981 OPCS Monitor AB 82/5 (available free of charge from OPCS)

Cancer statistics

A report on cancer mortality analysed by occupation and social class forms the subject of a volume published jointly by Her Majesty's Stationery Office and the World Health Organisation in July. It has been prepared by OPCS and the International Agency for Research on Cancer and represents the results of an historical review of the trends and relationships between cancer mortality, occupation and social class based on the decennial mortality analyses of the Registrar General for England and Wales from 1851 to 1971. Comparisons are also made with data from other countries. The commentary has been written by Dr. W. Logan, formerly Chief Medical Statistician with the General Register Office and now with the IARC.

Reference

Cancer mortality by occupation and social class 1851-1971 by W. P. D. Logan, IARC Scientific Publications No. 36/Studies on Medical and Population Subjects No. 44 (HMSO/WHO 1982) (Price £15.50 net)

Morbidity statistics from general practice

A report published in June gives the third volume of results of the second national study of morbidity statistics from general practice in England and Wales which for a sample of general practices analyses patients' consulting rates together with data on population, social class, occupation and environmental characteristics from the 1971 Census of Population.

The report describes the method used for the analyses and comments on the tables of data resulting from these analyses. The tables give statistics of patients' consulting rates by cause and by personal and household characteristics such as marital status, country of birth, urban/rural residence, age, sex, social class, occupation, housing tenure and amenities.

Reference

Morbidity statistics from general practice 1970-71: socio-economic analyses by the Royal College of General Practitioners, the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys and the Department of Health and Social Security. Studies on Medical and Population Subjects No. 46 (HMSO 1982) (Price £13 net)

Mortality statistics 1979

Mortality statistics 1979 was published in June, this completes the 1979 series of volumes dealing with mortality statistics. The report summarises much of the detailed material already available; in most of the tables figures are given for a series of years.

The volumes already available in this range for 1979 are:

Mortality statistics: cause (Series DH2 No. 6) (HMSO 1980) (Price £7.10 net)

Mortality statistics: childhood and maternity (Series DH3 No. 6) (HMSO 1981) (Price £8 net)

Mortality statistics: accidents and violence (Series DH4 No. 6) (HMSO 1981) (Price £5.10 net)

Mortality statistics: area (Series DH5 No. 6) (HMSO 1981) (Price £7.70 net)

An additional volume, *Mortality statistics: perinatal and infant (social and biological factors) 1978, 1979* (Series DH3 No. 7) (HMSO 1982) (Price £6.20) was published in July

The first volume of mortality statistics for 1980 – *Mortality statistics: cause* (Series DH2 No. 7) – was published in February 1982 (see *Statistical News* 56.15)

Reference

Mortality statistics 1979 (Series DH1 No. 8) (HMSO 1982) (Price £6.80 net)

EDUCATION

Statistics of Education

Volumes 1-5 in the Statistics of Education series have now ceased publication. *Education Statistics for the United Kingdom* will continue to be published. Volume 6 *Universities* will be published, in a revised form, by the University Grants Committee. Data previously included in volumes 1-5 will be available on loose sheets (25p each, minimum charge £1.50) or as full sets of tabulations with notes (£10-£15) from Department of Education and Science at the address given below. Each of these packages will cover essentially the material formerly published in the corresponding volume in the Statistics of Education series.

Overseas students

Department of Education and Science Statistical Bulletin 7/82 presents provisional figures of enrolments by overseas students in Great Britain in Autumn 1981. It covers both the universities and advanced and non-advanced courses at higher and further education establishments. An analysis of first year students by country of origin, for selected countries, is included.

Reference

Enrolments of Overseas Students in 1981-82 Provisional Figures, DES Statistical Bulletin 7/82, available from Statistics Branch, DES, Elizabeth House, York Road, London SE1 7PH.

Excess and deficit of teachers by subject: Scotland

This fourth bulletin in a series on the topic gives estimates of the excess or deficit of teachers in each of the main subjects taught in education authority secondary schools in Scotland at September 1980 and September 1981. It shows the position for Scotland as a whole, and for each Region and Islands authority. The

excesses and deficits in each of the main subjects are compared over the period 1978 to 1981.

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

1981 Labour Force Survey – early results

First results of the *1981 Labour Force Survey* (LFS), are published in a OPCS Monitor, less than five months after the end of the survey year and in advance of the complete report to be published by HMSO in early 1983. Special computer programs have enabled the LFS Unit to extract key statistics in advance of the main tables produced from the LFS.

An article in the May 1982 issue of *Employment Gazette* contains information for Great Britain on economic activity, the industry, occupations and hours worked of those in employment, the method of seeking work used by the unemployed, and the economic activity of ethnic minorities.

The survey (covering a sample of about 85,000 responding households in the United Kingdom) is sponsored by the Department of Employment and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (SOEC). It is carried out every two years by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys in England and Wales, by the General Register Office in Scotland and by the Department of Finance in Northern Ireland.

The LFS Monitor will be issued about this time in alternate years. In addition to economic activity, country of birth and ethnic origin referred to in the Monitor, the 1981 LFS included other topics such as housing, migration and family composition for which tabulations will become available later in 1982, in advance of the main report.

Reference

Labour Force Survey 1981 OPCS Monitor LFS 82/1 (OPCS 1982) (Available free of charge from OPCS)

Statistical News 29.25, 30.31, 47.41, 51.33, 56.17 (HMSO)

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

Unit wage costs

An article in the June 1982 issue of *Employment Gazette* describes certain technical refinements which have recently been made to the method of constructing the monthly index of wages and salaries per unit of output in manufacturing industries. The changes make the

index fully consistent with the indices of average earnings and output per head which are already published in *Employment Gazette* and elsewhere. The article includes a comparison of figures calculated on the old and new bases, a long time series of consistent figures on the new basis, and some relevant international comparisons.

Reference

Employment Gazette June 1982 (HMSO) (Price £2.25 net)

Underlying index of average earnings

A short note in the May 1982 issue of *Employment Gazette* (page 220) describes changes during 1981 and the first quarter of 1982 in the underlying index of average earnings. This index incorporates adjustments for certain temporary influences which sometimes affect the regularly published series, such as arrears of pay, variations in the timing of pay settlements, industrial disputes and the incidence of public holidays in relation to the survey period. The underlying index was fully described in an article in the April 1981 issue of *Employment Gazette* (page 193).

