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STATISTICAL NEWS

Developments in British Official Statistics



A publication of the Government Statistical Service

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First published 1984

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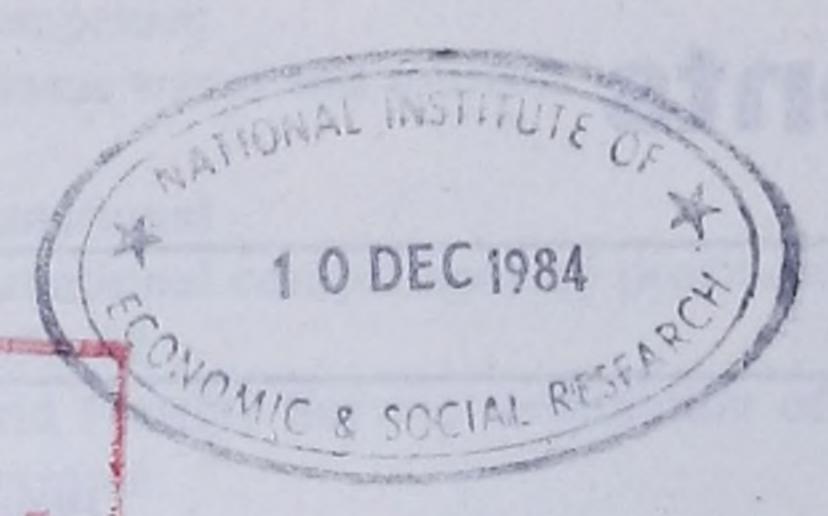
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Official Statistics

No. 67 November 1984

London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office

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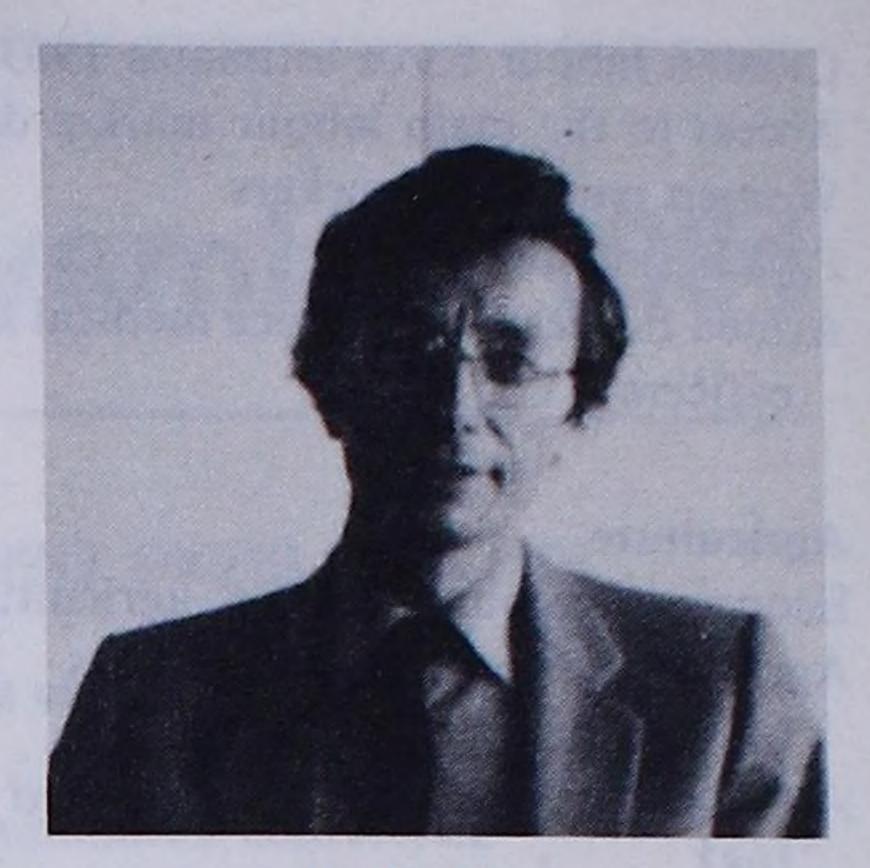
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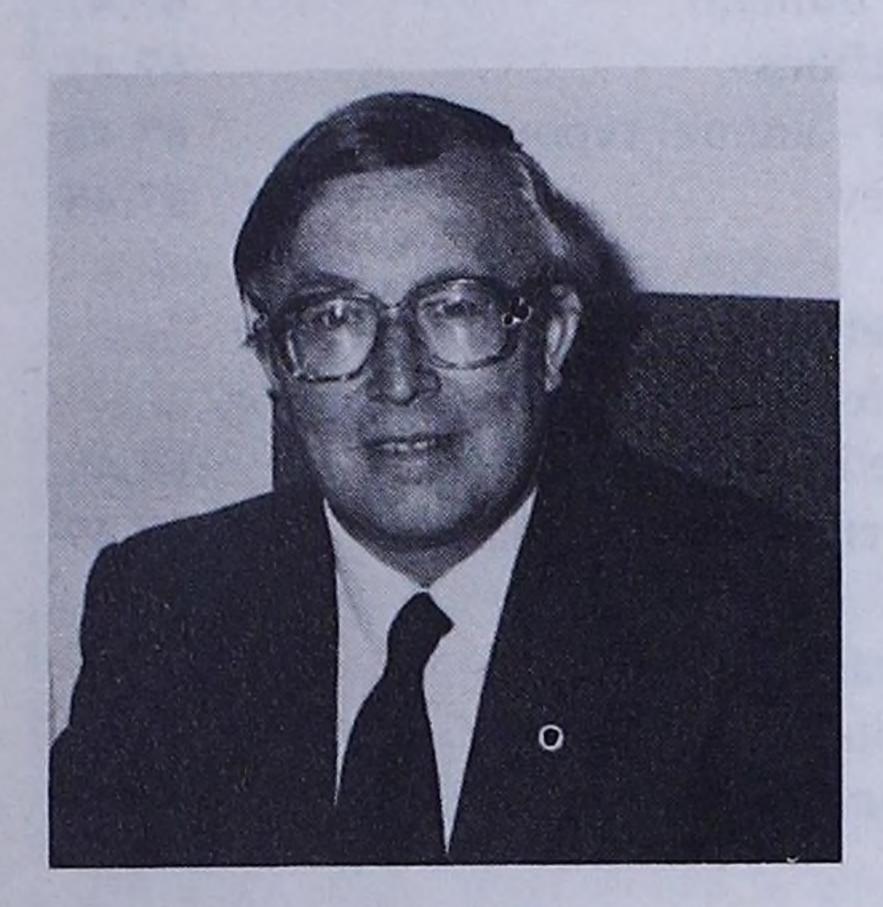
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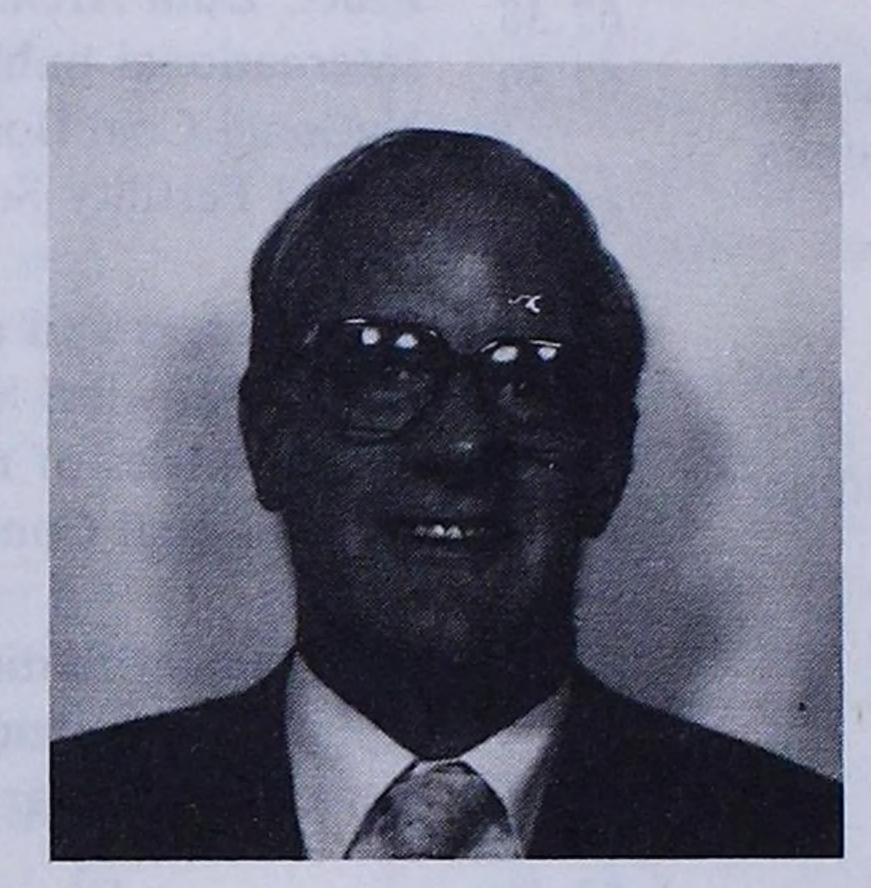
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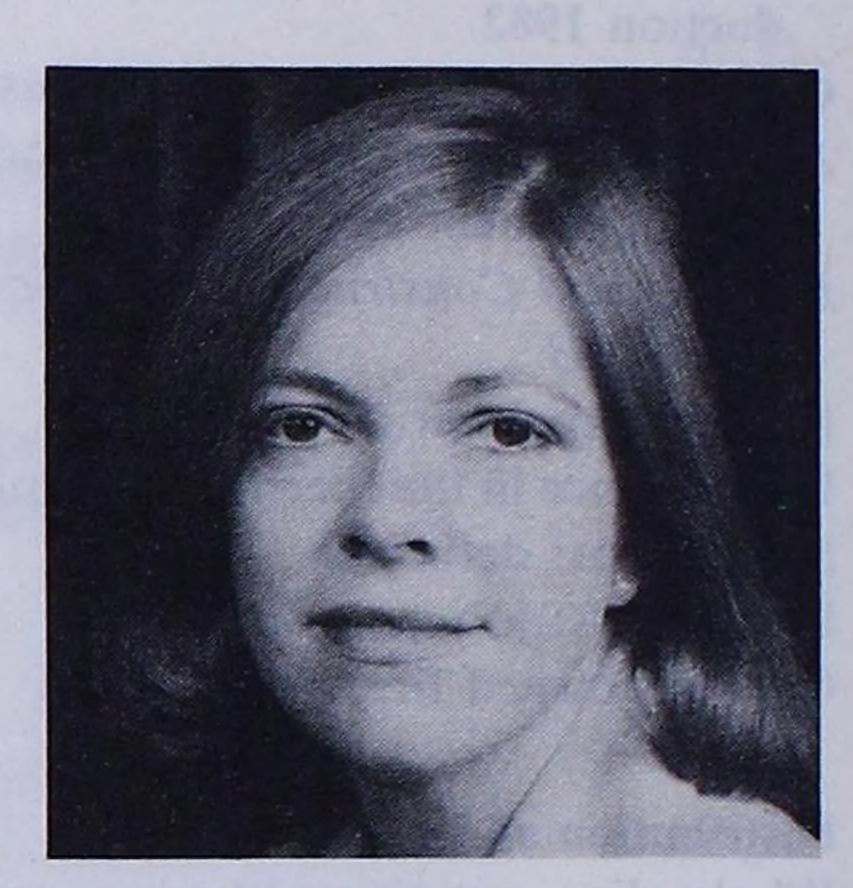
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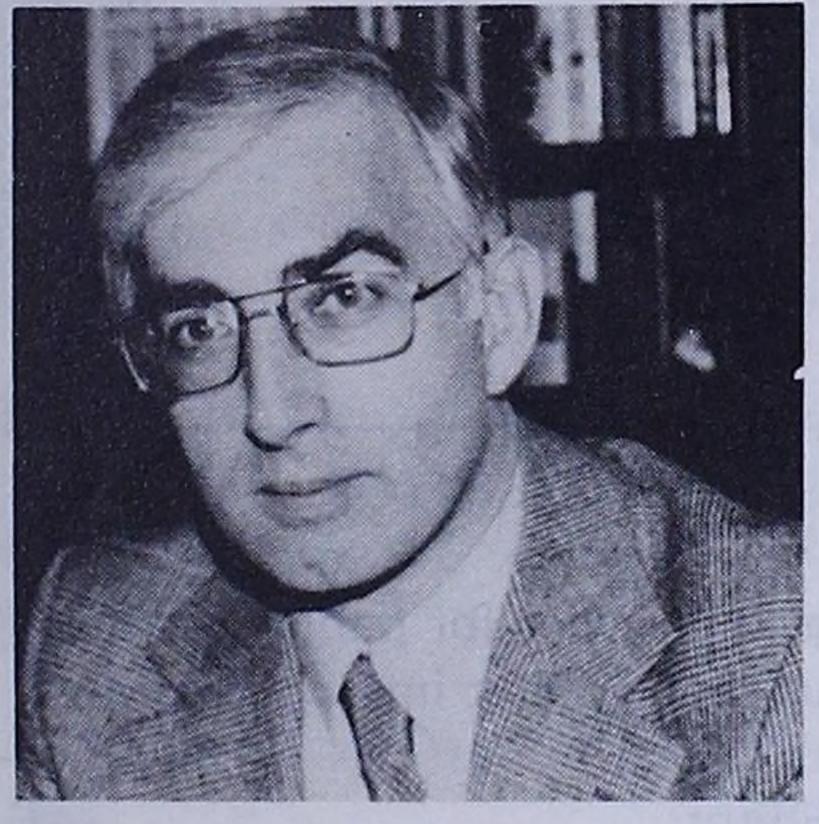
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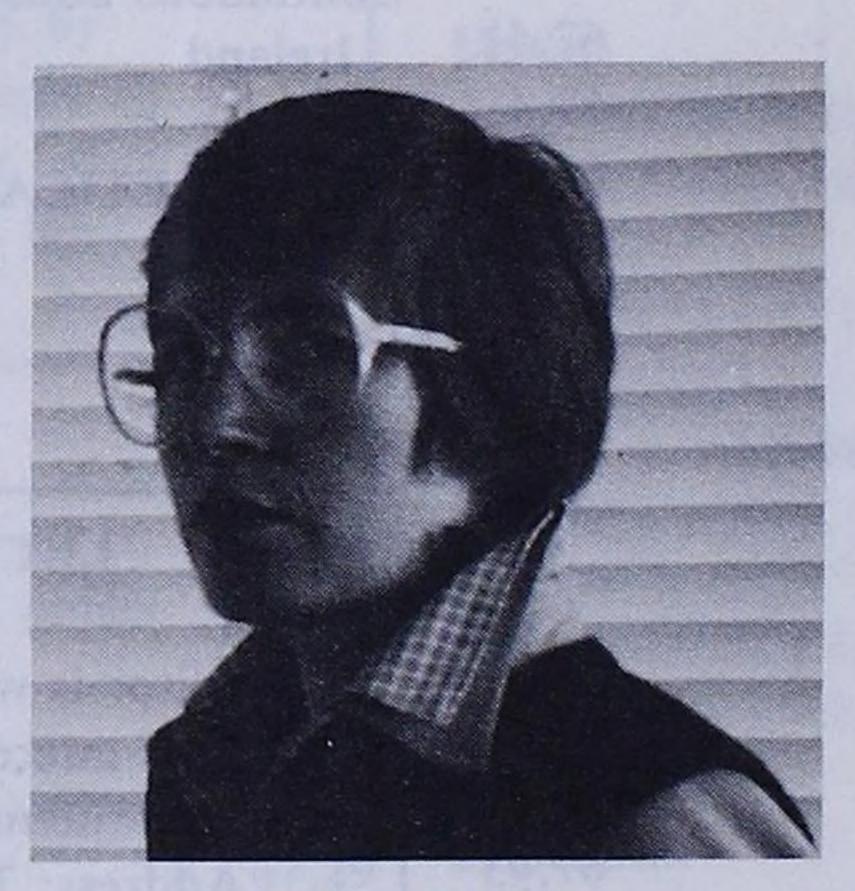
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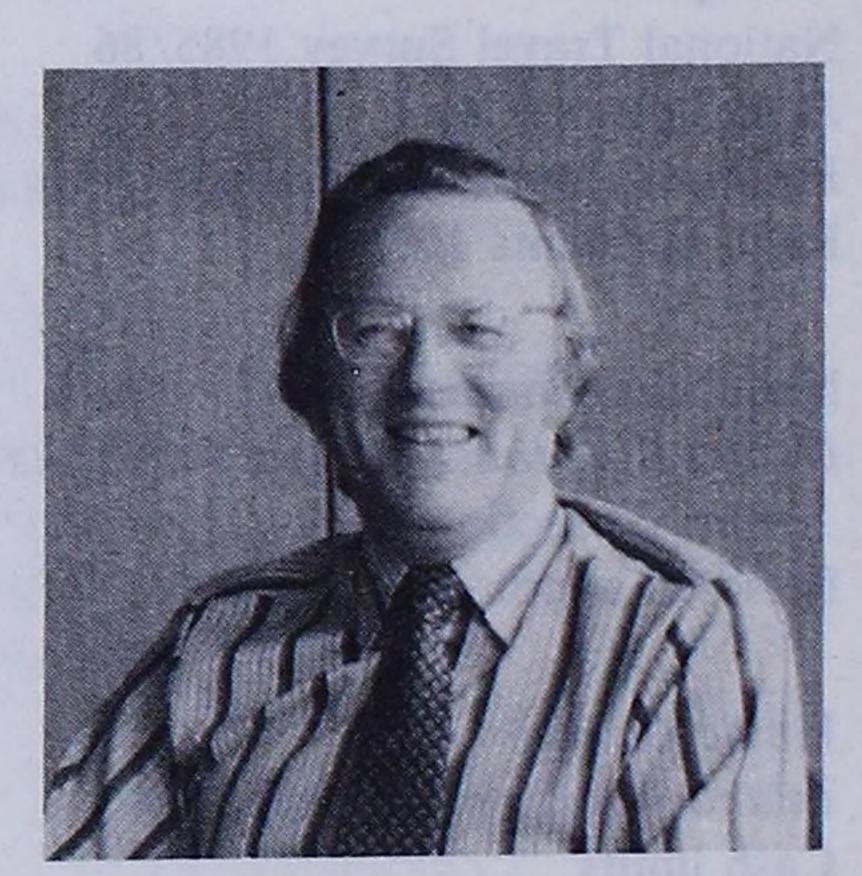
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Maurice Wilde Head of SR8 (Newcastle)

The Director and Heads of Branches
Department of Health and Social Security—SR Division

The Department of Health and Social Security A. R. Smith, Director, J. A. Rowntree and Maurice Wilde, Chief Statisticians, Department of Health and Social Security

Introductory Note by A. R. Smith

This is a brief background note to set the scene for the main contributions.

The Department of Health and Social Security came into being in 1968 with the amalgamation of the Ministries of Health and of Social Security - themselves the results of earlier amalgamations; and since 1968 DHSS and the services for which it is responsible have continued to evolve. The Department now has very extensive policy and executive responsibilities in respect of the health and welfare of the population; and it is very much concerned with the management of the 'businesses' for which the Secretary of State for Social Services has responsibilities, and hence with management information. The 'businesses' include the National Health Service (NHS), the local authority personal social services, social security and 'centrallyfinanced' services (such as the public health laboratory service, special hospitals and artificial limb and appliance centres). The Secretary of State for Social Services shares some of his responsibilities with the Secretaries of State for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland - so, for instance, he is responsible for the NHS in England but for social security throughout Great Britain. He also carries Ministerial responsibility for the Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys (OPCS).

The Statistics Division of DHSS has evolved in line with the changing roles of the Department, and with the evolution of the management structure of the Department. Its formal title is the Statistics and Research Division (SR), but the word research is at present largely redundant: the division is now involved in research to no greater extent than several other DHSS divisions, but the title has remained unchanged for practical reasons. SR Division is now probably more purely 'statistical' than at any time since DHSS was formed. When I took over in 1976 the senior staff of SR Division, in addition to the Under Secretary or Director, comprised 5 Chief Statisticians, an Assistant Secretary, a Senior Principal Research Officer and a Senior Principal; and there were several PROs and Principals in addition to Statisticians. In 1984 there are, in addition to the Under Secretary, 7 Chief Statisticians in the Division and 30 Statisticians, and no other

staff at Principal level or above. (For some facts about these staff, which should be of particular interest to anyone concerned about 'equal opportunities', see Table 1.) The total manpower strength of SR Division in early 1979 was 430. By 1984 the strength had been reduced to only just above 300, though 30 of this reduction was simply a transfer of staff and functions elsewhere. The remaining reduction of approaching 25 per cent has been made possible by a series of Reviews, including the Rayner Review of Government Statistics¹. Further significant reductions are expected to follow implementation of the Körner Review of Health Services Information² (referred to on page 67.9) in the late 1980s.

SR Division is currently organised into 7 Chief Statistician commands, together with a small unit (SR5) which reports directly to the Under Secretary, which are identified in the Department's organisational shorthand by labels in the series SR1-SR8. The order in which branches are numbered is an accident of history. (Very briefly, the main fields of concern of the branches are shown in Table 2 overleaf.) Most of the Division is located in Central London, with its branches

Table 1

DHSS Statisticians (all grades)¹
age/grade/sex distribution: mid-1984

	under 30	30-44	45 & over	total
Male				
Higher grades	-	2	5	7
Statisticians		10	7	17
AS/SAS	1	INTO SE	PER DEPOSITE	1
Total	1	12	12	25
Female				
Higher grades	_	1	1	2
Statisticians	2	14 ²	- 1	16
AS/SAS	7	-	WITTER -	7
Total	9	15	1	25

^{1.} Includes staff not currently in post in SR Division (i.e. on loan, special leave, maternity leave, etc), and 2 staff working part-time on return from maternity leave; and excludes one retired officer re-employed part-time at SAS level.

This is the third in a series of articles on the structure and functions of the Government Statistical Service. The fourth in the series, on the Business Statistics Office, will appear in the February 1985 issue.

^{2.} Note that half of the female statisticians aged 30-44 are under 35.

as close as possible to appropriate policy colleagues, but a large part of the administrative staff of SR2 (60 staff) is in Blackpool, and the whole of SR8 (67 staff) is in Newcastle.

The annual expenditure by DHSS is now in excess of £50,000m - over 42 per cent of all public expenditure. This includes about £37,000m for the many kinds of social security benefits. The number of social security customers or beneficiaries is on the same enormous scale. For example, there are at any one time more than 9 million recipients of retirement pensions (including 2,000 centenarians), over 7 million of child benefit (in respect of over 13 million children) and 4 million of supplementary benefits and the Department receives annually national insurance contributions in respect of 24 million people. The National Health Service too is on a vast scale. The total health expenditure is of the order of £15,000m a year. The NHS employs directly about 1 million people in Great Britain of whom about half are nurses and nearly 50,000 are doctors and dentists, mostly in the hospital and community health services. In addition there are about 44,000 doctors and dentists in contract with Family Practitioner Committees and Health Boards, and the total cost of general practice accounts for about £3,500m of the £15,000m. This includes the cost of many thousands of people (e.g. receptionists) employed by the contractors. The hospital service in Great Britain treats about 7½ million in-patient and day cases and copes with about 57 million out-patients and accident and emergency attendances in a year. There are in a year 34 million courses of dental treatment, 10 million sight tests, 220 million

Table 2

DHSS Statistics and Research Division Allocation of tasks

- SR1 Family Practitioner Services (GP doctors, dentists, chemists and opticians) and prescriptions analysis
- SR2 Hospital and Community Health Services; and preventive and environmental health
- SR3 Means-tested social security benefits and related family/household income and expenditure data
- SR4 Implementation of Körner Review of Health Service Information; statistical aspects of NHS regional reviews and performance indicators development; certain finance and NHS planning work
- SR5 Special studies; assistance to Under Secretary with Divisional management
- SR6 Personal Social Services; NHS and LA resources allocation work; population issues; 'cross-sector' NHS/LASS¹/social security studies
- SR7 NHS manpower and earnings; national medical manpower issues
- SR8 All social security statistics other than work done by SR3
- 1. Local authority social services.

GP medical consultations and 30 million house visits, 370 million prescriptions dispensed and so on A huge business – or rather very many businesses brought together under the NHS umbrella. Indeed, each of the 200 or so District Health Authorities in England would, by most industrial or commercial standards, be regarded as large, with several thousand employees.

Tony Rowntree describes in more detail, work on the Health and Personal Social Services (HPSS) side of SR Division, while Maurice Wilde deals with Social Security.

Health and Personal Social Services and Statistics by J. A. Rowntree

As indicated in Tony Smith's introduction, Statistics and Research Division (SR) has evolved in line with the changing roles of DHSS. This is certainly true for health and personal social services where DHSS's responsibilities set the framework for the nature and scale of the work of relevant parts of SR Division. DHSS provides guidance to the National Health Service in England on policies and priorities for delivering health care services. It allocates resources between Regional Health Authorities and is accountable to Parliament for ensuring that the NHS fulfills its responsibilities under the relevant Acts of Parliament and makes efficient and effective use of the monies voted for this purpose. DHSS provides policy guidance to local government authorities on the delivery of 'personal social services' (e.g. home helps, meals on wheels, provision of residential accommodation for children and old people, etc). Further, the DHSS deals with health matters generally, a responsibility which is, in theory, quite distinct from its responsibility for the National Health Service as a means of delivering health care, and includes responsibilities for prevention, for Government policy on smoking, alcohol misuse, nutrition, drugs, etc. The DHSS is also involved in pay negotiations in respect of NHS employees and for the remuneration arrangements for general medical and dental practitioners, and opticians and pharmacists, who contract to give specific services to NHS patients. These latter responsibilities relate to Great Britain, whereas for the NHS and most other health matters, the DHSS remit covers England (the Welsh Office and the Scottish Home and Health Department carrying parallel responsibilities in Wales and Scotland respectively). It is likely that the role of the Department vis a vis the NHS will become clearer and more readily distinguishable from its other responsibilities, with the

progressive implementation of the proposals of the 'Griffiths Report' leading to the setting-up of the NHS Management Board and the Health Services Supervisory Board.

Information and statistics

DHSS must have statistical information to help it discharge each of the above responsibilities. The task of SR Division is to provide most of the statistical information needed, (financial statistical information comes from the accounts and costing data which are collected and analysed by Finance Division which, at Deputy Secretary level, is under the same management control as SR Division). SR Division carries out this task either by itself collecting and analysing data, through routine data systems or returns and on occasion by ad hoc surveys, or alternatively by exploiting and analysing external data sources (e.g. population and demographic data including the Census of Population) in order to yield the statistical information which the Department needs.

Description of SR Division

This section describes how the health and personal social services, (HPSS), side of SR Division is organised under five Chief Statisticians each of whom is responsible for a Branch. The work of one Branch (SR2) is described in some detail to illustrate the variation and complexity of the tasks undertaken. The other HPSS Branches (SR7, SR1, SR6 and SR4) are sketched in more general terms.

The main job of SR2 is to monitor the hospital and community health services being provided to the public and to see that Ministers and colleagues concerned with policy and management are properly briefed on their nature, volume and (as far as can be measured) effectiveness. The Branch is divided into three sections each under the control of a Statistician. One monitors the community health services, ambulance services and maternity. It uses returns from health authorities and data from the Hospital In-Patient Enquiry (see below). The same section also keeps a watch on various other matters of health concern, particularly smoking and alcohol misuse, but covering such disparate topics as abortions, wheelchairs and food poisoning. Statistical information on these is drawn from both ad hoc and regular surveys (e.g. the General Household Survey), from registration data via OPCS, and from administration of specially held records.

Another section monitors activity in psychiatric (i.e. mental illness and mental handicap) hospitals and units. There are two main data sources. The Mental Health Enquiry (MHE) comprises individual records of every episode of hospital in-patient care. The basic data are collected for each admission to and discharge from a

psychiatric hospital or unit and are sent from each hospital to the Department's office at Norcross (near Blackpool) for coding, validation, etc which occupies the largest group of clerical and executive staff on the health and personal social services side of SR Division. The MHE is supplemented by a Facilities Return (SBH112) which includes a wide-ranging set of data on the activity, facilities and staffing of each hospital and unit. This information is used to monitor the level and type of care provided in mental illness and mental handicap hospitals and how the pattern of care is changing in line with current policies in this field. Such data are used to monitor the size and characteristics of particularly vulnerable groups such as mentally handicapped children, mentally ill elderly people and those who are formally detained in psychiatric hospitals.

The third section in SR2 monitors bed provision and activity generally in all NHS hospitals and, in more detail, clinical activity in non-psychiatric hospitals. The main data source here is the Hospital Activity Return (SH3), which provides an annual count of in-patient beds, their occupancy, the number of discharges and deaths, length of stay, the number of day cases and, for out-patients, information on the number of outpatient sessions held and of out-patient attendances. This basic information is all classified by the specialty of the consultant involved. Other aggregated returns deal more specifically with waiting lists, pathology, etc. Detailed information on the characteristics of patients treated in non-psychiatric hospitals is provided by the Hospital In-Patient Enquiry (HIPE) which derives from the NHS Hospital Activity Analysis (HAA). This system is similar to the Mental Health Enquiry but the data are collected only about discharges from hospital and, for central purposes, are submitted for a 10 per cent sample. The basic HIPE data are received and analysed by OPCS on an agency basis for the Department. The statistics produced by this section provide the main source for information required to monitor the level of hospital in-patient activity in the National Health Service and how this is related to the changing manpower and financial inputs.

SR7 Branch is responsible for information on manpower and earnings for direct employees of the NHS. Manpower costs represent over 70 per cent of all health authority current costs; effective management of the NHS would thus not be possible without information on NHS manpower. This has become particularly important since overall manpower targets have been set for each NHS region.

But DHSS needs more than total manpower numbers. For example, to monitor the progress by the NHS in concentrating manpower on the direct care of patients, and in enhancing provision for priority care

groups, information is needed on the wide range of staff employed in the NHS, from doctors and nurses to hospital porters. To meet the DHSS's responsibilities for planning medical manpower as a national resource, detailed information on the qualifications, specialties, career history and age of doctors is required. As an essential input to pay negotiations and the work of the Pay Review Bodies, and to cost pay settlements, data must be collected on the occupations and earnings of these groups.

SR7 is organised into four sections, each headed by a statistician. Two sections deal with non-medical manpower; one manages the collection of data and the provision of regular reports to Ministers on the non-medical employees in the NHS and the other advises policy branches on levels and trends for non-medical manpower. A third section collects and analyses statistics on medical and dental manpower and works with the policy and operational research branches on manpower modelling. The fourth section is responsible for NHS earnings information and the costing of possible or actual pay settlements, often while negotiations are actually in progress.

In all these functions, given the importance of information on NHS manpower and earnings for the Department's policies on the planning and control of NHS expenditure, the statisticians involved need to work closely with their policy colleagues. This means not only answering their questions, but also advising them on the sort of questions they ought to be asking.

SR1 Branch deals with the remuneration of Family Practitioner Services (FPS) which divide neatly into four 'professions': doctors, dentists, chemists and opticians. Individual practitioners in each profession contract with the government to provide their own particular service for a range of pre-determined fees and allowances and these latter are set so that each profession is remunerated on a cost-plus basis. In addition to providing statistics descriptive of the FPS, a central role of SR1 is to determine the cost incurred by the average contractor in each of the services so that the levels of practitioner remuneration can be set. Four of the sections of SR1 cover these professional groups. That dealing with dentists also undertakes manpower planning work in respect of that profession.