Reference

Employment Gazette April 1982, May 1982 (HMSO) (Price £2.25 net each)

Future of earnings and wage rates series

A note in the May 1982 issue of *Employment Gazette* (page 219) announced certain modifications to the plans proposed earlier (*Statistical News* 54.48) for the discontinuation of certain statistical series following the recent review of Department of Employment Statistical Services. The original proposals have been modified following consultations with users, and it is now intended that:

- the October survey of the earnings and hours of manual workers will be continued, but the number of firms approached has been substantially reduced and the industrial coverage modified;
- the October survey of the earnings of non-manual workers, and the June survey of the earnings of adult men by occupation in selected industries, which were not carried out in 1981, are permanently discontinued;
- the indices of basic national wage rates and normal weekly hours will be discontinued once the final figures for December 1983 have been prepared.

Reference

Employment Gazette May 1982 (HMSO) (Price £2.25 net)

Top salaries

The Fifth Report by the Review Body on Top Salaries, (Chairman, Lord Plowden) was published in May 1982. The report deals with the salaries of the higher judiciary and certain other judicial appointments, senior civil

servants, and senior officers in the armed forces.

Appendix D contains the results obtained from a survey carried out by the Office of Manpower Economics (OME), which provides the secretariat for the Review Body. The survey covered salaries and other direct remuneration of Board members and senior executives in the private sector relating to the period 1 September 1980 to 1 September 1981. Information was provided by 131 organisations covering 2,378 posts. Table A and Table 1 show the response rate (over 90 per cent) and coverage of the survey, while Tables B and C compare the results for 1 September 1980 with those obtained in the previous survey. The remaining tables in Appendix D (Tables 2 to 6) contain detailed results on pay.

Appendix E contains tables showing different aspects of the pensions schemes of the organisations which replied to the OME's survey of remuneration in the private sector for the period 1 September 1979 to 1 September 1980. The results for pay and fringe benefits were contained in Appendix B of Report No. 16, Interim Report on Top Salaries (Cmnd. 8243, May 1981).

Appendix F contains an assessment by the Government Actuary of the value of superannuation benefits of the judiciary, senior civil servants, and senior officers in the armed forces, and a comparison with the private sector pensions schemes covered in Appendix E.

Reference

Review Body on Top Salaries, Report No. 18, Fifth Report on Top Salaries, (Cmnd. 8552) (HMSO) May 1982 (Price £7.25 net).

Armed forces pay

The Eleventh Report by the Review Body on Armed Forces Pay (Chairman, Sir Harold Atcherley) was published in May 1982 and recommends pay, accommodation and food charges for service ranks up to and including Brigadier (and equivalent), to apply from 1 April 1982. A full list of the Review Body's reports is in Appendix 1.

Details of the main recommended levels of military salary (in Army terms) are in Tables 1-3, and of accommodation charges in Tables 4-5. Equivalent levels of 1 April 1981 military salaries are in Appendix 2. Full details of pay scales, and other related items, for all Services are in a Ministry of Defence Supplement to the Report.

The results of four remuneration surveys – covering officers, Corporals, and Warrant Officers and senior non-commissioned officers – which are not published were used by the Review Body as a guide to judgement in determining appropriate levels of military salary.

Reference

Review Body on Armed Forces Pay, Eleventh Report 1982, (Cmnd. 8549) (HMSO) May 1982 (Price £6.90 net).

Armed forces pay (Service medical and dental officers)

A supplement to the Eleventh Report on Armed Forces Pay, published in June 1982, deals with the pay of Service medical and dental officers. Recommended military salaries for the ranks of Captain to Colonel are in Table 1; paragraphs 26-28 include details of recommended salaries for Brigadiers, pre-registration medical practitioners and cadets; and paragraphs 29-30 are concerned with medical additional pay. Appendix 1 gives a summary of key manning statistics for the defence medical services from 1979 to 1982; Appendix 2 details the salaries introduced at 1 April 1981; and a full list of the Review Body's Reports is in Appendix 3.

Reference

Review Body on Armed Forces Pay, - Service Medical and Dental Officers, Supplement to Eleventh Report, (Cmnd. 8573) (HMSO) June 1982 (Price £2.55 net).

Doctors' and dentists' remuneration

The Twelfth Report by the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration (Chairman, Sir Robert Clark) was published in May 1982. It includes a table giving a further year's results (to April 1981) for the study of comparative movements in earnings at different levels based on the New Earnings Survey (Appendix D). The Review Body's detailed recommendations on remuneration are given in Appendix B. Appendix C provides details of the number of doctors and dentists in different sections of the National Health Service for 1980 and 1981.

For the 1982 review a study of medical and dental manpower was undertaken and the results of this are contained in Appendix E. The numbers of doctors and dentists in the various branches of the National Health Service are given in Tables 1 to 7, the numbers of applications and admittances to medical and dental schools and students' 'A' level results are shown in Tables 8 to 11, and Table 12 gives details of the migration of doctors to and from Great Britain.

At the request of the Review Body, a survey of the work and responsibilities of junior hospital doctors and dentists was carried out, and the results are given in Appendix F. The nine tables include a breakdown by grade and specialty for: average weekly contracted hours, average weekly hours on duty, average hours worked whilst on duty, average proportion of duty hours worked and average weekly hours worked in free time (i.e. when off duty). There is also a table giving the proportion of working time spent on different activities.

Reference

Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration, Twelfth Report 1982, (Cmnd. 8550) (HMSO) May 1982 (Price £6.05 net).

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Agricultural censuses and surveys

December 1981 glasshouse census

The main results of the December 1981 Glasshouse census for England and Wales were published in Statistical Information Notice STATS No. 126/82 on 28 April 1982.

The county and regional results for England and Wales were published in April 1982.

December 1981 agricultural machinery census

The results of this enquiry for England were published in Statistical Information Notice STATS No. 112/82 on 15 April 1982.