The central job of the remaining section of SR1 is to monitor, analyse and predict the volume and price of the NHS prescriptions dispensed by chemists and doctors and priced by the Prescription Pricing Authorities. The statistics produced are circulated both within and outside the Department, and revenue is earned by selling data to drug manufacturers and others.

Because FPS expenditure responds to demand it has not proved practicable to 'cash limit' these services.

For public expenditure planning purposes a great deal of attention is now focussed on providing improved forecasts of the costs of each service and of the drug bill. Each section of SR1 is developing forecasting methods under the general direction of an inter-departmental steering group.

SR6 Branch has two distinct responsibilities. One is the collection and analysis of statistical information about the personal social services. In this respect it performs a similar monitoring function to SR2 and SR7 in respect of NHS hospital and community health services. Wide-ranging sets of statistics are collected and analysed on both services provided by and manpower employed in the local authority personal social services. The scope of this work has been extensively reviewed and improved in recent years and close links have been developed with local authority associations with a view to achieving further improvements in efficiency.

Most of the smaller SR6 returns are processed clerically or on a desk-top mini computer. Others including individualised returns on children in care and homes for the elderly, are handled either on general Departmental computer installations or at SR's own computer bureau. However, arrangements for bringing all of SR6's data together on a single computer are well under way as a first stage in the development of a database for the personal social services. This database will integrate SR6's own data on activity and manpower with financial data on the personal social services collected by DOE, and with population data. It will also mirror on the social services front the integrated data set for the health services being developed by SR4 (see later). This part of SR6 has recently been restructured so that one section deals essentially with the collection and assembly of basic data in the above fields while the other section handles analytical and interpretative work. A third section undertakes a range of professional, advisory and development work on, or related to, personal social services statistics; in particular, it is involved in the Department of the Environment (DOE) statistical work relating to negotiations with local authorities on the Rate Support Grant.

The second main responsibility of SR6 is to provide common services to SR Division as a whole. One part of this is the handling of population and other demographic data where close links have been established with OPCS; SR6 acts as a Departmental focal point to ensure that the Department itself has the statistical information it requires in this field and to improve liaison between OPCS and the NHS. The section dealing with demographic data also provides a focal point within the Department for surveys in the health and personal social services field.

SR6 also has a special responsibility for Health and

Personal Social Services publications, and a recent reorganisation will result in more resources being devoted to this work. Not the least of SR6's responsibilities is to develop computing services for SR. It has control of its own installation and is responsible for ensuring that the computing needs of all SR Branches are adequately catered for. There is a clear need for the Division to exploit the potential for rapid and sophisticated analysis and improved communications which recent developments in computing have provided. Plans are being drawn up to allow the benefits latent in the Körner proposals (and similar initiatives in respect of personal social services information) to be reaped to the benefit of DHSS as a whole and all who have an interest in health and personal social services.

The present SR4 was established in the Spring of 1983 mainly to provide the statistical input to Departmental involvement in the implementation of the Körner proposals (see below). More recently SR4 has been working on the SR health services integrated data set and on performance indicators. The health services integrated data set is being designed as a common data set drawing together basic statistical information on manpower, finance and activity. From this has grown a key part of SR's contribution to the development of NHS performance indicators i.e. the setting up of a system to produce such indicators and to package them in a way which is of greatest use to NHS management.

Such is the current picture. There is a considerable variety of tasks and of methods of carrying these tasks through. Throughout this side of the Department's work there is a need for statisticians to work within a team situation, even though in many instances this is not expressed in formal terms. Statisticians have to keep abreast of policy and medical and other professional thinking while making their own distinctive and crucial contribution. Further, statisticians often have to work effectively with statistical and similar experts in the NHS and associated organisations in a way which is both demanding and stimulating.

Much analytical work is undertaken within SR. It has also been appropriate to attach statisticians (formally members of SR4) to policy divisions, e.g. Finance division and RL (Regional Liaison) division, in order to provide a direct statistical analytical input to policy and administrative work by statisticians who are free from responsibilities for data collection, etc. The large amount of numerical analytical work which DHSS needs is shared between members of SR, the Economic Advisers Division and by the Operational Research Service of the Department. The three Divisions of

numerical analysts seek to work closely together. In some situations the analytical work is assigned in a way which exploits the particular expertise of each Division. In other situations, for example in the quantitative contribution to regional reviews and the development of performance indicators, members of these divisions work together in a team, the work of each member of that team being virtually indistinguishable.

The future

At this point in time it is impossible to forecast the future structure and role of SR Division on the HPSS side of DHSS. Change and developments seem certain but while the shape of some changes can even now be discerned, others are mere shadows.

The impending re-organisation of the Department following the publication of the Griffiths Report³ must affect SR. How it will be affected is not yet known though it seems likely to more clearly distinguish between the support for NHS management work and analysis of general health matters. SR Division already spans both the social security and HPSS sides of the Department; such a sub-division of the HPSS field should not have a traumatic effect. The need for management-orientated and timely statistical information of good quality seems bound to grow and SR is preparing to respond to the challenge that this will present.

The Körner Review of Health Services Information² has now finished the first stage - the drawing up of proposals in each of the main fields of health service information (apart from primary care) to provide the NHS with an appropriate management information system. DHSS would then draw its own information from a sub-set of the data collected and used locally. Ministers and the Chairmen of Regional Health Authorities have decided that these proposals will be implemented from 1 April 1987 in respect of hospital activity, manpower, patient transport and most aspects of finance information and by 1 April 1988 for community health and related financial information. This implementation will call for a major contribution from SR who will also be ensuring that existing systems are maintained and respond to the changing demands made on them. Although SR4 have a specialised role in respect of Körner implementation a considerable contribution will come from other SR Branches. The end result should be a marked improvement in the quantitative input to the Department's policy making work. This will come partly from having better basic data and partly by SR being able to analyse and exploit such data more effectively.

Social security and statistics by Maurice Wilde

As Tony Smith has said above, Statistics and Research Division's (SR) organisation reflects that of the DHSS as a whole. One of DHSS's 'businesses' is social security in Great Britain: what follows describes the statistical support afforded by SR Division to this expensive, politically sensitive and fluid 'business'.

It is easy to be overawed by the sheer size and complexity of the social security system. Spending on the social security budget presently totals about £37,000 million and accounts for about 30 per cent of all public expenditure; payments go to well over 20 million beneficiaries and the whole system requires the employment of about 77,000 staff to administer the various benefit schemes. Delivery of these benefits involves some of the most computer-intensive operations anywhere in the world. Newcastle Central Office (NCO) is by far the biggest DHSS unit, devoted largely to payment of benefits, and it is often described as operating the biggest computer complex in Western Europe. In addition to NCO and the other central office at North Fylde, there is a network of some 550 local offices under the control of a Regional Director. Despite the size of the operation, policy aspects of the social security system are handled in just four under secretary commands (Grade 3 in the Civil Service newspeak) and there is a finance division. Elements of the DHSS's common service divisions (establishments, information, medical, social work service, legal, economics, operational research and of course statistics (SR)) provide specialist support services as needed.

Overall, administrative costs amount to about 5 per cent of total benefit expenditure. Some benefits (such as child benefit) are universal; they are thus easy and cheap to administer, and simply understood. But, being universal, go to all families with children regardless of their other circumstances. On the other hand some benefits are means-tested so as to be targetted on those who are judged to be, for whatever reason, in need of the particular benefit; such benefits can be of formidable complexity, often difficult for claimants to comprehend and relatively expensive to administer.

In many ways, statistical work reflects the nature of the benefit concerned. Basic information and analysis on numbers of recipients and costs of universal benefits can be produced relatively quickly, easily and cheaply, especially where administrative records and payment methods are highly computerised. On the other hand, producing the same information for means-tested benefits is in many cases less easy or cheap, mainly because the basic data is presently collected by inquiries designed to sample the manually maintained records held at DHSS local offices. This process can be rather slow and cumbersome and, both because sample sizes

are kept to a minimum and requests for information from local offices often embody more than one benefit so as to reduce the number of such requests, the frequent errors in original returns require rigorous correction. Similar considerations apply in producing estimates of future numbers of individual benefit claimants, and associated costs.

The social security system

The social security system has grown piecemeal partly for historical reasons and partly because the general approach by administrations of both political persuasions has been to try to fit a specific well targetted benefit to each specific area and type of need and/or deprivation as it became apparent. Thus there are about 60 different cash benefits available to individuals and households in time of need.⁴

These are of three main types:

- a. national insurance (NI) benefits these are not means-tested and can be claimed by the individual (or sometimes his/her spouse) if sufficient (according to various criteria) NI contributions have been paid. The most important of such benefits are retirement and widows pensions, sickness, invalidity and unemployment benefits, maternity allowance and death grant. In order to pay these benefits, it is necessary to hold and retain full records of contributions for each member of the insured population. There are some 51½ million of these held on computer files at NCO;
- b. non-contributory means-tested benefits for these it is necessary to provide details of the individual's or household's income, assets and circumstances. The most important of such benefits are family income supplement, and supplementary and housing benefits. Of these, family income supplement and supplementary benefit carry automatic entitlement (known as 'passporting') to many other benefits such as free NHS dental treatment, glasses, prescriptions, milk and vitamins, hospital medicines and appliances (for out-patients), and hearing aids; and
- c. other non-contributory benefits, for which there is no means test. Typical are child and one parent benefit, severe disablement, attendance⁵, invalid care and mobility allowances. A special group of benefits deals with service in the armed forces, e.g. war disablement and war widows' or dependant's pension.

Almost all benefits are designed to meet particular circumstances or needs. Supplementary benefit is dif-

ferent in that it acts as a safety net for cases of need which do not qualify the claimant for any of the specific benefits, or where the amount of benefit payable is not deemed 'sufficient', i.e. where the claimant's resources are below levels set by Parliament. (This level is often described as the 'poverty level' below which people are said to be 'the poor'. But this loaded use of the word poverty produces the absurd situation that every time benefits are raised to more generous levels to alleviate poverty the number of people said to be below the poverty line is automatically increased.) This 'last resort' aspect means that the great majority of changes to the social security system have implications for supplementary benefit. The supplementary benefit assessment is based on the family unit, which consists of the claimant and where relevant his/her partner and their dependants. A claimant's entitlement to supplementary benefit is based on an assessment of the family's income (resources) and needs (requirements) and cannot be awarded to someone in full-time paid work-nor do those on strike qualify, though their dependants may. The income of a claimant includes earnings, maintenance payments, occupational pensions and most social security pension(s) and benefits. Some income is disregarded in full, e.g. attendance allowance, some other income attracts a partial disregard. Capital resources of up to £3,000 do not affect entitlement to supplementary benefit, but resources of more than £3,000 debars the claimant from receipt of benefit. The assessed needs of the family cover normal daily living expenses and in cases where a claimant has special expenses, e.g. extra heating or special diet, additions are made to his normal requirements. The claimant's regular weekly entitlement is therefore based on the sum of his normal and additional (where relevant) requirements less his/her resources. It will be clear from this very brief and colloquial description that the multiplicity of claimants' circumstances and needs makes the assessment of supplementary benefit in individual cases complex and staff intensive. Indeed the guide used by staff to assess cases - Supplementary Benefit: Procedure Manual-runs to 16,000 paragraphs, plus numerous appendices and a mass of supporting circulars.

The role of SR Division

Two of SR's branches take responsibility for the provision of the whole range of statistical support required by DHSS for the operation of the social security system. Their social security support roles are parallel to those described by Tony Rowntree for the health and personal social services elements of DHSS's function, but there is one important difference. DHSS is responsible for the day to day running and delivery of the social security system: there is no equivalent of the NHS on the health side or the local authorities in the

personal social services area, and this difference is reflected in both the scope and nature of the statistical information, advice and analysis required.

Of the two social security statistics branches, one is located in London HQ and the other at Newcastle Central Office. A major source of social security statistical information is the administrative records maintained at Newcastle Central Office and this, together with the availability of computing capacity, is why one of the two social security statistical branches is located there. As a brief indication of the scale of operations on social security statistics there are presently some ninety staff employed in the two branches (of whom eleven are members of the Statistician Group), together with the equivalent of about seventy staff in the computer programming and systems area devoted to statistics production. The overall cost is a little short of £3 million per annum: this should be seen against the social security budget of £37,000 million.

Each branch has its own clear areas of responsibility, but for the purposes of this article they can be described together. Their function is to provide statistical and related analysis, interpretation, forecasting and modelling services to Ministers, and to policy, finance and technical colleagues, by the collection, processing and provision of information on the social security system and specifically on the various social security benefits; to provide professional advice, and to participate in the formulation and review of policy and policy options; and to participate as required in inter-departmental statistical activities and the international work encompassed by treaty and statutory obligations. The sources of information for the branches are in the main administrative records and special returns made by unemployment benefit offices, local authorities and the DHSS's local offices. Normally only for special exercises is information requested of individual and/ or family unit benefit recipients and then, of course under the usual strict confidentiality rules. In addition, much use is made of the Family Expenditure Survey, the General Household Survey and the New Earnings Survey. Each of the many benefits requires its own descriptive statistics, recorded in SR's annual publication Social Security Statistics⁶.

A statistical advisory service is also provided to help with the problems of manpower management of the DHSS Regional Organisation, which has responsibility for 65,000 out of the 77,000 total DHSS staff employed on social security work. Virtually all the people in the Regional Organisation are located in DHSS local offices who have the operational responsibility for determining claims and paying benefit. Statistical advice is provided on the assessment of the changes in workloads resulting from alterations to the benefits and those contingent on changes in working procedures.

Social security budget

Control of the social security budget presents particular problems since the great majority of it is 'demand led' - because any individual (or family unit) claiming and entitled to a benefit receives it: this element of the total social security budget is not subject to cash limits. This reinforces the need to ensure that the monitoring and forecasting systems are comprehensive, sophisticated and timely enough to ensure reasonable control of the budget. Furthermore, changes in estimates of expenditure should be available in good time to effect the necessary action and at the same time to pinpoint the reason(s) for the changes. Given the complexity both of the system and the methods of payment of benefit (in particular via the Post Office) these objectives are not easily achievable. Benefits are paid out by order book, girocheque or automatic credit transfer. Payments for more than one benefit can be made using, for example, one order book. So although the total amount of benefit paid out is known, a full breakdown of payments to individual benefits is not available. The apportionment of payment to benefit is made by recourse to numbers of beneficiaries, rates of benefit, etc: this is known as statistical accounting, and places particular stress upon the social security statistics system. The figures so derived are carried through into the appropriation accounts and Public Expenditure Sub-Committee (PESC), but of potentially even greater significance is that appropriate benefits are paid from the National Insurance Fund and the remainder by direct subvention on the Consolidated Fund. Incorrect assignment as between these two Funds has serious consequences because of interest considerations in regard to the National Insurance Fund - as opposed to the Consolidated Fund.

So far as Estimates/PESC forecasting of social security expenditure is concerned, SR is responsible for forecasting means-tested benefits—almost £9,000 million in public expenditure terms, but rather more (£10,500 million) in benefit cost terms, given that the rate rebate element of housing benefit does not constitute public expenditure as such. The Government Actuary's Department (GAD) is statutorily responsible for forecasting expenditure on the contributory benefits and pensions (and hence incidentally for estimating the required levels of national insurance contributions needed to maintain the national insurance fund at a satisfactory level). SR provides GAD with all of the necessary statistical information to fulfil these tasks.