Annual estimates of crop production 1981 harvest

The annual estimates of production (with the area and estimated average yield per hectare) for the principal agricultural crops in England, England and Wales and the United Kingdom were published in Statistical Information Notice STATS No. 163/82 on 4 June 1982.

The statement giving county and regional estimates of yield for England and Wales will be published shortly.

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

The results of the survey for the 1st Quarter 1982 were published in Statistical Information Notice STATS 156/82, issued on 2 June 1982.

Potato crisps and snack foods

The Results of the Survey for the 1st Quarter 1982 were published in Statistical Information Notice STATS 171/82, issued on 11 June 1982.

Statistical Information Notices may be obtained from:

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

Final results of the December 1981 Scottish Agricultural Census

No press notice has been issued but information on the final results of the December 1981 Scottish Agricultural Census is available from The Economics and Statistics Unit, Room 703, The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland, Chesser House, 500 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh.

Results of the April 1982 Scottish Sample Pig Census

The results of the April 1982 Scottish Sample Pig Census held on 1 April 1982 were published as a Scottish Office Press Notice on 11 June 1982 (Press Notice Number 629/82).

Economic Report on Scottish Agriculture 1981

The *Economic Report on Scottish Agriculture 1981* was published on July 29 by HMSO on behalf of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland, Price £6.70 net.

INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS

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. The following table lists the monitors published since notification in the last issue.

<i>Business Monitor Number</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Standard Industrial Classification Minimum List Heading</i>	<i>Business Monitor Number</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Standard Industrial Classification Minimum List Heading</i>
PA 111	Coal extraction and manufacture of solid fuels	111	PA 247	Glass and Glassware	247
PA 120	Coke ovens	120	PA 248	Refractory and ceramic goods	248
PA 130	Extraction of mineral oil and natural gas	130	PA 251	Basic industrial chemicals	251
PA 161	Production and distribution of electricity	161	PA 255	Paints, varnishes and printing ink	255
PA 162	Public Gas supply	162	PA 256	Specialised chemical products mainly for industrial and agricultural purposes	256
PA 210	Extraction and preparation of metalliferous ores	210	PA 257	Pharmaceutical products	257
PA 221	Iron and steel industry	221	PA 258	Soap and toilet preparations	258
PA 222	Steel tubes	222	PA 259	Specialised chemical products mainly for household and office use	259
PA 223	Drawing, cold rolling and cold forming of steel	223	PA 260	Production of man-made fibres	260
PA 231	Extraction of stone, clay, sand and gravel	231	PA 312	Forging, pressing and stamping	312
PA 239	Extraction of miscellaneous minerals (including salt)	239	PA 316	Hand tools and finished metal goods	316
PA 241	Structural clay products	241	PA 321	Agricultural machinery and tractors	321
PA 242	Cement, lime and plaster	242	PA 322	Metal-working machine tools and engineers tools	322
PA 243	Building Products of concrete, cement or plaster	243	PA 323	Textile machinery	323
PA 244	Asbestos goods	244	PA 324	Machinery for the food, chemical and related industries, process engineering contractors	324
PA 246	Abrasive products	246	PA 325	Mining machinery, construction and mechanical handling equipment	325
			PA 327	Machinery for the printing, paper, wood, leather, rubber, glass and related industries; laundry and dry cleaning machinery	327
			PA 342	Basic electrical equipment	342
			PA 344	Telecommunication equipment, electrical measuring equipment, electronic capital goods and passive electrical components	344
			PA 346	Domestic-type electrical appliances	346

<i>Business Monitor Number</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Standard Industrial Classification Minimum List Heading</i>
PA 347	Electric lamps and other electric lighting equipment	347
PA 351	Motor vehicles and their engines	351
PA 353	Motor vehicle parts	353
PA 362	Railway and tramway vehicles	362
PA 363	Cycles and motor cycles	363
PA 364	Aerospace equipment manufacturing and repairing	364
PA 373	Optical precision instruments and photographic equipment	373
PA 374	Clocks, watches and other timing devices	374
PA 413	Preparation of milk and milk products	413
PA 415	Fish processing	415
PA 416	Grain milling	416
PA 420	Sugar and sugar by-products	420
PA 424	Spirit distilling and compounding	424
PA 426	Wines, cider and perry	426
PA 427	Brewing and malting	427
PA 429	Tobacco industry	429
PA 431	Woollen and worsted industry	431
PA 432	Cotton and silk industries	432
PA 433	Throwing, texturing etc of continuous filament yarn	433
PA 435	Jute and polypropylene yarns and fabrics	435
PA 437	Textile finishing	437
PA 438	Carpets and other textile floor coverings	438
PA 439	Miscellaneous textiles	439
PA 441	Leather (tanning and dressing) and fellmongery	441
PA 451	Footwear	451
PA 456	Fur goods	456
PA 461	Sawmilling, planing etc of wood	461
PA 471	Pulp paper and board	471
PA 472	Conversion of paper and board	472

<i>Business Monitor Number</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Standard Industrial Classification Minimum List Heading</i>
PA 481	Rubber products	481
PA 483	Processing of plastics	483
PA 495	Miscellaneous manufacturing industries	495

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 (0633) 56111 Ext 2455

Iron castings

This new *Business Monitor* was published as part of the system of industrial statistics provided by the Government Statistical Service.

It contains information on the production of iron castings and the consumption and stocks of raw materials. The figures in the new monitor are based on a sample inquiry covering firms thought to be responsible for approximately 60 per cent of the production of iron castings within the United Kingdom. Estimates for those foundries outside the inquiry have been included.

These figures have been collected for some years for government purposes and it has been decided to publish them in accordance with the policy of the Government Statistical Service to make available as much as possible of the information it collects. The new monitor (reference *PM 313*) is available on subscription from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, price £9.60 per annum.

DEFENCE STATISTICS

Statement on the Defence Estimates, 1982

The Defence White Paper *Statement on the Defence Estimates 1982* published on 22 June 1982 again included a separate statistical volume (Volume 2: Cmnd. 8529-II). This volume contains 69 tables giving a range of statistical and financial information about the Armed Forces and the activities which support them. In general the tables show annual figures for the latest five years while the Estimates, both financial and manpower, are presented as appropriate for the current financial year (1982-83).