The inter-relation of policy and statistics

In this short article it is not possible to cover in any detail this—arguably the most important—aspect of SR's work, namely participation in the discussion and evaluation of the short and longer term policy options available to DHSS in the social security field. Such

departmental evaluations are most usually carried out on an inter-disciplinary basis involving the collaboration of policy and finance staff with professional input from economists, operational researchers, statisticians and GAD's actuaries as appropriate. A couple of examples may serve to give a flavour of this type of exercise. The first describes typical 'costing of options' work, and the second discusses the general relationship between benefit rates, NI contributions, prices and earnings and in particular the implications of the build up of retirement pension entitlement over the years.

Social security statisticians provide an essential information base for the costing of the various policy proposals and initiatives affecting an individual's entitlement to a benefit or group of benefits. This work usually takes the form of an estimate of the public expenditure increase or saving resulting from the change in the benefit rules, not only as it affects the specific benefit under consideration but also in terms of the consequential changes on other benefits. The repercussive effects on other benefits are an especially important consideration for means-tested benefits because an increase or decrease in, for example unemployment benefit will have obvious implications for supplementary benefit expenditure. Typically a piece of costing work will also require estimates of the numbers of gainers or losers from the proposed benefit change, the average amount of benefit involved per claimant and consideration of the effects on different socio-economic groups, such as the employed, unemployed, pensioners and so on. In some instances computer based models have been developed which can quickly analyse the effects of a policy change. These models usually rely on the Family Expenditure Survey (FES) as their principal data base, adjusted in the light of up-to-date results from various statistical/ administrative enquiries such as the annual and quarterly series of supplementary benefit statistics.

One of the most closely watched aspects of social security activities is the comparative level of payment made in respect of each benefit. As well as that of recipients themselves, political interest is at a consistently high level. To enable this scrutiny to take place against an informed background, SR annually makes public comprehensive time-series of the movement of benefit rates (and NI contribution levels) both in comparison to prices and average earnings, in the Abstract of Statistics for Index of Retail Prices, Average Earnings, Social Security Benefits and Contributions7. Prior to the 1973 Social Security Act there was no statutory requirement to uprate social security benefits, and increases were made as deemed necessary on an ad hoc basis. Since the 1973 Act annual upratings, in line with either prices or earnings, have been made of many of the various benefits: one such benefit is retirement pension.

In 1979 there became operative a new pension scheme which includes an earnings related 'additional component' (AC) designed to provide eventually a larger pension for the great majority of the retired population: this scheme will not reach full maturity until well into the 21st century. One of the objectives of the new scheme is progressively to reduce the numbers of elderly who need supplementary benefit in addition to their retirement pension. Amongst the statistical information provided by SR concerning all aspects of retirement pension recipients, contributors and contributions to the NI fund, is profiled the early stages of the build-up of earnings related AC pension entitlement.

The future costs of pensions (both state and occupational) are a major concern of the Departmentespecially as pensions are paid from the contributions of those currently employed. Also, in view of the Secretary of State's review of provision for retirement (see i. below), future pensioners' incomes relative to the rest of the population are under consideration. Using the information described in the preceding two paragraphs as well as that from many other sources (FES, OPCS 1981 population projection, SR's December 1982 statistical inquiry, etc) and various sets of assumptions on future unemployment rates and average increases in real earnings, the Department recently made public projections (prepared by GAD and DHSS's Economic Advisers' Office respectively) of possible future pension costs and pensioners' income9. These projections cover the period up to 2025/2026, bearing in mind that there are young workers who will not reach pension age until 2025.

The future

Difficult problems, both short and long term, beset the social security system. Quantification of these problems and of the overall effects of possible courses of remedial action has relied and will rely upon the provision of timely and relevant statistical information and analysis. For instance, many individuals both pay taxes and receive social security benefit(s): the interaction of the two systems and consideration of the changes that might be contemplated are live political issues. Some families whose breadwinner is unemployed are better off than if he/she were to find work. However, the number of people in the 'unemployment trap' was probably diminished by the 1982 decision to tax unemployment benefit and to end earnings-related supplement to it. Also, relatively poor families whose breadwinner is in work find their family income supplement (plus associated 'passport' benefits) and housing benefit are withdrawn as income rises. The effect is that some are caught in the most extreme form of the 'poverty trap', where a pay rise may actually mean a fall in the money in their pocket. In effect, they suffer a marginal tax rate that can go above 100 per cent. (It

is possible to statistically illustrate this phenomenon through the construction of tax benefit tables. The tax benefit tables, based on various hypothetical family types, demonstrate as gross income rises what the precise consequences are for net income support of the combined effects of increased tax and national insurance payments acting in concert with the progressive withdrawal of means-tested benefits. Estimates of the actual numbers of families facing high marginal tax rates are made through an analysis of the Family Expenditure Survey in which a detailed examination is made of the income, tax and benefit circumstances of each respondent.) This is a basic dilemma for any welfare system. The more tightly targetted the welfare payments are, the larger the disincentives to rise above the poverty line. In addition, there are considerations of take up of benefit rates, the effects of the present multiplicity of benefits, the administrative expenses of assessment of benefit entitlement and payment of benefit, and rates of NI contributions required to maintain the NI Fund. To consider these and other matters, the Secretary of State for Social Services has instituted the most comprehensive examination of the system since the Beveridge Report8 through four separate reviews. These reviews cover:

- i. provision for retirement9;
- ii. the housing benefit scheme;
- iii. supplementary benefit; and
- iv. benefits for children and young people.

Changes may be expected – and could be far reaching. The corresponding changes to the supporting statistical system will need to be carried through with a minimum of delay.

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 - Government Statistical Service, Cmnd. 8236 (HMSO) April 1981 (Price £2.10 net)
- Steering Group on Health Services Information 1st Report. A report on the collection and use of information about hospital clinical activity in the National health service (Körner Report) (HMSO 1982) ISBN 0 11 320816 2 There are five other reports covering other subjects.
- 3. Report of NHS management inquiry (Griffiths Report) Enclosure to Health circular DA(83)38 available from DHSS (Leaflets), PO Box 21, Stanmore, Middx, HA7 1AY.
- 4. DHSS leaflet FB2/Nov 83 provides a very brief description of each of these benefits and the circumstances in which they may be claimed. An updated version is due to be released in November 1984 available from DHSS local offices.
- 5. Attendance allowance is payable to those over two years of age severely disabled (physically or mentally) and who need a great deal of looking after for at least 6 months. The other benefits mentioned in this paragraph are self-explanatory.
- 6. Social Security Statistics 1983 (HMSO 1983) (Price £13.50 net)
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- 8. Social Insurance and allied services (The Beveridge Report) Cmd. 6404 and 6405 (HMSO 1942)
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Life with Eurostat – a personal view

George Clarke, Adviser to the Director General, SOEC

It may be of interest to readers of Statistical News to have a few observations on Community statistics from a former member of the United Kingdom Government Statistical Service (GSS) who, as Adviser to the Director General of the Statistical Office of the European Communities, has now been eleven years in Luxembourg.

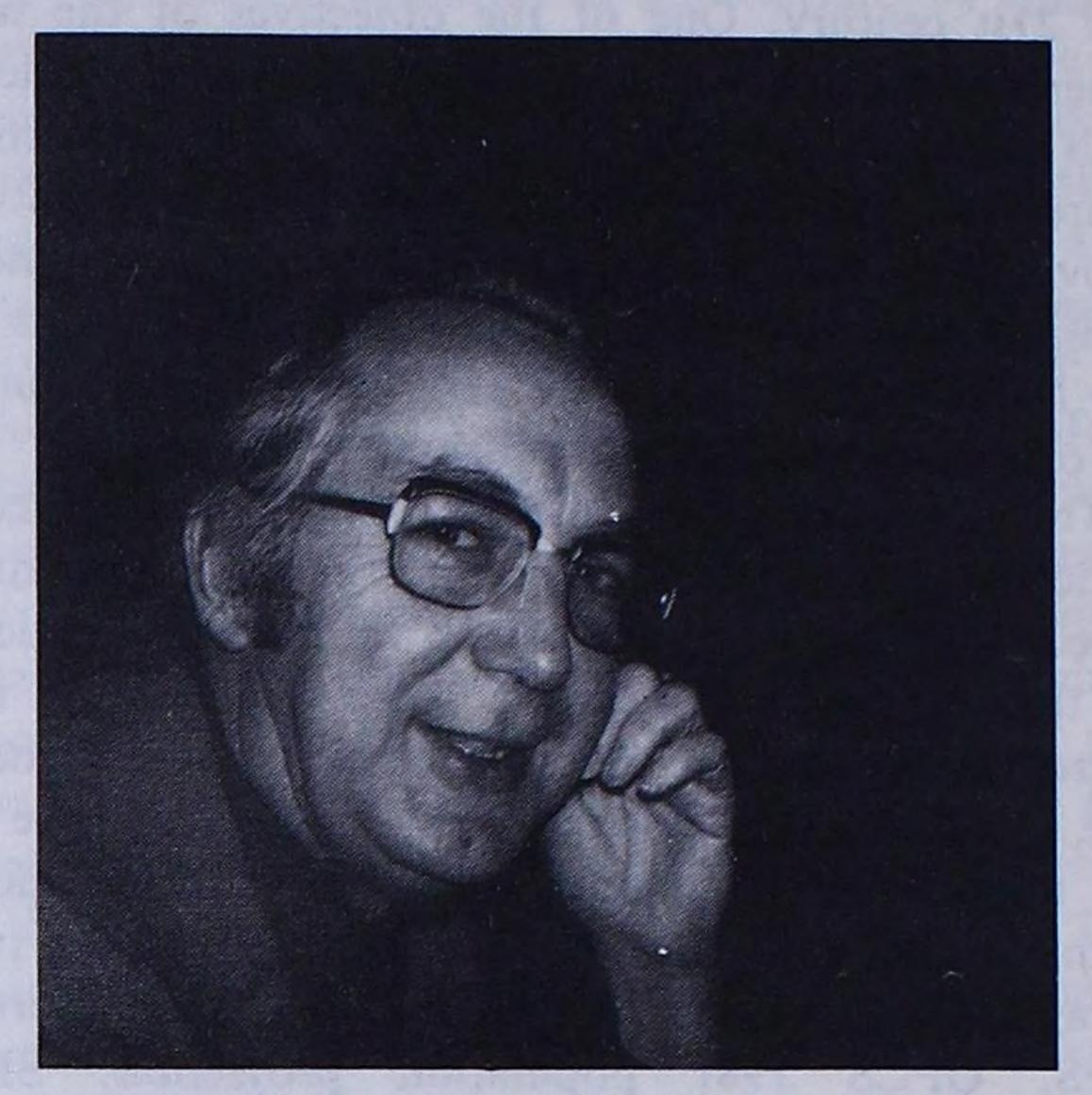
Among the many changes experienced when I joined EUROSTAT¹ was the miniaturisation of certain aspects of the work. My new staff consisted of one secretary (not yet recruited when I arrived), representing roughly one per cent of the staff working with me in London, an office with no registry, no filing system, and do-it-yourself photocopying facilities.

I quickly learned that knowledge was in people's heads and very rarely available on paper, writing minutes to colleagues was regarded as unusual, slow, inefficient, and a largely superfluous form of communication. Papers were written, with an air of finality, in French. Discussions in offices were also in French, with German heard very much in the corridor and in many working areas of the Office. English was virtually non-existent but has since become widespread, in part because two Directors General in recent years have used English as their principal working language. Nevertheless, much Civil Service jargon has had to be abandoned in favour of a more simple straightforward English to which has been added a new vocabulary of 'international' English - words like 'mission' which concerns business trips rather than evangelism or counter-espionage, 'fonctionnaire' who appears to be more of a bureaucrat and less servile than a civil servant, and so on.

Words such as 'concertation' (action of agreeing to act together) and 'conjuncture' (short-term economic trends) have also crept in, and we have yet to see whether they and words such as 'informatics' (information processing) and 'telematics' (computerised telecommunications), used very frequently here, will survive. The art of communication in a multi-lingual organisation is particularly important and difficult.

In offering observations on life with EUROSTAT I have had to make a choice from a wide range of possible subjects and I have chosen to limit my remarks to the following:

- the role of EUROSTAT
- the structure and size of EUROSTAT
- the statistical programme
- relations with the GSS
- some views on recent and future developments.



George Clarke entered the Civil Service in 1940. After the war he began statistical work in the then Ministry of Supply in 1949, moving to what is now the Department of Energy as Assistant Statistician in 1954. He was a Chief Statistician for six years in that Department before going to Luxembourg in 1973.

In making this choice, I have assumed that many readers know something about the circumstances in which we carry out our work, for example:

- the distance that separates us from the policy departments in Brussels
- the large proportion of our effort that has to go into maintaining essential contacts with Member States, Brussels and the international organisations
- the nature and importance of our budget for studies and surveys
- -the heavy involvement of staff on the one hand in the technical non-statistical aspects of data processing and, on the other, in world-wide international statistical projects (classifications, international comparisons of prices (ICP), system of national accounts (SNA).

For those readers wishing to know more of this background, the 1981 paper given to the Austrian Statistical Society 'The Statistical System of the European Communities' gives a general description and our regular 'house journal' – EUROSTAT News is a good continuing source of information about our activities.²

The role of Eurostat – not an international statistical organisation

EUROSTAT's primary function, like that of a national statistical service, is to provide a statistical service to a policy making and administrative body, the Commission of the European Communities. This means that we have many problems that we share with national services; priorities to get the right balance between making the best of the statistics that are to hand and providing resources for development work to face the future requirements, giving advice on the possibilities and limitations of statistics for particular policy purposes, etc.

However, the Community is historically perhaps still in an embryonic state and much emphasis in the past two decades in EUROSTAT has been necessarily placed on the basic, and sometimes not very exciting, task of organising the collection of basic material from the Member States in such a way that the data can be used for Community purposes. With each new Member State this task begins afresh.

For Community purposes the national statistics have to be additive and have minimum standards of comparability. Here of course we do have functions which are similar to those of the international organisations, but the standards which we and the national statistical services have to define and adhere to have to be more rigorous because of the policy and administrative uses of the data.

In the spirit of the Treaties – 'to lay the foundations of an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe' – EUROSTAT is daily engaged on a much longer term task, that of helping the national statistical systems to move closer to each other.

But in addition to the tasks already described, EUROSTAT, reflected in its title 'Statistical Office of the European Communities' provides a statistical service beyond the boundaries of the Commission in Brussels. This service was initially centred on its publications. These are still numerous and comprehensive—about 100 titles a year—and sales have been very buoyant, but a significant part of total revenues now comes from the newer forms of dissemination—microfilm, magnetic tapes and on-line services.

The on-line service, originally intended to bridge the gap between EUROSTAT and the Commission services in Brussels has become virtually world-wide through the use of the commercial 'hosts', who sell access to extracts of EUROSTAT data bases installed on their own computers and periodically updated.

Structure - more chiefs than indians

The current organisation chart of EUROSTAT is shown on the following page. EUROSTAT has twenty senior management posts (i.e. A3 and above, roughly corresponding to Chief Statistician and above). Add to these another 88 professional graduates (A staff) and you have well over one hundred statisticians. There are also executive and secretarial staff but the A's outnumber the commis (clerical staff) by a ratio of four to one. This inverted pyramid is only to a very small degree due to the numbers having been crunched once before they reach us—ninety-five per cent of our two thousand megabyte annual input is on magnetic tape. For some obscure reason it has apparently been relatively easier to obtain Council blessing for additional A posts than for the requisite supporting staff.

The good side of this coin is that added incentive has been given to computerisation—the reverse side is that, once away from the computer, chasing, checking input and output, i.e. timeliness and quality, often goes by default.