Reference

Statement on the Defence Estimates 1982, Volume 2 Defence Statistics, Cmnd. 8529-II (HMSO) June 1982 (Price £4.50 net).

HOME FINANCE

Local government financial statistics

The 1980-81 edition of *Local Government Financial Statistics in England and Wales* was published by HMSO on 15 July. There have been some changes since last year's publication. New tables have been introduced to compare Rate Support Grant Settlements with out-turn, to give details of Local Authority borrowing and to show the domestic and non-domestic shares of rate income. A number of tables included in 1979-80 have been dropped, but many of these can still be derived from those published.

The main presentation of the publication remains the same. It gives details of local authority expenditure and income during the financial year 1980-81. The main figures relate to local authorities in England but summary figures are also shown separately for the various types of authority (e.g. counties and districts, metropolitan and non-metropolitan) in both England and Wales. Further tables set the total of local authority expenditure in the context of the whole of the national economy, and relate present levels of expenditure with those recorded in earlier years.

Note: Errors have been found in table 6 (and consequently in table 1). A detailed correction slip is being prepared and should be distributed by the end of August. Details of the corrections can be obtained from—FLAS, Department of the Environment, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 3EB: Telephone 01-212 4475.

Reference

Local Government Finance Statistics in England and Wales (HMSO) July 1982 (Price £4.60 net)

Sector classification booklet

To complement the industrial classification of economic activities—the Standard Industrial Classification—which groups together economic units in accordance with their main activity, the CSO is preparing for publication in the Autumn a sector classification which divides the economy into institutional sectors with reference to economic organisation as displayed by control and ownership.

The framework of the classification is as follows:

- 100 Personal sector
- 110 Individuals and households (including private trusts)
- 120 Unincorporated businesses
- 130 Private non-profit-making bodies serving persons
- 140 Life assurance and superannuation funds (income and expenditure)
- 200 Corporate sector
- 210 Industrial and commercial companies
- 220 Financial companies and institutions
- 221 Monetary sector institutions
- 222 Other financial institutions
- 230 Public corporations
- 300 General government
- 310 Central government
- 311 Trading
- 312 Non-trading
- 313 National Insurance Fund
- 320 Local authorities
- 321 Trading
- 322 Non-trading
- 400 Overseas sector

and leads to the following combinations:

- 230,300 Public sector
- 100,210,222 Domestic non-bank private sector

Part 1 of the booklet outlines the basis, structure and purpose of the classification whilst Part 2 defines each of the individual sectors identified in the classification, and shows lists of organisations typical of each sector and, as far as possible, any bodies whose status and structure do not give a clear guide to their classification. There is an alphabetical index.

Copies will be available from Branch 5, Central Statistical Office (price £3.00). A cheque made payable to the Cabinet Office should accompany each order.

Social security quinquennial reviews

The Social Security Pensions Act 1975 introduced major changes to the contributions and benefits of the National Insurance Fund. Starting in April 1978 all employees with earnings above a lower limit (equal to the basic flat-rate pension) would be entitled to receive an additional pension related to the band of earnings above that lower limit up to a limit about seven times higher – broadly from about one-fifth of average earnings to one and a half times average earnings.

The additional pension would be $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent of those relevant earnings, revalued in later years in line with the general level of earning so that the pension entitlement would maintain its relativity with earnings up to the time of retirement. For those with more than twenty years to go before reaching pension age, pension would be based on the best twenty years, thus giving a pension of 25 per cent of average relevant earnings in those years. The whole of this additional pension would, subject to certain conditions, be inherited by a widow or widower.

Occupational pension schemes which met certain standards could contract their members out of part of the new arrangements. In return for a contribution reduction of (initially) 7 per cent of the relevant earnings, 2.5 per cent for the employee and 4.5 per cent for the employer, a minimum pension had to be guaranteed by the occupational scheme. This pension is the same as the earnings-related State pension except that it is based on annual earnings in all years from 1978 and not just the best twenty; it does not have to be increased after the time it is awarded; and a widow inherits only half of her husband's guaranteed minimum pension. The total pension is the same, whether contracted out or not, as the State scheme pays the excess of the prescribed benefit over that provided by the contracted-out scheme.

Sections 28 and 46 of the Pensions Act required the Government Actuary to review the amount of the contribution reduction (which had been set at 7 per cent for the period 1978-83) and of the terms on which individuals or schemes ceasing to be contracted out could 'buy back' into the State scheme. The results of this review were published in March 1982 in Cmnd. 8516. Section 137 of the Social Security Act 1975 required the Government Actuary to make a review as at 6 April 1980 of the long-term finances of the National Insurance Fund. That review has also been completed and was published in July.

The Section 28 and 46 reviews examined *inter alia* trends in the yield on investments, in the annual increase in the general level of earnings, in the mortality rates of male and female members of occupational pension schemes and in the actual numbers and earnings of men and women of different ages who had in the event been

contracted out. On the basis of these factors the contribution reduction calculated for the period 1983-88 was 6.25 per cent, including margins for contingencies and schemes' expenses. The predominant reason for the reduction from 7 per cent in 1978-83 was the reduction in the average amount of guaranteed minimum pension to be secured each year which, in accordance with the Act, falls steadily from something over 1 per cent of relevant earnings on average in the early years to one-forty ninth of 25 per cent of average earnings (one-fourty-fourth for women) ultimately.

The Section 137 review describes changes made in the Social Security Acts since 1975, examines the experience of the scheme in the period 1975-80 in some detail and makes long-term estimates of the finances of the National Insurance Fund. As the financial arrangements are pay-as-you-go, essentially this involves estimating, on a variety of assumptions which are described in the report, how the standard contribution rate is likely to have to increase in future in order to balance the growing cost of pensions.

There are two reasons why an increase in the contribution rate seems inevitable. At present very few of the elderly receive earnings related pensions but in the long-term practically everyone will. Moreover, at present there are about $2\frac{1}{2}$ contributors per pensioner and this seems certain to fall.

The review provides long-term estimates on the following assumptions:

Population: Assuming that the population becomes stationary at sixty million, but indicating also the effect on the contribution rate if it does not.

Earnings and prices: Assuming 8 per cent per annum increase in the general level of earnings in combination with 8 per cent, 7 per cent and 6 per cent annual upratings of flat-rate and earnings-related benefits reflecting the movement of prices.

Unemployment: Assuming 6 per cent registered unemployed but indicating also the effect of higher and lower rates.

Special consideration is given to the effect of the provision in the Act for the additional pension to be based on the best twenty years' relevant earnings, so that a full 25 per cent pension may be awarded for only twenty years' in employment. The review also demonstrates the small effect which contracting out has on the finances of the Fund in the long term.

References

Occupational pension schemes review of certain contracting-out terms, Social security pensions act 1975, (Cmnd. 8516) (HMSO) March 1982 (Price £2.30 net).

Techniques for assessing corporate financial strength

An article in the Bank of England's June 1982 *Quarterly Bulletin* describes the Bank's experience in using a 'Z-score model' – that is, a predictive model based on accounting data which can provide an indication of possible impending financial difficulties for individual companies.

The model has been found to have some value as a screening device, identifying companies for subsequent conventional examination and providing a useful starting point for an assessment of an individual company.

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

Transactions balances – a new monetary aggregate

A note in the Bank of England's June 1982 *Quarterly Bulletin* introduces a new measure of deposits, which focuses on the transactions balances of the private sector. The new series has been constructed as one of the steps announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget Statement on 10 March 1981, to improve the information available about the narrower measures of money; it is called M_2 .

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

Yield curves for gilt-edged stocks: an improved model

An article in the Bank of England's June 1982 *Quarterly Bulletin* comments on revisions that have been made to the Bank's model of gilt-edged yields, used (with one minor modification), since 1973. The number of variable parameters has been reduced from eight to seven, and the model is now considerably more stable. Certain features of the market – notably the way in which coupons and yields are related – have now been more appropriately modelled.

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

Profitability and company finance

An annual article in the Bank of England's June 1982 *Quarterly Bulletin* updated previous estimates of real profitability and other measures of company finance. It comments on the fact that pre-tax profitability fell again in 1981 but that it showed signs of recovery in the second half of the year. Also that structural changes may have

distorted the statistics on profitability, and that although bank borrowing grew rapidly companies' underlying financial position was little changed.

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

Sector financing: 1981

An annual article in the Bank of England's June 1982 *Quarterly Bulletin* briefly reviews some of the main financial transactions between the principal sectors of the economy during 1981 and provides a full set of the Bank's flow of funds tables. These include transactions in individual groups of 'other financial institutions' and a breakdown by type of security of transactions by the various sectors in the equity and debenture markets.

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

Inflation – adjusted saving and sectoral balances

An annual article in the Bank of England's June 1982 *Quarterly Bulletin* presents revised and updated estimates of sectoral saving and financial balances adjusted for the effects of price inflation on monetary assets and liabilities. It also considers alternative methods of computing the adjustment for inflation, with some illustrative numbers for the public sector.

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 June 1982 *Quarterly Bulletin*.

- i. Titles and captions have been changed in a number of tables to reflect the introduction of the monetary sector.
- ii. Table 14.1: Monetary sector and other financial institutions in the United Kingdom: external liabilities and claims in foreign currencies.

The layout of this table has been changed. The 'Summary' section has been replaced by an 'Analysis' by currency and sector.

- iii. Additional notes to the tables
These no longer appear in full in each issue. Certain tables of supplementary information, previously included in the additional notes, have been incorporated into Tables 11 and 15.

Financial Statistics

The January 1982 issue of *Financial Statistics* saw redefinition of the banking sector which now comprises all recognised banks, licensed deposit taking institutions under the terms of the Banking Act 1979, together with the Trustee Savings banks, the National Giro, the Banking Department of the Bank of England and

certain institutions in the Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The change was implemented from November 18 for banking month series and from end – December for quarterly series. No corresponding retrospective revisions were made to data before those dates. At the same time, the sector was renamed the 'monetary sector', although some short hand terms such as 'banks' and 'bank lending' have been retained to save space.

Data on consumer credit provided by finance houses and other consumer credit grantors were also updated in this issue, in line with the new benchmark survey carried out in respect of end-1976. Tables on Counterparts to and changes in money stock and Domestic credit expansion were altered to reflect the changed presentation of the external and foreign currency counterparts of sterling M3. Other small changes were made to the tables on National savings, Capital funds of industrial and commercial companies and Short-term money rates.

The table showing capital stock issues was extended slightly in the February issue to give details of rights issues and more information on financial companies.

In March the table (2.7) on Public sector accounts was discontinued following the removal of the corresponding table from the Financial Statement and Budget Report. Separate tables covering the Trustees Savings banks were also dropped as these banks were incorporated in the monetary sector tables. Data on Building society mortgage allowances and commitments were presented seasonally adjusted as well as unadjusted; some of the breakdown on numbers of commitments and advances was omitted.

In the May issue data shown in respect of short-term assets and liabilities of Unit Trusts were grossed up to take account of non-response. Also in May the supplementary tables on Local authority borrowing for England, Wales and Scotland were combined into one table, showing less detail.

The 1982 Edition of *Financial Statistics Explanatory handbook*, consistent with the January 1982 issue, was published in April. Notes and definitions on the data series and methods of compilation are included in the handbook which should be consulted when examining any series published in *Financial Statistics*.

Reference

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

Financial Statistics Explanatory handbook (HMSO) April 1982 (Price £6.95 net)

National Income and Expenditure – 1982

The 1982 edition of *National Income and Expenditure* (Blue Book) is expected to be published in mid-September 1982. HMSO Price £13.50 net.

London weighting – indices changes

Since 1975 the Department of Employment has published each June indices of movements in additional costs for people working in Inner and Outer London, and selected price indices for certain items of costs for Greater London and the rest of the United Kingdom. The latest indices are published in the June edition of the *Employment Gazette*.