The allocation of staff may also appear rather strange to United Kingdom eyes. It is roughly as follows:

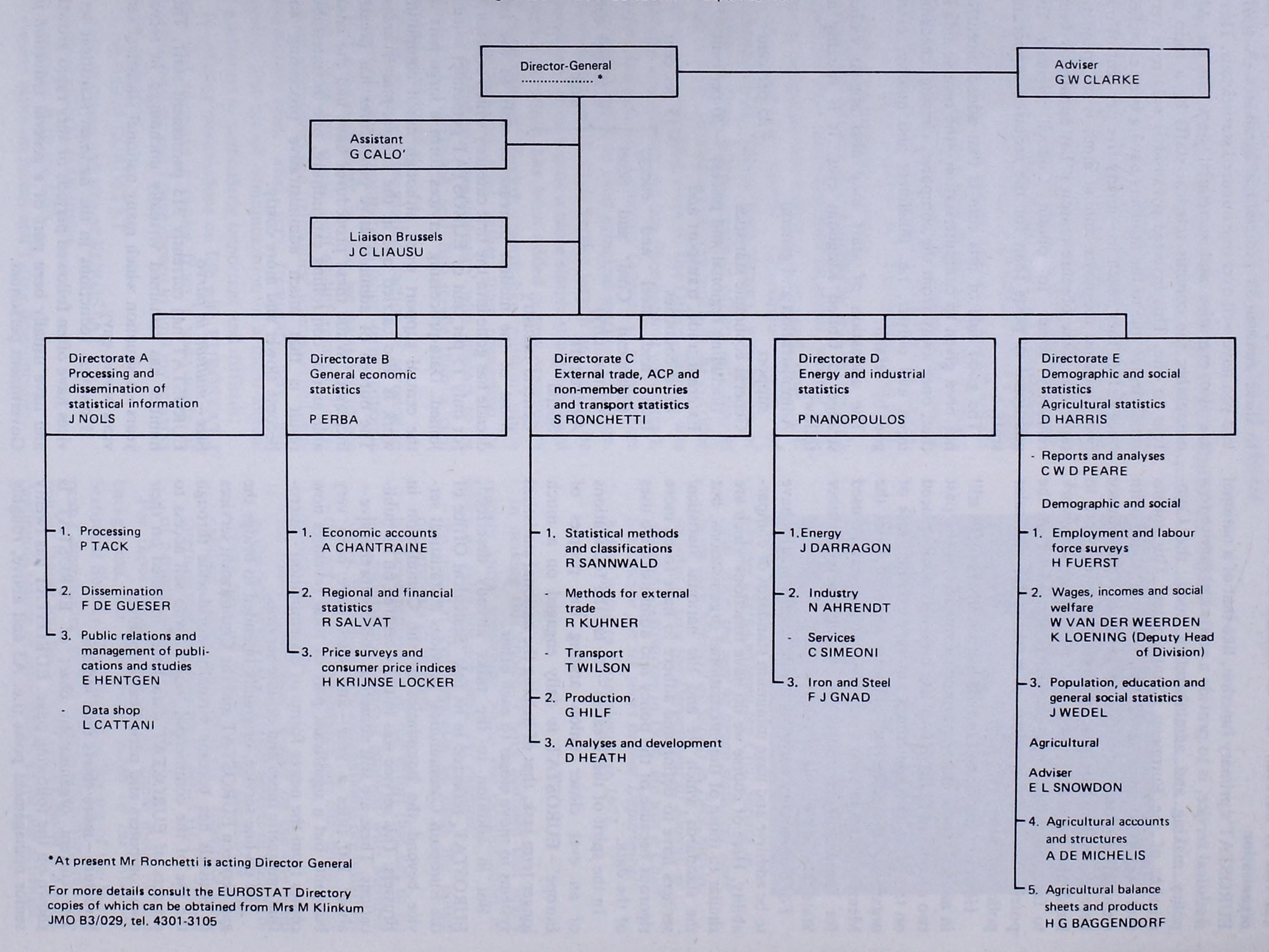
Administration and general -25 per cent support General economic statistics (including regional and prices) - 20 per cent External trade, transport and -15 per cent third countries energy Iron and steel and (European Coal Steel and -10 per cent Community) each Agriculture Social General industry

Most of the modest increase in staff in the last decade has gone into the first category which accounted for only 15 per cent of EUROSTAT personnel when I joined. Data-processing services form a large part of the central support work although much computing work is also carried out in the subject-matter areas. The burden of administrative procedures has greatly increased. While these procedures have had the laudable aim of controlling expenditure, one incontestable result is that much administrative processing has become slower and more costly.

Size - multum in parvo

EUROSTAT has currently 315 permanent staff. This number has remained virtually unchanged in recent years – a situation which many national statistical services would envy.

However, reductions in the national statistical services have often followed periods of very rapid growth and have usually been part of a general reduction in Government personnel.



EUROSTAT on the other hand has failed to keep pace with the growth of the Community and its commitments. For example, in sectors such as fisheries and textiles there have been new staff for Brussels but none for EUROSTAT. As a result EUROSTAT in recent years has significantly diminished in relative size in an expanding Commission, in spite of handling and disseminating many times the quantity of data that was treated in the early and mid-seventies. The number of senior management posts in EUROSTAT has fallen from 24 in 1970 to 20 currently.

Thus within the spectrum, centralisation-decentralisation, I would now place EUROSTAT as a semicentralised statistical service. In many respects we remain close to the centralised systems but in the Commission in Brussels there are now many statistical or quasi-statistical services who not only collect a considerable volume of quantitative data (as is evidenced by our statistical programme) but also carry out basic analytical interpretative tasks which in the United Kingdom are carried out by members of the GSS.

The statistical programme - a beacon or a burden?

As a consequence of the developments I have already described, two important themes are to be found in the latest statistical programme of the European Communities approved by the Commission in July this year.

They are:

- -how to meet increasing demands for Community statistics when resources for the statistical services in EUROSTAT and in the Member States are being reduced either absolutely or relatively
- providing guidelines for EUROSTAT's co-ordinating role in ensuring an efficient statistical system which involves the Member States, the Commission's services in Brussels (as producers as well as users of statistics), and the international organisations.

Ten years ago EUROSTAT produced the first of this regular series of programmes. Each programme sets out policy and priority guidelines for the coming years, accompanied by detailed descriptions of the 150 or so work areas which constitute the building blocks of the Community's statistical system.

The programmes are multi-purpose, which means that they often fall short of what is ideally required for any single purpose.

Among the intended purposes one can list the following:

For those outside EUROSTAT:

- an opportunity for regular re-appraisal and approval by the Commission, and the other institutions, of Community statistical policy and work-load

- a vade-mecum to show what the Office does and what it plans to do
- a forum for consultation between producers and users of Community statistics
- a prospectus which provides a basis for judgement for the allocation of resources for Community statistics
- an opportunity for Member States statistical services to integrate Community needs into their own planning.

For internal purposes:

- -a forum for obtaining consensus in EUROSTAT as regards the general lines of its statistical policies and priorities in the coming years
- an obligation on every official responsible for a work area regularly to reassess and explain plans for that area in the light of those general policies and priorities
- a means of promoting internal co-ordination
- an instrument for the analysis and the allocation of resource uses within EUROSTAT.

One definition of a programme is that 'of a descriptive notice, issued beforehand, of any formal proceedings, as a festive celebration'. There is no entertainment value in our programme, and many colleagues here regard it as a bureaucratic chore designed to give employment to the Adviser to the Director General.

However, I believe that a programme serves a number of useful purposes and among the more important—not included in the above list—is the very salutary exercise of looking back over previous programmes to see what went right and what went wrong and to try to draw conclusions which can help in planning for the future.

Relations with the GSS - don't shoot the pianist

A question not often posed by statisticians of other Member States but a recurrent theme with United Kingdom statisticians is of the generic 'How does our United Kingdom performance compare with that of other Member States'.

In general terms, the answer has been given by Mr Pieter de Geus, until quite recently our Director General who, at the 150th Anniversary Conference of the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) in London³, said:

'Thanks to a considerable and sustained effort on the part of British statisticians, the integration of United Kingdom official statistics into the European Community system has been carried out successfully. The Community statistical system, which is still historically at an early stage of development, is enjoying a growing reputation in international circles. This is due to the benefits of the full and very close co-operation we get from all the Member States; due also to the skill and experience which the national statisticians have built up for Community purposes – and I am pleased to be able publicly to acknowledge the high value of the British contribution'.

I would like to second that view and add some further comments. It was not easy for EUROSTAT and the GSS to work well together in the early seventies in spite of a stock of goodwill on both sides. There was suspicion in EUROSTAT that the new Member States would rock the boat by calling into question Community statistical norms established by the Six.

Language and other barriers to mutual understanding had to be overcome at all levels of operation. I recall a number of bones of contention between the United Kingdom and EUROSTAT—not all of which have disappeared—for example, seasonal adjustments, the burden of the surveys of the structure of earnings and of those on labour costs, balance of payments details, difficulties over national accounts and inputoutput tables—but the counterpart of a list of this nature can be drawn up in respect of any of the Member States.

The British insistence on keeping costs down and questioning the policy relevance of demands has been effective. Some EUROSTAT work, for example on the harmonisation of classifications, has encouraged United Kingdom statisticians to attach more importance to certain neglected aspects.

Looking back, particularly to the deliberations of Moser and Beesley in their 1973 paper to the RSS⁴, I would conclude that co-ordination of the GSS approach to Community statistics has been effective, that the impact of entry into the Community has been less dramatic than expected thanks, in part, to flexibility shown by EUROSTAT colleagues in their approach to problems specific to the United Kingdom. Above all I believe that the overall effect has been beneficial to the GSS, the other national statistical services and to EUROSTAT. There is emerging a Community statistical 'club' where a sense of common purpose and interest brings the members closer together than any formal ties. I believe that 'we in the European Community' is finding its place alongside 'we in the United Kingdom' in the thoughts and expressions of British statisticians.

Recent and future developments - clouds behind the silver lining

Last year's commemorative brochure⁵ attempted to chart the progress Community statistics have made in the last thirty years and I will not list again here the various achievements and phases of development.

What sort of progress can we look forward to in the coming decades? The immediate outlook as I write is not very bright. Both the Community and statistics (world-wide) are in troubled times. EUROSTAT has

had its own particular difficulties. There have been too frequent changes in the leadership—in my eleven years here, nearly four have been spent in expectation of the departure, or the arrival of a Director General—we are now waiting for number four. Five Commissioners with differing portfolios have been responsible for the Office during this period and an unknown member with an unknown portfolio will take charge of the Office in 1985. In addition, although in the past we have had smaller slices of an expanding cake, we now face even smaller slices at present as the Commission budget for operational purposes is squeezed.

However, to echo one eminent British statistician, whereas a week in politics is a long time, a year in statistics can be very short. I also belong to the curious school of thought which argues that results attract resources and not vice versa.

What results should statisticians in the Community aim for in coming years?

First to reassert or strengthen their role as 'assessors' of statistics and to demonstrate the utility as well as the limitations of the data. This means more analysis, interpretation, value judgements, forecasting and advice on policies. All this work of course to be carried out in an independent and objective manner. Obviously, knowledge of the subject matter is essential.

If the statistician gains more authority as the arbiter and assessor on the *uses* of statistics he is more likely to have the necessary influence on which data should be collected and how it should be collected (e.g. ensuring statistical norms are adequately considered in the organisation of collection of administrative data).

Thirdly, much more work on the standardisation, integration and composition of statistical norms will be necessary if official statistics are to retain their identity and yet flow freely through general information systems alongside data with less well-defined characteristics.

Last, while national statistical networks and data banks may not continue in isolation but integrated into more general information networks and bases, there will probably be a growth in the international exchange of statistical data and a place for international statistical networks—indeed, a world-wide network on trade statistics is already partially operative. In this field of automatic international data transmission the importance of adherence to international statistical norms which allow the easy transfer and use of data beyond national frontiers will become paramount.

These arguments may be rephrased by saying that the statistician should reassert his particular professional skills, and become more closely involved with the administrative and policy environment in which the figures are used. There will still be the need for, and the need to know about, the more specialised aspects

of informatics, telematics, information documentation brokering and publicity as they relate to statistics. However, I claim that, in the coming era of telematics the statistician's best vantage point, if he wishes to retain the identity of statistical data and of his own profession, is to be much more to the fore at the point of use. This is the only sure way to continue to exercise influence and authority over all the parts of the statistical systems in what is sometimes called the information age.

In EUROSTAT there are encouraging signs that in certain areas we are becoming more involved in the use of our statistics in a policy environment, although many of our statisticians still have to divert too much of their energies to non-statistical tasks, such as the technical aspects of data processing. 'Investment' projects such as world nomenclature work and on other statistical norms are essential but there is a long and patient wait before the value of this work becomes evident at the point of use by policy makers.

As regards the GSS, sometimes from a distance one gets the impression that, traumatized by the prospect and the impact of reductions in resources, the United Kingdom statistician is tending to spend less time as an analyst, forecaster and policy adviser maximising the benefits of his data and more time and resources seeking ever-diminishing returns in minimizing the cost of collection. I hope I am wrong, for in many respects I feel that the GSS has set very high standards—particularly in ensuring that its figures, and its expertise are an integral part of policy making.

Postscript - smart lads wanted

These observations have been written for a United Kingdom readership but they, together with the following concluding comment, can be addressed to readers in some other Member States.

My last comment goes back to the structure of the Office. The United Kingdom contribution is poor in terms of the current size of the British cohort in EUROSTAT-only 9 per cent. It is also potentially

very weak, for the younger United Kingdom statisticians in post are far too few and too junior in grade to succeed to the vacancies created by the departure of senior British staff in the years ahead. As there are very suitable internal candidates from other nationalities waiting to be promoted, any direct recruitment (parachuting) of senior staff from outside obviously hinders the process of reducing the long waiting period for internal promotees. Alongside this problem is the one of ensuring that a reasonable proportion of our staff have had, at some stage, experience in working in national statistical offices.

The long-term answer is to encourage young national statisticians to take the Commission competition and to promote exchanges on a temporary basis. Alas, although these solutions are recognised as the correct ones, the drift appears to be in the wrong direction.

If young national statisticians particularly from some of the larger Member States cannot be persuaded to join us in sufficient numbers then the resulting imbalance and the isolation from national statistical services will be very difficult to redress.

On all these topics I am grateful for this opportunity to give some personal views, which are obviously not necessarily those of my colleagues or the Commission authorities. I should be pleased to try to answer, again on a personal basis, any points anyone wishes to raise and I am sure that my colleagues on EUROSTAT News would try to find room for any interesting views that a United Kingdom statistician may wish to volunteer on Community statistics as he sees them.

References

- EUROSTAT is a convenient multi-language acronym which avoids the need in multi-language work to keep switching between the English SOEC, French OSCE, German SAEG, Italian ISCE, etc.
- Copies of the paper referred to and EUROSTAT News can be obtained from JMO B3/092, L2920 Luxembourg, Telephone: 4301-2038.
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- 'United Kingdom official statistics and the European Communities', by Sir Claus Moser and Ian H Beesley. Reprinted from the Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Vol 136, Pt 4, 1973 (pp 539-582).
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User-friendly survey analysis package for micro-computers

M C Walmsley, Statistician, Overseas Development Administration

Introduction

The Overseas Development Administration (ODA) is financing, through its Economic and Social Committee for Overseas Research, the development of an integrated user-friendly survey analysis package for use on micro-computers. The project, which is being undertaken at the Applied Statistics Research Unit (ASRU), University of Kent, began in October 1982 and is planned to end in September 1985. This article discusses the background to the project, some of the issues involved and reports on progress made to date.