Reference

Employment Gazette, page 267, June 1982 (HMSO) (Price £2.25 net)

Price index numbers for current cost accounting

There will be no 1982 edition of the main volume, the latest issue of which (No.14) was produced by the Department of Industry and contained data up to February 1981. The data can be updated by using Business Monitor *MM17 PINOCA monthly supplements*. These are available only on annual subscription of £12.80 including first class postage. Subscription inquiries should be addressed to HMSO, PO Box 569, London, SE1 9NH.

OVERSEAS FINANCE

An inventory of United Kingdom external assets and liabilities: end-1981

An article in the Bank of England's June 1982 *Quarterly Bulletin*, which continues an annual series, indicates that at the end of 1981 the United Kingdom had a net external asset position of some £27 billion, £10 billion higher than the revised estimate for the end of the previous year.

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 need for flexibility in international banking

The Bank of England's June 1982 *Quarterly Bulletin* reprints a speech the Deputy Governor gave at the Financial Times Annual Lunch for representatives of foreign banks in London. Three topics were discussed, world economic prospects, then prudential standards and finally financial sanctions on Argentina.

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

Offshore financial centres

The Bank of England's June 1982 *Quarterly Bulletin* reprints a speech the Deputy Governor gave to the Jersey Bankers' Association. After reviewing financial relationships between the United Kingdom and Jersey he discussed offshore centres in international banking and the future of the euromarkets.

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

United Kingdom Balance of Payments – 1982

The 1982 edition of *United Kingdom Balance of Payments* (Pink Book) is expected to be published in early September 1982. HMSO Price £9.75 net.

INTERNATIONAL

United Nations Statistical Computing Project

For some time, the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS) staff have been attending meetings of the United Nations Statistical Computing Project as observers. The United Kingdom has now formally joined the Project, and OPCS will continue to be our representative. Previous reports appeared in *Statistical News* 57.26 and 57.33.

Data Editing Group Meeting 14-16 April 1982

It was agreed that a comparative evaluation of editing packages should be compiled. This will include assessments of the AERO and CAN-EDIT systems. A second version of AERO has been produced as a result of suggestions made by members of the group. However, it was reported that the enhancements over the first version are of a technical nature and no major changes have been made to the facilities or editing philosophy. The group also plans to modify AERO so as to use a standard subset of PL1 acceptable to most compilers. There are no plans to rewrite the system in a more portable language. The group has also collected experiences of interactive editing and is planning to produce a guide for those implementing and using such techniques.

The last meeting of the project steering group gave the editing working group authority to include the subject of Generalised Survey Processing Systems in its programme of work should the group see fit, and the meeting agreed that useful work could be performed in this area. The recent experience at OPCS was described and, as a start, the United Kingdom is to take the lead in drawing the views of countries together in defining the structure and content of a Generalised Survey Processing System.

Anyone interested in any further information on the meeting or the plans of the group is invited to contact:

Derek Baker

OPCS

Room 336

St Catherines House

10 Kingsway

London, WC2B 6JP

Telephone: 01-242 0262 Ext 2409

Meeting of the SOEC Working Party on the content and dissemination of statistical databanks

Extracts from the minutes of the meeting, which took place in Luxembourg on 25-26 March 1982, are reproduced below. The United Kingdom representatives were Tom Griffin and Dave Cable of the Central Statistical Office.

The conclusions reached on the three main points discussed were:

1. Improvement in the information flow on each other's activities

- i. The Secretariat of the Working Party provided by SOEC, will collect and redisseminate information dealing with the dissemination of statistical data-banks.
- ii. In addition to the annual questionnaire proposed by SOEC, the members of the group should send SOEC any information which they may consider to be of interest. With their agreement this will then be transmitted to the Working Party in the form of a bulletin.
- iii. Ordinary meetings of the Working Party will take place once a year. Extraordinary meetings dealing with specific projects may also be called.
- iv. The SOEC may also be called on to become involved when bilateral contacts are made between members of the Working Party.
- v. Initially, participation in the activities of the Working Party is limited to the National Statistical Institutes (NSI). Representatives of the applicant countries and the interested international organisations may also be associated in such activities as observers.

2. A start in the coordination of work

1. Metadata:

The Working Party showed interest in SOEC's CADOS project. SOEC will send members of the Working Party a description of the project with periodic progress reports. Members of the Working Party engaged on similar projects will send details to SOEC. If a project could be envisaged which would be of interest to the whole group, an appropriate study will be financed by SOEC.

2. Interrogation languages:

An appraisal of the possibilities of drawing up a minimum set of standardised commands will be carried out in cooperation with DG XIII, SOEC. The views of informaticians and users would be solicited. A study may be commissioned later and its results discussed by the Working Party.

3. File transfers:

With the prospect of CRONOS becoming available directly to the NSI via EURONET, SOEC invites the NSI to send information on any plans to connect their own data to a public network or on the possibilities which may exist for Eurostat and other bodies to access them directly.

3. A definition of the general rules surrounding the exchange of data

- i. The discussion on SOEC proposals showed that it was premature to seek to define such rules in too rigid a way.
- ii. Nonetheless, SOEC recommends the NSI in the member states to consider these rules as general guidelines, given that they can be rediscussed at any moment if their application in a particular case should lead to an unacceptable situation arising.
- iii. The Working Party recognised the interest in adopting an attitude of concertation concerning the different problems which may arise when dealing with the dissemination of data-banks. This applies in particular to the new problems created by the cooperation between the NSI and informatics services companies. The Working Party should be the forum for such concertation.
- iv. In consequence, when practical problems arise concerning the dissemination of data-banks, the NSI agree to discuss the issues raised at a meeting of the Working Party and will contact the SOEC to this end.

Various papers were discussed at the meeting and subsequently a number of associated reports have been obtained from the SOEC:

- a. Statistical Databanks in the European Community: a working paper for the meeting produced by Mr. J. Mayer
- b. Proposals from SOEC for the meeting: based on the paper (a) above
- c. Extension of the Euronet guideline – standard commands for retrieval systems: a report by Mr. A. Negus of Scicon
- d. A description of the CADOS project (Documentary Statistical Catalogue) which is being developed at Eurostat.

- e. A special issue of *Eurostat News* giving the conclusions of an earlier seminar on statistical data-banks, held on 25-27 May 1981.

Anyone requiring further information or wishing to see the papers above should contact either Tom Griffin (Tel: 01-233 7799) or Dave Cable (Tel: 01-233 8250) at the Central Statistical Office, Great George Street, London, SW1P 3AQ.

PUBLICATIONS

Guide to Official Statistics

The fourth edition of the *Guide to Official Statistics* was published on 14 July. This edition updates the information contained in the previous edition and builds on the success of its predecessors; the first of which was awarded the Library Association's 'Besterman Medal' for the outstanding bibliography or guide to the literature. Over three thousand five hundred separate amendments and additions have now been made since the first edition was published.

There are 16 detailed chapters, 120 sections and over 800 sub-sections with vital information about sources of government and important non-government statistics for the United Kingdom over the last ten years, making the *Guide* an invaluable factfinder for librarians, business, industry, education, journalists.

As well as published sources of official and non-official statistics, the *Guide* notes regular and occasional reports and articles as useful, additional sources of information.

Reference

Guide to Official Statistics No. 4 1982 (HMSO) (Price £25.00 net)

Civil Service Statistics

The thirteenth annual edition of *Civil Service Statistics* is in two parts.

The first part presents a broad picture of the Civil Service at 1 January 1982 and of the changes which have occurred during 1981.

The second part comprises standard statistical tables showing:

- i. staff in post in the Civil Service by department and, within major departments, by regional location (tables 1 to 3b).
- and for the non-industrial Home Civil Service
- ii. staff in post by grade (table 4)
 - iii. entrants, voluntary resignations (including seasonally adjusted figures) and other leavers (table 5).

Reference

Civil Service Statistics 1982 (HMSO) forthcoming

Monthly Digest of Statistics

Recent changes in the contents of the *Digest* have included, in the March edition, a complete revision of figures for wages and salaries per unit of output in manufacturing industries, these are now shown with a new series, output per person per hour in manufacturing industries. In section 17, the Domestic credit expansion series was replaced by Private sector liquidity, and Minimum lending rate replaced by the London clearing banks' base rate.

In the May edition (Table 6.11) figures showing the breakdown of liquid milk were dropped as they are no longer collected. Table 3.7 Constructional work: operatives employed by contractors, was dropped from the July issue because only the 'total' column is now available. This information can still be obtained from Statistics Construction Division, Department of the Environment.

Reference

Monthly Digest of Statistics (HMSO monthly) (Price £5.00 net)

Civil Aviation Authority Statistics

CAA Annual Statistics 1981 was published on 12 July. It contains statistics of the operations of UK airports and UK airlines. The tables relating to UK airports present details of aircraft movements, air transport movements, passengers and cargo handled. Additionally, certain tables present passenger traffic flows both from the United Kingdom to individual countries overseas and on a large number of individual routes. UK airline statistics tables present statistics of operations under each class of air transport licence, operations not requiring an air transport licence, fleet utilisation, personnel costs and airline finances.

Reference

CAA Annual Statistics 1981 Price £13.50 net, is available from:

Civil Aviation Authority
Greville House
37, Graddon Road
Cheltenham

World energy statistics

The United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, Statistical Office has recently published the *Yearbook of World Energy Statistics 1979* formerly *World Energy Statistics*. The publication is available from HMSO price £45.00 net.

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

IUSSP Conference

The Nineteenth quadrennial conference of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) was held in Manila on 9-16 December 1981. The United Kingdom representative was Chris Walker of the Overseas Development Administration.

Established over fifty years ago, the IUSSP is the premier international scientific body concerned with demography and related population studies and has a wide scientific membership drawn from both developed and developing countries. This meeting is the only major international gathering in the demographic calendar which tries to cover all aspects of the discipline.

Three of the items raised at the Conference which were of particular interest to developing countries were:

- a. Indirect estimation methods – this field is very important to them and some progress is being made albeit slowly.
- b. Family planning programme evaluation – this subject is of considerable interest to programme administrators and to donors but of apparently little interest to the academic community.
- c. Technical co-operation – this side-meeting was convened under the auspices of the UN and covered such areas as demographic data collection and analysis, demographic training and population and development.

The next IUSSP conference is scheduled for early 1986. In due course the solicited papers, a selection of contributed papers together with the report of the proceedings will be published. Meanwhile copies of Chris Walker's report of the Conference may be obtained from Mrs. Mazur, Overseas Development Administration (telephone 01-213 4753).

GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL SERVICE

The role of the Government Statistical Service

Following the publication of the White Paper *Government Statistical Services* (Cmnd. 8236) in April last year, and the subsequent comments and discussion, the Central Statistical Office set out a statement on the role of the Government Statistical Service (GSS). This was endorsed by Directors of Statistics in the main government departments and is reproduced here for general interest.

'The Government Statistical Service provides an information and statistical advisory service to Government for use in developing, implementing and monitoring policy. It also has certain obligations to provide information to Parliament, the public and international organisations. It collects and processes

information, carries out any necessary statistical analysis and presents and interprets the results. To do so effectively it maintains close relations with administrators, managers and policy advisers to ensure that as far as possible relevant information is provided and used appropriately.

The GSS attaches importance to maintaining high quality in its work, but is fully conscious of the need to use cost-effective methods. The degree of accuracy and speed of production required in any context are determined in the light of the purposes for which information is used and the costs of collecting information, including the costs to firms and others of filling in forms.

Attention is given to identifying clearly who are the existing and potential customers for information; to ensuring that proper and effective use is made of it; and to dispensing with information which is no longer required. This has assumed particular importance following the publication of the White Paper on Government Statistical Services.

The GSS also seeks out the opportunities provided by statistical methods and the experience of statisticians, particularly in the use of computers, for reducing costs and improving value for money in Government more generally, for example, through developing management information systems, and making use of new technology.

Statisticians work alongside other members of their departments, fully integrated with their colleagues and aware of developments in which new or changed statistics will be of value.'