Background to the project

The need for generalised computer software to process data derived from complex survey designs which is simple to use, has long been a requirement for the survey practitioner. This need is perhaps greatest in developing countries which have had continual problems with data processing. Although significant progress has been made over recent years in the design of statistical software, much of this development has been for use on mainframe and other large computer installations and many developing countries have not, in general, been able to benefit from it. There have been various reasons for this. First, the software available has not been either sufficiently portable or well enough supported for general use overseas. Second, software has not been designed to take into account the special data problems experienced in developing countries which include the poor quality of basic data, inexperienced and inaccurate data-punch staff, and the need to produce grossed up results from complex sampling designs. Third, acquisition costs have been high, in terms of both the purchase price or licence fees, and the training requirements. The latter can be of particular significance as a result of the high turnover of data processing (DP) staff in developing countries. At the same time, there are many examples of packages supplied to countries which have proved to be too difficult to be used effectively by the statisticians and computer personnel available to developing countries.

Delays in the batch processing of survey data in developing countries are well documented and present a sorry picture. In many instances, priority for computing resources is given to basic accounting functions such as government payroll. Statistical processing often has to take a lower priority. Where statistics is given some priority, a typical scenario is the expatriate pro-

grammer or systems analyst, often funded from overseas aid, working for two years on the design and management of bespoke suites of programmes to process and analyse an *ad hoc* survey on out of date equipment.

At the same time, the track record of mainframe packages available for data processing leaves much to be desired. The United Nations has been active in promoting the COCENTS tabulation package and the related suite of editing and validation programmes. Although widely available, these are arguably not easy to use or rich in facilities. The ODA has supported the installation and conversion of the Rothamsted General Survey Programme (RGSP) in a number of developing countries. But these and other packages, although their contribution to data processing is not to be underestimated, nevertheless leave much to be desired in terms of features for survey processing and their user-friendliness. They are often system dependent and require a considerable training input to be used effectively, while the high turnover in government computing staff in developing countries compounds the problems of maintaining an effective local capability for data processing.

Recent developments in micro-computing technology have changed the outlook for developing countries as far as data processing is concerned. On the one hand, the cost of computing facilities has fallen dramatically as a result of technological developments, principally, the increased power of both micro-computers and the capacity of data storage systems, particularly Winchester disc technology. On the other hand, the relative reliability and robustness of micro-computer equipment in adverse climatic conditions means they can be operated without air-conditioning in the humid conditions experienced in many developing countries.

These hardware developments bring within grasp the practicality of an effective means for survey data processing and analysis in both developing and developed countries alike. This goal can only be fully achieved, however, if appropriate software is available to meet the requirements of developing countries. Through the close contacts that have been built up with the statistical services overseas, the ODA has long realised the need for such software. It was largely these developments which formed the background to the present research.

Specifications

The main requirements for a survey package for developing countries can be summarised as follows:

1 It should be able to cope with the basic operations of:

validation and verification of data editing and imputation data transformation tabulation and table manipulation population estimates error estimation and statistical analysis

- 2 It should be 'user-friendly' to the extent of providing on-line manual and help facilities as well as assisting the user through the programme. The user should also be entirely divorced from the computer's operating and filing systems. If the package is to be used successfully in developing countries, the training needed to use the package must be an absolute minimum.
- 3 Variate labels and the coding structure must be held within the programme as a data dictionary and be easily accessible
- 4 It should have a facility to help with survey management, in particular it should assist with the task of addressing questionnaires and monitoring them during the survey operation
- 5 The system for deriving population estimates from samples should cope with the estimation of sampling errors for different sample designs. These requirements are of course simple to formulate but complex to implement
- 6 The software should be portable
- 7 It should have a multi-user facility, particularly for data input
- 8 The table manipulation facilities should be powerful enough to enable 'camera ready' copy to be produced. Ideally, the software should enable a report to be written around tables.

The decision to support the development of completely new software was made for a number of reasons. First, an initial evaluation of available software indicated that conversion of existing software was likely to be time consuming and more expensive than the development of new software. Moreover, a modified package would not have the above range of features which were considered ideal for an integrated survey system for developing countries. At the same time, it was considered feasible to complete the development of a comprehensive package in the APL programming language in two years, which was the time scale it was considered the software should become available if it was to be useful.

Choice of APL

The choice of APL as the programming language for the development of the software was an integral part of the project proposal as formulated and submitted to the ODA. The technical reasons for using APL can be summarized as follows:

- 1 APL is a language which is both very powerful and flexible. It is array-structured and its features make it particularly appropriate for scientific and statistical applications
- 2 The particular characteristics of a 'user-friendly' system which were considered important in the development context had already been developed at the Applied Statistics and Research Unit in APL. These features utilised the system of dynamic loading of functions and variables which are available in APL. These characteristics could not be easily achieved in other high level languages such as BASIC, COBOL or FORTRAN
- 3 Productivity. APL is a very efficient language for developing complex systems. It permits the creation of user-defined functions which can be called by other functions within any APL workspace. Estimates of the time taken to develop equivalent systems in other languages, range from two to three times more when compared with APL. Development of a new system in APL was therefore considered a feasible option on cost grounds. It is almost certain that cost considerations would not have permitted the development of the software in an alternative computer language
- 4 Portability. Standard versions of APL exist which make systems developed in APL highly portable even though interpreters may differ.

The choice of APL was not however taken without some reservations. One reservation was speed. Systems developed in APL can be slow because APL is an interpreted, not a compiled language. Second, APL was not generally available on micro-computers at the time the project was agreed. Third, APL systems tend to be more specialised and more expensive than non-APL systems. After two years of development, our reservations on these points are less. Considerable thought and experimentation has gone into the overall database design to ensure tabulation speeds are satisfactory; APL is becoming available on a wide range of the newer 16 bit micro-computers; while the price of APL interpreters is becoming cheaper for certain classes of machines.

Resources provided

The first phase of the project ran from October 1982 to September 1984. Resources totalling four man-years

have been provided. The project director, Professor Barrie Wetherill, has been funded on a half-time basis together with one full-time and one half-time research assistant. An amount of funds has also been allocated for consultancy and documentation.

The cost of the first two-year phase of the project is approximately £80,000, of which £20,000 has been spent on micro-computer equipment. ODA has agreed to fund the project for a further year to extend the facilities of the package particularly in the areas of variance analysis and data imputation and to make it available on a wider range of equipment.

Progress to date

Development work on four of the five basic modules has now been completed. A brief description of the package is set out below:

Survey set-up

The user is guided through a series of questions and answers to define the survey record structure and relationships between records in the case of hierarchical surveys. No theoretical limits are placed on the number of record types or levels although equipment and practical considerations may do so. Once the structure has been defined, the user is prompted for the variable number, name, type (integer, real, character, date, time and list) and limits. Some flexibility is permitted in this stage, for example, variables can be deleted, new variables inserted, limits changed and so on. Missing values are catered for; the package will permit any number of different characters to be set for missing values. Complex logical checks may be set in SET-UP and a comprehensive set of Boolian operators is permitted.

Data entry and validation

Facilities now exist within the package for data input in free or fixed format with data entry from the keyboard or an external file. The multi-user capability of the software permits a number of data input stations with an optional verification facility. A data base editor has been developed which allows records to be found in accordance with predefined functions and there is flexibility in the way variables can be listed. A global 'search and replace' facility is also included in this module.

Data exploration and tabulation

This module of the package covers tabulation, grouping of variates, and labelling. Tables can be easily specified, either by variable name or number and are automatically saved when created. Tables of counts (frequencies), totals, minima, maxima and means may be specified in the same pass of the data. A simple method of defining filters has been developed for tabulation.

Operations on tables

Extensive table manipulation facilities are included in the OPERATE module of the package. Tables may be added, subtracted, multiplied and divided. Operations on table rows and columns are also permitted. Useful features include a system for setting table headings and an editor which allows changes to be made to tables in a similar way to the way a word-processor manipulates text.

User-friendly attributes

Three levels of help facilities are incorporated in the package. First, there is a basic 'HELP' or 'SOS' facility which gives information on 'what to do next'. Second, the manual is held on-line and can be accessed at any part of the programme. Third, an 'EXPLAIN' facility exists to give explanations of the terminology used in the package.

The software is menu driven, but has some elements common to command driven systems. Thus users who become familiar with the package have the facility to switch off menus and shorten prompts. Typing ahead is permitted and commands can be stacked. Commands incorrectly spelt are matched against the command set and are executed if no alternative option exists.

Field testing

One interesting aspect of the project was the intention to field-test the package in at least one developing country while the software was being developed. The Vanuatu Government has agreed to act as a test-site for the survey package for the processing and analysis of their current round of agricultural censuses and surveys.

The remoteness of the site for the United Kingdom and lack of local servicing facilities made considerable demands of the system specification. Duplication of the complete system was considered, but in the event the system finally agreed was based around a Micro-APL Spectrum, a multi-user 16 bit micro-computer with 500K RAM, two 36 megabyte Winchester discs, each with its own tape back-up system and two (recently increased to three) VDU's.

The Vanuatu test-site has been particularly valuable for the development of the package. The practical problems raised in processing a considerable number of agricultural surveys, some with complex hierarchical record structures have led to many useful facilities being added to the package, particularly in the survey set-up and data input routines. The testing has also resulted in the elimination of many software bugs, some of which were very obscure.

As far as the equipment is concerned, it is interesting to note that the system has been in continual operation for over a year, even though parts of the system have required replacement. A power supply to one disc failed; an input/output circuit board for one tape unit failed; and one disc gave trouble because of dust on the optical controlling system. In each case, faults were rectified by sending replacement parts from the United Kingdom or by guidance on maintenance. The duplication of the disc units has proved very useful in the identification of faults as it has permitted parts to be swapped between units.

One interesting aspect of this project is the role the statistician plays. He is effectively involved in the planning and execution of a number of different surveys; in the organisation of data entry, tabulating and statistical analysis; and in ensuring the computer equipment is operational. The benefits are of course more control of data and a greatly enhanced flexibility in responding to requests for specific information. The responsibility, however, is far greater, as work originally passed onto DP personnel is now being undertaken by the statistician.

In addition to Vanuatu, the package has been used by the ODA Statistics Division for the processing of the Anguilla Census. This proved to be a particularly valuable test for refining the system of reading in data from fixed format records.

A second overseas test site is also being established in Zambia for the processing of survey data collected from an integrated rural development project.

Availability

The package is planned to be released on 1 January 1985 and will be known as U-SP. It is to be made available initially on machines running APL 68000 (Micro-APL Spectrum, Sage, Wicat and other 68000 machines); versions for the IBM XT running APL*PLUS; and machines running UNIX and Dialog APL (ICL PERQ, Torch, Bleasdale et al) will follow shortly thereafter. Arrangements for support and maintenance of the package will be made. The translation into French and other languages is also being examined.

Future developments

The development of the software to include routines for population estimates, error estimation and statistical analysis is now being undertaken by ASRU. Further work on data imputation and survey administration will also be undertaken and incorporated into the package in due course.

The development work has thrown up a number of statistical problems for which current theory is of little help. For example, the current state of knowledge on the further analysis of survey data is generally unsatisfactory. In many instances, it can be shown that serious biases can be present due to the fact that with

stratification or clustering, simple random sampling does not hold.¹ The use of regression and contingency analysis in such cases is clearly dangerous. It also raises the question of the advisability of linking database systems and statistical analysis packages where, almost inevitably, the structure of the original data is lost. Further research into these questions is beyond the scope of the present project, but it is clearly needed.

A further area of work which is important from the developing country point of view is an investigation into the separate techniques available to control the quality of data input for survey analysis. These techniques involve, *inter alia*, sampling inspection, quality control procedures and logical checks as developed by Fellegi and Holt.² If these techniques are to be of general use, an 'expert systems' approach is essential. The extent to which these techniques can be incorporated into the software will be examined over the next year.

Summary

The basic objective of developing a powerful interactive user-friendly system for the processing and analysing surveys has broadly been achieved within a limited time and with limited resources. Due credit must be given to the small and dedicated team at ASRU for their work. Not all the original objectives set for the first two years of the project were fully achieved but many additional features which have evolved out of the extensive testing programme have been incorporated into the package.

The choice of APL as the programming language has enabled the software development to proceed flexibly and has enabled substantial revisions to be made, for example in data base design, where theory did not work in practice. The initial reservations over using APL have, in the event, not proved to be a serious problem.

The increased use of micro-computers and software such as U-SP will inevitably change the role of the statistician. The benefits derived from giving the statistician more control over his data and processing requirements with the consequent need for less reliance on data processing personnel will have the drawback that the statistician is responsible for all the details of survey design execution and processing including data back-up and security. More often than not, he will also have to sort out the micro-computer as well. Let us hope the advantages gained will outweigh these consequential drawbacks.

References

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Data protection: an update

Terry Orchard, Statistician, Central Statistical Office

Introduction

Statistical News 64.4 (February 1984) contains an article by Ashley Tebbutt which described the main features of the Data Protection Bill, then passing through Parliament. The Data Protection Act has now received Royal Assent and a Data Protection Registrar, Eric Howe of the National Computing Centre, has been appointed. This article; up-dates the previous one by indicating the changes made to the legislation in the final stages of its passage through Parliament; gives an expected timetable of events; and re-iterates what the Act implies for data users in the Government Statistical Service.

Amendments made to the legislation

There were eight major sets of amendments in the final stages of the passage of the legislation through Parliament. These are as follows:

- a. Examination marks
 - The time limit for complying with requests for subject access to personal data consisting of examination marks, made in the period before the results of the examination are announced, is extended to be the shorter of forty days after the date of announcement or five months after receipt of the request. Any user taking advantage of this extended period to grant access must, however, provide the subject with a copy of all data held since receipt of the request, even if some have since been removed from the computer.
- b. Disclosure of data about a person's health
 The amendment allows for restrictions to be imposed upon the circumstances in which health data may be disclosed by giving the Home Secretary the power to ensure that any order modifying the third data protection principle may also modify the application of any of the exemptions from the non-disclosure provisions.
- c. Composition of the Tribunal
 The requirement that the members of the Tribunal should include data processing experts has been dropped. The requirement now is that the Tribunal should consist of equal numbers of persons to represent the interests of data users and of persons to represent the interests of data subjects.

d. Unregistered use by the servants or agents of a data user

Previously, the servants or agents of data users were prohibited from obtaining, disclosing or transferring data other than as described in the entry in the Register. The amendment extends these prohibitions to the use of data.

e. Inaccurate data received from a third party

Where data have been marked to indicate that they have been received from the data subject or from a third party and, if appropriate, have been marked to show that the subject disputes their accuracy, the user will be protected from claims for compensation for damage. But the markers will provide no protection against a court order for the rectification or erasure of such marked data, or the addition of a corrective statement. Previously these powers only applied to unmarked data. (The Registrar's powers, however, remain limited to unmarked data.)

f. Compensation for distress

The amendments give data subjects who suffer damage as a result of inaccurate data or the unauthorised loss, destruction or disclosure of data, the right to claim compensation for the distress caused as well as for the damage.

g. General duties of the Registrar

Two more statutorily defined duties of the Registrar were added. He now has to consider all substantial complaints that any of the data protection principles or any provision of the Act have been, or are being, contravened and to inform the complainant of the result of his considerations and of any action he proposes to take. He also has to encourage trade associations or other bodies representing data users to prepare, and to disseminate to their members, codes of practice for guidance in complying with the data protection principles.

h. Application to old data

The amendment extends the rights of data subjects to compensation for damage caused by inaccurate data to data which have been held by a data user since before the end of the transitional period. A court may also order the rectification or erasure of such data. The Registrar's powers are, however, limited to data held since the end of that period.

The timetable

Since the Act received Royal Assent on 12 July 1984, data subjects can now seek compensation for damage and distress caused by the loss of or the unauthorised destruction of, access to or disclosure of data, and courts may order the erasure of the data. These provisions took effect two months after the Act was passed. However, the legislation will not take full effect until the end of the transitional period as laid down in the Act and this is expected to be the middle of 1987.

The key date in the timetable is the 'Appointed Day'. This is a date which will be set by the Home Secretary to fix the start of the commencement and transitional period for registration. The current best guess of this date is mid-1985, since it is thought that the Registrar will take approximately twelve months to appoint his staff, arrange accommodation, formulate procedures and so on. There are two other important dates – six months after the Appointed Day and two years after the Appointed Day.

During the first period of six months all data users will have to apply for registration but it will not be an offence to operate without having an entry in the register until the end of the period. The provisions in the Act relating to inaccurate data are also inapplicable in the period. Thus data subjects cannot claim compensation for damage caused by inaccurate data and courts cannot order the correction or erasure of inaccurate data.

During the period of two years beginning with the Appointed Day the Registrar can only refuse to accept an application for registration if he thinks the particulars proposed do not give sufficient information. He also cannot issue enforcement, de-registration, or transfer prohibition notices which have to be complied with before the end of the period. The data subjects' right of access to personal data is also not enforceable during the period.

Complying with the provisions of the Act

For the purposes of the Act each government department is treated separately from any other government department and each has the same obligations and liabilities as a private person excepting that they are not liable to prosecution under the Act. Individual civil servants are regarded as servants of the government department for whom they work and they thus have the same obligations and liabilities as any other servant or agent of a data user.

The first step to be taken is to decide which data have to be registered. That is which consist of information relating to living individuals who can be identified from the information, or from it and other information in the possession of the data user.

Departments will then have to decide whether to register as a single entity or, where the personal data are held for a number of purposes, to make a separate registration for each purpose. For each set of data to be registered it will be necessary to prepare a description of the purposes for which the data are held, the sources of the data, the persons to whom the data are disclosed, and the countries to which the data are transferred.

Procedures for giving data subjects access to data relating to themselves will have to be established. The right of access is to all data described in the entry in the register including any inactive data which have been archived, and the data must be supplied in an intelligible form. It will also be necessary to have arrangements to verify data subjects' right of access to the data and to check that the information supplied does not relate to any other data subject.

Data used for statistics and research are exempt from the subject access provisions provided that they are not used or disclosed for any other purpose and that individuals cannot be identified from the statistics or from the results of the research.

Departments may also feel it is sensible to set up procedures to monitor their compliance with the data protection principles. These procedures may include checks on the uses of data, the persons to whom the data are disclosed or transferred, and on the accuracy of the data.

It is impossible to say now what will be the effect of the Act when the provisions are fully implemented because there is much which depends on the attitude of the Registrar. The Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency (CCTA) is issuing guidance to departments and is seeking to co-ordinate a common approach to the implementation of the legislation. Their contacts are with the computing staff in departments but these have been asked to pass the information on to data users. The Civil Service College is also to run a series of seminars and courses on the effects of the Act.

The eight data-protection principles

- 1. The information to be contained in personal data shall be obtained, and personal data shall be processed, fairly and lawfully.
- 2. Personal data shall be held only for one or more specified and lawful purposes.
- Personal data held for any purpose or purposes shall not be used or disclosed in any manner incompatible with that purpose or those purposes.
- 4. Personal data held for any purpose or purposes shall be adequate, relevant and not excessive in relation to that purpose or those purposes.

- 5. Personal data shall be accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date.
- 6. Personal data held for any purpose or purposes shall not be kept for longer than is necessary for that purpose or those purposes.
- 7. An individual shall be entitled -
 - (a) at reasonable intervals and without undue delay or expense
 - (i) to be informed by any data user whether he holds personal data of which that individual is the subject; and
 - (ii) to access to any such data held by a data user; and

- (b) where appropriate to have such data corrected ted or erased.
- 8. Appropriate security measures shall be taken against unauthorised access to, or alteration, disclosure or destruction of, personal data and against accidental loss or destruction of personal data.

References

Data Protection Act 1984, Chapter 35 (Royal Assent 12 July 1984) (HMSO July 1984) (Price £4.00 net) ISBN 0 10 543584 8

'The Data Protection Bill: what it will mean for statistical and other data users' by Ashley Tebbutt Statistical News No. 64 (HMSO) February 1984 (Price £4.20 net)

Recently available statistical series and publications

The following publications containing social statistics have recently, or will soon become available during the October to December quarter of 1984. 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*.

Home Office

Probation statistics, England and Wales, 1983 Prison statistics, England and Wales, 1983

Fire statistics, United Kingdom, 1983

Statistical Bulletin: Statistics of mentally disordered offenders, England and Wales, 1983

Statistical Bulletin: Betting licensing statistics, Great Britain, June 1983 - May 1984

Statistical Bulletin: European Assembly election expenses, 1984

Statistical Bulletin: Control of immigration statistics, 3rd quarter 1983

Statistical Bulletin: Statistics on the prevention of terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Acts, 3rd quarter 1984

Statistical Bulletin: Notifiable offences recorded by the police in England and Wales, 3rd quarter 1984

Statistical Bulletin: Crime statistics for the Metropolitan Police District 1977-83, analysed by ethnic group

Statistical Bulletin: Offences relating to motor vehicles, England and Wales, 1983

Statistical Bulletin: Convictions of those born in 1953, 1958 and 1963

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

Scottish Education Department

Statistical Bulletins on the following subjects:

Pupils and Teachers in Education Authority Primary and Secondary Schools

Pupil Projections

Special Schools

First Destination of University First Degree Graduates School Leavers

Excess and Deficit of Teachers by Subject

Autumn Enrolments of Students in Vocational Further Education

The Social Work Services Group of the Scottish Education Department have published the following bulletins:

Children's Hearing Statistics 1982

Community Service by Offenders 1982

Children in Care or under Supervision as at 31 March 1983

Staff of Scottish Social Work Departments 1983

Copies of the above bulletins may be purchased (price 50p post paid) from:

The Library

Official Publication Sales

Scottish Office

Room 2/65

New St Andrew's House

Edinburgh

EH1 3TG

Telephone: 031-556 8400 Ext. 5901

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Department of the Environment

Housing and Construction Statistics, Great Britain, 1973-1983

Housing and Construction Statistics, second quarter 1984 Part 1 No. 18 and Part 2 No. 18

Local Housing Statistics Issue 71, figures for second quarter 1984

The following information is issued in statistical bulletins on a regular basis:

Monthly: Housebuild

Housebuilding, construction new orders, building new orders, building materials and components, brick and cement production, and new orders by type of work

Quarterly:

Tender price indices, output price indices, construction output and employment, planning applications and decisions: England, renovations

Half yearly: Homeless households

Annually: Slum clearance

Statistical bulletins are available from DOE, SPPG4, Room 513, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ.

Scottish Home and Health Department

Criminal Statistics Scotland 1980-82 Cmnd. 9403 (HMSO) (Price £6.60 net)

Statistical Bulletin No. 2/1984 Prison Statistics Scotland 1983

Copies of the bulletin may be obtained from:

Scottish Home and Health Department

Criminal Statistics Unit

Room 324B

St. Andrew's House

Edinburgh

EH1 3DE

Telephone: 031-556 8501 Ext. 2911

Scottish Development Department

Scottish Housing Statistics 1983 (HMSO 1984) (Price to be announced)

Statistical Bulletins on the following subjects:

HSIU No 7 Public Sector Rents 1983/84

HSIU No 8 Housing Trends in Scotland: quarter ended 31 March 1984

HSIU No 9 The prevalence of condensation in Scottish Housing

HSIU No 10 Housing Trends in Scotland: quarter ended 30 June 1984

Statistical Bulletins price 50p may be obtained from:

Housing Statistics and Intelligence Unit

Scottish Development Department

Room 303

St Andrew's House

Edinburgh EH1 3DD

Telephone: 031-556 8501 Ext. 3191

Department of Employment

Employment Gazette, published towards the end of each month regularly contains recent data and time-series on employment, unemployment, earnings, prices, family expenditure and other indicators. In recent months articles have appeared on detailed unemployment flows data, graduate shortages in science and engineering, recent trends in labour costs, review of travel-to-work areas, and early results of the New Earnings Survey 1984. A historical supplement on employment statistics was published in the August Gazette and another supplement on earnings statistics is planned for the November Gazette. Employment Gazette is published monthly by Her Majesty's Stationery Office price £2.75 net per issue. Annual subscription inclusive of postage is £32.76.

Department of Transport

Heavy Goods Vehicles in Great Britain The Transport of Goods by Road

These annual publications are available from DTp, STD3, Room B6-40, Romney House, 43 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 3PY. Telephone: 01-212 8076

The following statistical bulletins are issued on a regular basis:

Quarterly: Traffic in Great Britain second quarter 1984

Road Accident and Casualties in Great Britain second quarter 1984

Road goods vehicles on roll-on roll-off ferries to mainland Europe second quarter 1984

Quarterly Transport Statistics second quarter 1984

Statistical bulletins are available from DTp, STB4, Room A7.05, Romney House, 43 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3PY.

Department of Health and Social Security

The Department of Health and Social Security produce 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.

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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: Tyneside (091) 2797373

Office of Population Censuses and Surveys

Census 1981

Economic activity: microfiche booklets have now been published for each county in England and Wales and for each region in Scotland.

OPCS Monitors (available only from OPCS Information Division, St Catherine's House, 10 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6JP)

Deaths by birthplace of deceased 1983 DH1 84/2 Female occupational mortality 1970-72 DH1 84/3 Infant and perinatal mortality 1981: birthweight

DH3 84/3

Infant and perinatal mortality 1983 DH3 84/4 Infant and perinatal mortality 1983: birthweight DH3 84/5

Infant and perinatal mortality 1982 DH3 84/6 Infant and perinatal mortality 1982: birthweight DH3 84/7

Fatal accidents occurring during sporting and leisure activities DH4 84/3

Legal abortions 1983 AB 84/6

Legal abortions 1983, Regional and District Health Authorities AB 84/7

Cancer survival 1976-78 MB1 84/1

Congenital malformation monitoring programme (1983) MB3 84/2

Monitoring of multiple malformations MB3 84/3 Mapping congenital malformations MB3 84/4 Congenital malformations 1983 MB3 84/5 Conceptions inside and outside marriage FM1 84/6 Divorces 1983 FM2 84/1

International migration 1983 MN 84/3 Recorded internal population movements in the UK 1983 MN 84/4

Annual Reference Volumes

Mortality statistics: cause 1983 DH2 no. 10

Hospital In-patient Enquiry: summary tables 1982 MB4 no. 20

Vital statistics: local and health areas 1983 VS no. 10 (Formerly Local authority vital statistics)

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Department of Education and Science

Statistical Bulletin 9/84:

International Comparisons in Higher Education Statistical Bulletin 10/84: Finance Statistical Bulletin 11/84:

English School Leavers 1982/83

Statistical Bulletins are available free of charge from the Department of Education and Science, Room 1/28, Elizabeth House, York Road, London SE1 7PH

Digest of Education Statistics, England, 1984 Copies of the Digest may be purchased, price £2, from the Department of Education and Science, Room 337, Mowden Hall, Staindrop Road, Darlington DL3 9DG

Education Statistics for the United Kingdom, 1984 Edition (HMSO November 1984) (Price £8.50)

Welsh Office

Welsh Hospital Waiting List Bulletin: No. 2 1984 Welsh Housing Statistics No. 4 1984 Welsh Economic Trends No. 9 1984 Mental Health Statistics for Wales No. 4 1984 Commercial and Industrial Floorspace Statistics: Wales No. 5 1984

Welsh Local Government Financial Statistics No. 8 1981.

The above publications are available only from: Publications Unit Economic and Statistical Services Division Welsh Office Cathays Park Cardiff CF1 3NQ

Telephone: 0222-82 5054

Central Statistical Office

Social Trends No. 15, 1985

Annual Abstract of Statistics No. 121, 1985 Edition Economic Trends Annual Supplement No. 10, 1985 Edition.

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They will be available in January 1985.

New surveys assessed by the Survey Control Unit June to August 1984

For further information on the surveys listed, the appropriate departmental contact may be obtained from Miss C. MacMillan (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 June to August 1984

Title	Sponsor	Those approached	Approximate number approached	Location	Frequency
Busi	ness surveys				
ECGD creative development research	COI	Exporters	30	GB	AH
Youth training news readership research	COI	Employers/career teachers	664	UK	AH
DTI public purchasing initiative	COI	Distribution	272	GB	AH
BOTB services booklet development research	COI	Exporters	20	GB	AH
Graduate shortages in science and engineering survey: follow-up	DEM	Employers	120	GB	AH
Retrospective evaluation of R&D projects: active solar R&D programme	DEN	Research departments	60	UK	AH
Study of housing association building and rehabilitation in London	DOE	Housing associations	40	SE	AH
Evaluation of shopping centre improvements under the urban programme	DOE	Small retail businesses	400	WM	AH
Reasons for import penetration of selected building products	DOE	Architects, contractors and			
Reasons for import penetration of selected durants product		suppliers	1600	GB	AH
Stability and hydrogeology of deep mineral workings	DOE	Mineral planning authorities			
Stability and hydrogeology of deep innieral workings		and geological consultants	90	UK	AH
way to the transferred energy	HSE	Engineers and surveyors	350	GB	AH
Whole body access into a confined space	MAFF	Horticulturists	1165	EW	AH
Apple and pear development council: survey of growers	MAFF	Veterinary	7500	UK	AH
Manpower review of the veterinary profession	MAFF	Agricultural merchants	1100	EW	Y5
Pesticide usage in grain stores	MSC	Employers	350	NW	AH
Merseyside area manpower board: survey of ethnic minority employment		Engineering companies	75	GB	AH
Research into careers of young women technicians	MSC		1200	GB	AH
Identification of skill shortages and other training problems	MSC	Employers	500	UK	AH
Employers survey on jobcentre network development proposals	MSC	Employers	4000	GB	AH
Training needs in office technology	MSC	Employers		UK	AH
Development of UK castings exports	NEDO	Foundries	400	GB	AH
Area price survey of retailers gross margins	OFT	Retailers	315		AH
GGF code monitoring - trader survey	OFT	Construction industry	250	GB	
Welsh companies figures survey	wo	Exporters	100	W	A
Local	uthority surv	evs			
	uthornty sur				
Condition of exterior joinery	BRE	Housing departments	150	GB	AH
Monitoring right to buy LA dwellings	DOE	Housing departments	367	E	Q
Small workshops scheme review	DTI	Planning departments	45	GB	AH
Development control performance	SDD	Planning departments	65	S	AH
TRRL survey of Scottish taxis and hire cars	TRRL	Licensing authorities	55	S	AH
Special education provision	wo	Education authorities	8	W	A
Capital payments return	wo	Finance departments	45	W	Q
Local authority capital forecast return	wo	Finance departments	45	W	Q
Return of rates, interest receipts and payments wages and salaries	wo	Finance departments	48	W	Q
Capital payments return-supplementary report on police courts and probation					
service	wo	Finance departments	11	W	Q
Maintained primary and secondary school accommodation	wo	Education authorities	8	W	A
	Alban cumunus				
	ther surveys				
YTS qualitative research - Summer 1984	COI	School leavers	40	GB	AH
DTP pedal cyclists campaign evaluation	COI	Adults and children	2600	GB	AH
Experimental unemployment review scheme: young unemployed's perceptions	DHSS	Unemployed	80	E	AH
who be in the man with the state of the stat			125	E	AH
	DHSS	Parents and young people	125	L	
Attitudes of beneficiaries to child benefit and benefits for young people	DHSS	Parents and young people Adults	500	GB	AH