Reference

Government Statistical Services (Cmnd. 8236) (HMSO) April 1981 (Price £2.10 net)

Appointments and Changes

Mr. B. H. Mahon, Statistician, Home Office, transferred on promotion to Chief Statistician to the Department of Health and Social Security on 17 May 1982.

Mr. A. A. Sorrell, Under Secretary, Departments of the Environment and Transport, retired on 18 June 1982.

Dr. J. R. Cuthbert, Chief Statistician, Scottish Development Department, transferred to Scottish Education Department on 14 June 1982.

Mr. B. J. Billington, Chief Statistician, Departments of Industry and Trade, transferred to the Administrative Group as an Assistant Secretary from 1 September 1981.

LATE ITEMS

Scottish Abstract of Statistics

The eleventh issue of the annual *Scottish Abstract*, prepared by the Scottish Office, was published in July. It contains sixteen sections that provide important economic, industrial and social statistics for Scotland.

There are two new or extensively revised tables in this issue – 12.6 Manufacturing employment estimates and 14.6 Imports and Exports by source and destination. The following tables have been deleted (table numbers refer to the tenth issue): 10.12 Net capital value of estates and receipts of tax by range of estate; 10.13 Analysis of all property of estates above £15,000; 12.7 Annual components of employment change; 12.8 Components of employment change by size of unit; 12.9 Country of ownership by industry and region, agriculture, forestry and fishing and 12.37 Average weekly earnings of agricultural workers.

Reference

Scottish Abstract of Statistics No. 11/1982 (HMSO, Edinburgh) July 1982 (Price £20.00 net)

United Kingdom Mineral Statistics 1981

This edition is the eighth in the annual series of *United Kingdom Mineral Statistics*, which was first published in 1973. In one volume it presents minerals production, consumption, import and export data obtained from a wide variety of published and unpublished sources. Compared with the preceding edition, all the contents have been systematically updated by one year and revisions for earlier years have been made whenever more up-to-date information has become available. In addition, new headings have been introduced in the import and export tables and some modifications made to the Commodity Summaries section.

Reference

United Kingdom Mineral Statistics 1981 (HMSO) July 1982 (Price £13.00 net)

1981 Census – Northern Ireland

The preliminary report of the Northern Ireland Census of Population 1981 was published in July.

The report contains provisional figures on the population and number of private households for each local government district down to ward level, but these are subject to revision in the more detailed reports to be published later. It also reveals that although difficulties were experienced in the taking of the Census, the number of households enumerated had reached 455,279, which represents 98.7 per cent of the estimated total. As enumerated the total population of Northern Ireland taken at midnight on 5 April 1981 was 1,490,228, though this does not take into account the effect of the non-returns which is estimated at 19,664 persons.

In the 1971 Census the total enumerated population was 1,536,065 and the latest available Government estimate was 1,547,300 in June 1980.

The provisional figures reveal a substantial net loss by migration over the intercensal period. On the enumerated population for 1971 and 1981 and taking account of births and deaths registered during the period, the figures suggest a net outward migration of the order of 150,000 or 15,000 persons per year. If the estimated population effect of the non-response for 1981 of almost 20,000 is taken into account the net outward migration figure would be of the order of 130,000 or 13,000 persons per year.

Of the total enumerated population of 1,490,228, 730,174 were males and 760,054 were females, representing a ratio of 1,041 females per 1,000 males, as compared with 1,037 in 1971, 1,051 in 1966, 1,053 in 1961 and 1,097 at the beginning of the century.

Private households were enumerated at 455,279 and the estimated number of households not enumerated was 6,126. These figures reflect a significant increase in the number of private households since 1971, then enumerated at 427,434. The main increases occur in North Down, Lisburn, Ards, Antrim and Newtownabbey.

All other local government districts, with the exception of Belfast, show an increase in the actual number of households as enumerated.

The preliminary report will be followed by a detailed report for the Belfast local government district towards the end of the year, a detailed summary report for the whole of Northern Ireland early next year, and in due course detailed topic reports on economic activity, housing, workplace and transport to work, migration, education and religion.

Reference

The Northern Ireland Census 1981. Preliminary Report (HMSO Belfast) July 1982 (Price £4.10 net)

Census of Production – Northern Ireland

The Report on the Census of Production of Northern Ireland 1978 was published on 12 July 1982 by HMSO Belfast on behalf of the Department of Commerce (NI): Price £6.40 net.

Housing statistics – Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland Housing Statistics to December 1981 was published in July 1982 by HMSO Belfast on behalf of the Housing and Urban Affairs Division, Department of the Environment (NI): Price £3.40 net.

Births and deaths of firms in the United Kingdom in 1981

British business of 23 July contained the third in the series of articles on the numbers of births and deaths of firms in the United Kingdom (See *Statistical News* 56.29

and 57.26) based on information on the numbers of traders registering and deregistering for VAT. The article gives provisional estimates for 1981 by sector of trade and revised estimates for 1980 which were published on a provisional basis in the first *British business* article on 29 January 1982.

Inquiries, comments, and views about future work, but not requests for copies of the article, should be addressed to:

Mr A. Ganguly
Statistician
Small Firms Division
Department of Industry
Room 226
Ashdown House
123 Victoria Street
London
SW1E 6RB

Reference

British business, 23 July 1982 (HMSO weekly) (Price £1.10 net)

Education statistic

University statistics 1980

The University Grants Committee and the University Statistical Record have recently produced *University Statistics 1980* Volume one *Students and Staff* published by the University Statistical Record, Central Record Office, PO Box 40, Cheltenham, GL5C 1JY: price £7.00 net.

Actuals

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) have published *Education Statistics 1980-81 Actuals*. This is the twenty-ninth annual return based upon final accounts. Authorities included in the publication are all English and Welsh local education authorities that is the Inner London Education Authority, all outer London Boroughs, all Metropolitan Districts and all non-Metropolitan counties including the Isles of Scilly.

The publication is obtainable from CIPFA, 1 Buckingham Place, London, SW1 at a price of £12.

Alphabetical Index

The index to *Statistical News* covers the last nine issues. Page numbers are prefixed by the issue number, e.g. 57.30 signifies number 57, page 30.

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

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