Title	Sponsor	Those approached	Approximate number approached	Location	Frequency
			N H N H N H H H		1-13-40
Other sur	veys (contin	ued)			
Value of time: car traveller pilot study	DTP	Travellers	800	WM	AH
Aircraft noise and sleep disturbance - check study	DTP	Householders	1000	SE	AH
Ponteland traffic survey	DTP	Drivers	2000	N	AH
Bedford bypass roadside interview survey	DTP	Drivers	40000	SE	AH
Ownership and use of bus stations	DTP	Bus operators and county			
		councils	NK	GB	AH
A3: Hindhead improvement	DTP	Drivers	4000	SE	AH
Roadside interview survey - Workington Cumbria	DTP	Drivers	6000	N	AH
A259 Rye bypass traffic study	DTP	Drivers	8000	SE	AH
National Travel Survey 1985/86	DTP	Householders	15000	GB	AH
National Travel Survey (Supplement) 1985/86	DTP	Householders	1450	GB	AH
VED evasion feasibility study	DTP	Vehicle keepers	300	GB	AH
O&D survey for improvement of NCR A406/A1/A598 Junctions	DTP	Drivers	9500	SE	AH
Consumer perceptions of and identification of market opportunities - fish	MAFF	Adults	1000	GB	AH
Research on training needs of community programme supervisors	MSC	Supervisors and managers	270	E	AH
Smoking among secondary school pupils/adolescent drinking	OPCS	Pupils	13000	GB	AH
Housing circumstances	OPCS	Tenants	1550	E	AH
Electoral registration in inner city areas	OPCS	Adults	2400	E -	AH
Unemployment and living standards	OPCS	Unemployed	23500	GB	AH
Further education for 16 year olds	OPCS	Young people	7000	E	AH
The consequences of divorce	OPCS	Adults	3380	EW	AH
Drinking in Scotland 1984	OPCS	Adults and licensees	2000 & 200	S	AH
British tourist authority tourism market questions	OPCS	Visitors	35000	GB	AH
UK Minibus study	TRRL	Minibus owners	5000	UK	AH
Research into vehicle spray: lorry spray assessment	TRRL	Drivers	NK	NK	AH
Nottingham off-bus ticketing survey	TRRL	Travellers	1500	EM	AH
A3 Compton to Shackleford improvements - Hurtmore/Elstead Road junction	TRRL	Drivers	1000	SE	AH
Sparkford roadside interview survey	TRRL	Drivers	8000	SW	AH
Archway Road traffic survey	TRRL	Drivers	20000	SE	AH
North Circular Road - A406 Bounds Green Road to Green Lanes	TRRL	Drivers	7000	SE	AH
North circular Road - A406 west of Chingford Road to east of Hale End Road	TRRL	Drivers	110000	SE	AH
Roadside interview survey - Nantwich, Cheshire	TRRL	Drivers	3000	NW	AH
A30/A303 Marsh to Honiton survey 1984	TRRL	Drivers	3000	SW	AH
A15 Norman Cross roadside interview survey	TRRL	Drivers	1300	SE	AH
East London river crossing (A13 to A2) roadside interview survey 1984	TRRL	Drivers	6500	SE	AH
UK minibus study (follow-up interviews)	TRRL	Minibus owners	100	GB	AH
Metro on-board survey	TRRL	Passengers	350000	N	AH
Lift-giving and receiving	TRRL	Lift givers, bus users and non-	The same of the sa		
		users	250	SE	AH
Canterbury cycle route research project	TRRL	Adults and children	2500	SE	AH
Stockton Cycle Route Research Project	TRRL		1500	N	AH
DVLC leaflets	TRRL	Vehicle keepers	400	SE	AH
Survey of Welsh reading in primary schools	wo	Pupils	2000	W	AH

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

General		Sponsors		Locations	
ВОТВ	British Overseas Trade Board	BRE	Building Research Establishment	E	England
DVLC	Drivers and Vehicle Licensing Centre	COI	Central Office of Information	EM	East Midlands
ECGD	Export Credits Guarantee Department	DEM	Department of Employment	EW	England and Wales
GGF	Glass and Glazing Federation	DEN	Department of Energy	GB	Great Britain
NCR	North Circular Road	DHSS	Department of Health and Social Security	N	Northern England
NK	Not known	DNS	Department for National Savings	NW	North West England
O&D	Origin and Destination	DOE	Department of the Environment	S	Scotland
R&D	Research and Development	DTI	Department of Trade and Industry	SE	South East England
VED	Vehicle Excise Duty	DTP	Department of Transport	SW	South West England
YTS	Youth Training Scheme	HSE	Health and Safety Executive	UK	United Kingdom
	Tourn Truming Sement	MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	W	Wales
Frequency	v	MSC	Manpower Services Commission	WM	West Midlands
A	Annual	NEDO	National Economic Development Office		
AH	Ad Hoc	OFT	Office of Fair Trading		
Q	Quarterly	OPCS	Office of Population Censuses and Surveys		
Y5	5-yearly	SDD	Scottish Development Department		
		TRRL	Transport and Road Research Laboratory		
		wo	Welsh Office		

Notes on current developments

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

Population Trends

International Conference on Population

In August Lord Glenarthur, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Health and Social Security announced an additional £1.45 million to the United Kingdom contribution to international population activities. He was speaking at the plenary session of the International Conference on Population held in Mexico City and the full text of his speech forms the editorial of the latest edition of *Population Trends*, the quarterly journal of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys and see page 67.49.

This edition also features the following articles:

Economic activity: Britain's workforce 1971-81

The 1981 Census counted 54.3 million people in Great Britain which amounted to an increase of just half of one per cent in the population since 1971. This lowest intercensal increase ever is not reflected in analyses of the population by their economic activity however: unemployment had increased dramatically by 1981 particularly for young people, while the number of working women had also increased, noticeably married women working part time. This article by Roland Beacham of OPCS Census Division, describes how the occupational structure has changed substantially towards nonmanual occupations and how the industrial structure has shifted towards service industries and away from manufacturing and heavy industries which have traditionally employed men.

Smoking: habit or choice?

This article by Alan Marsh of OPCS Social Survey Division, reports research carried out by the Division into the psychology of smoking and not smoking. An Attitude Model is developed and causal links are shown between what smokers think and feel about their smoking and not smoking, their resolve to carry on or give up smoking and their subsequent behaviour. These results show that attitudes, especially beliefs in the prospect of health benefits and the avoidance of emotional costs in giving up, still have a crucial role to play in the decision to smoke or to give up.

OPCS Longitudinal Study: ten years on

Since the mid-1970s OPCS has been bringing together vital event records with 1971 Census records for a one per cent sample of the population usually resident in England and Wales. In 1980 the Secretary of State for

Social Services approved the extension of the study to incorporate information from the 1981 Census and vital events subsequent to 1981. This article by Audrey Brown of OPCS Population Statistics Division and John Fox of the Social Statistics Research Unit, the City University, describes the progress being made with the 1981 Census material and plans for making statistics from this source available to government departments and researchers.

International travellers: numbers and trends

The usual way of counting international travellers is to record the number of passengers entering or leaving the country over a period of time. However, this does not tell us how many people are absent at a particular date such as census day, election day or when some other event occurs. This article by Tim Devis of OPCS Population Statistics Division presents some analyses of these numbers, for absentees from and visitors to the United Kingdom, including seasonal variations and day-of-the-week variations.

Reference

Population Trends 37 Autumn 1984 (HMSO, 1984) (Price £4.50 net)

Mortality statistics

The pattern of mortality in England and Wales in 1983 analysed by sex and age-group in England and Wales was published in September.

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In 1983 the total number of deaths in England and Wales was 579,608, a decrease of 0.4 per cent from the 1982 total of 581,861. Nearly one half of all deaths in 1983 were from diseases of the circulatory system, 282,815 (48.8 per cent). Of these ischaemic heart disease accounted for 156,550 (27.0 per cent) followed by cerebrovascular disease 67,785 (11.7 per cent). Neoplasms accounted for a further 134,270 (23.2 per cent) of which 35,572 deaths were caused by malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus and lung. The third largest group of causes of death was diseases of respiratory system accounting for 86,633 deaths (14.9 per cent) of which deaths from pneumonia and influenza, 56,309, were the main constituent.

Reference

OPCS Mortality statistics: cause, 1983 (Series DH2 No. 10) (HMSO 1984) (Price £6.80 net)

Immigrant mortality

Studies on medical and population subjects No. 47 Immigrant mortality in England and Wales 1970-78: causes of death by country of birth by M. G. Marmot, A. M. Adelstein and L. Bulusu was published by HMSO for the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys on 31 July 1984, price £13.00 net. Population Trends 33 contained an article on the study by the authors, see Statistical News 63.18.

Registrar General Scotland: annual report

The Annual Report for 1983 was published in September 1984. The Report is divided into sections with corresponding tables, covering population and vital statistics, deaths, stillbirths and infant deaths, life tables, population changes, estimates and projections, natural increase and migration, marriages, divorces and fertility. Also covered are some aspects of the work of the General Register Office (GRO), administration, Parliamentary and local government electors, and alteration of boundaries.

The size of the Annual Report has been reduced by producing some of the tables on microfiche. This is done to reduce the cost of producing the Report and because microfiche readers are now widely used. Tables on microfiche are listed in the Report.

has produced a number of detailed additional annual tables to supplement the statistics published in the Registrar General's Annual Report and Weekly Returns. GRO still have available on computer printout information from tables which over the years have been dropped from the Annual Report. In both cases the tables are listed in the Annual Report and are obtainable, on payment of a fee, from the General Register Office for Scotland, Vital Statistics Branch, Ladywell House, Ladywell Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7TF, Telephone: 031-334 0380 Ext. 243.

Reference

Annual Report of the Registrar General Scotland No. 129 1983 (HMSO Edinburgh)
(Price £11.50 net)

1981 Census - Northern Ireland

The following reports on the Northern Ireland Census 1981 were published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Belfast in August 1984.

Education

This report gave details of age, sex, occupation and industry of the population who have obtained higher educational qualifications analysed to Northern Ireland level. Price £6.25 net, ISBN 0337 07234 5.

Religion

Tables in this report gave, by the main religious denominations, details of the population by sex, age, marital status, occupation, industry and other characteristics. Price £7.75 net, ISBN 0337 07235 3.

SOCIAL STATISTICS

Social Trends 15: 1985 edition

January sees the publication of the 15th edition of Social Trends. This year Social Trends includes twelve chapters, corresponding to the administrative functions of Government. The focus in each chapter is on current policy concerns, within Social Trends' general descriptions of trends in social conditions. This edition has been kept at the same size as Social Trends 14 in order to contain costs and therefore the price.

The topics covered in *Social Trends 15* are: population; households and families; education; employment; income and wealth; resources and expenditure; health and personal social services; housing; transport, communications, and the environment; leisure; participation; and law enforcement.

This year Social Trends includes an article on 'British Social Attitudes' by Roger Jowell and Colin Airey of Social and Community Planning Research. Such attitudinal information complements the objective data on changes in society given in the rest of the book.

The chapters of Social Trends 15 contain 221 tables, over a third of which are new, and 79 charts, of which about a half are new. The latest available data are included wherever possible, in particular from the General Household Survey and from the 1981 Census of Population.

Further details are available from:

Jackie Morris
Branch 8
Central Statistical Office
Great George Street
London SW1P 3AQ
Telephone: 01-233 8201

Reference

Social Trends 15, 1985 (HMSO) (Price £19.95 net) ISBN 0 11 620101 9

Judicial statistics 1983

The Judicial Statistics Annual Report, 1983 was published in October. The publication contains statistics on the criminal and civil business of those courts in England and Wales for whose administration the Lord Chancellor is responsible.

There are ten Chapters in the report covering, for instance, Appeal Courts, the High Court, Family Matters, the Crown Court, County Courts, the

Judiciary, and Taxation of Costs and Legal Aid. Each chapter includes a brief description of the function and jurisdiction of the courts or tribunals concerned. In addition, the commentary highlights the major features of the statistics and any notable trends. There are also several comparative tables and charts showing longer term trends.

Further details can be obtained from:

Statistics Section
Room 207
Lord Chancellor's Department
Neville House
Page Street
London SW1P 4LS

Reference

Judicial Statistics, Annual Report 1983 Cmnd. 9370 (HMSO October 1984) (Price £9.10 net) ISBN 0 10 193700 8

Visiting museums

In August the report was published of a survey carried out in 1979-80 by the Social Survey Division of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys for the Office of Arts and Libraries on behalf of the managements of the three museums studied. The primary purpose of the survey was to provide information that would be of value to staff responsible for various aspects of the design and organisation of the three museums, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Science Museum and the National Railway Museum.

As well as the introductory chapter the report includes chapters on each museum's visiting public; why people visit the museums; interviewing visitors to selected galleries; initial interest and reactions to exhibits in selected galleries; presentation; how visitors with different characteristics reacted to the ten selected galleries; patterns of visiting; patterns of interest – visitors' reactions to all the widely visited galleries; visitors' use of facilities and their views on practical aspects of how the museums are run; special categories of visitors; the visit as a whole.

Reference

Patrick Heady, Visiting museums (HMSO, 1984) (Price £13.00 net)

British citizenship

Command 9009 published in August 1984 gives details of persons acquiring British citizenship in 1983, by country, broken down into various categories. An historical table gives figures for 1973 to 1983 (1973 to 1982 relates to citizenship of the United Kingdom and Colonies).

Reference

Tables of persons acquiring British Citizenship 1983 Cmnd. 9009 (HMSO) (Price £3.00 net) ISBN 0 10 193310 X

Breath test statistics

The Home Office recently published a new bulletin giving Breath Test statistics up to the end of 1983 (Home Office Statistical Bulletin 20/84). There was an important change in the law and police practise on 6 May 1983 when, as a result of the 1981 Transport Act, breath analysis for the purpose of evidence in court was introduced. Except under certain limited circumstances electronic evidential breath testing machines replaced blood or urine tests in police stations. In addition to statistics on roadside screening breath tests, the bulletin contains tables and commentary illustrating various aspects of the use of evidential breath testing machines and the operation of the new procedures. Comparisons are made with previous procedures. Also included in the bulletin is a special analysis of roadside screening breath tests conducted over the Christmas period (23 December 1983 to 2 January 1984). Further information and copies of the Bulletin, price £2.50, may be obtained from: Statistical Department, Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate, SW1H 9AT; Telephone: 01-213 3758.

Public sector rents 1983-84 - Scotland

Statistical Bulletin HSIU No. 7 issued by the Scottish Development Department (SDD) in July shows the average annual rent for public sector dwellings as at 30 September 1983 as reported to the SDD by the various housing authorities. It looks at the movement of rents over past years and this change in relation to prices and earnings. The effect of public sector house sales on rents has also been examined.

Statistical Bulletins, price 50p, can be obtained from the address given on page 67.27.

Housing trends in Scotland

Bulletin HSIU No. 8 summarises quarterly housing trends in Scotland, as reported to the Scottish Development Department by the various housing authorities, for the first quarter of 1984. Topics covered include new house building, improvements of existing houses, and sales of public sector houses.

Statistical Bulletins, price 50p, can be obtained from the address given on page 67.27.

Prevalence of condensation in Scottish housing

The latest Bulletin HSIU No. 9 reports the findings of a household survey which included questions about householders' perception of the extent to which their dwellings were affected by condensation. While the results of this survey rely wholly on the householder's assessment, the results give a broad indication of the extent to which householders perceive their dwellings to be affected by condensation.

The survey sample was designed to cover around $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of all dwellings in Scotland and valid responses

were obtained from 7,246 households. Each house in Scotland had an equal chance of inclusion in the sample, but dwellings were sampled in small clusters of 10 to 20.

The Bulletin contains commentary and for many items tables on—severity of condensation; rooms affected by mould growth and condensation damage; effect of central heating and fuel used; effect of wall and loft insulation; year of construction; type of dwelling and household; other sources.

Statistical Bulletins, price 50p, are available from the address given on page 67.27.

Social security statistics - Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland Social Security Statistics 1983 was published by HMSO for the Department of Health and Social Security for Northern Ireland on 13 July 1984, price £8.50 net.

Housing statistics - Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland Housing Statistics to December 1983 was published in July by HMSO on behalf of the Housing and Urban Affairs Division of the Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland.

In addition to a table of key indicators there are sections on Output and new orders; House building progress; Public authority housing; Slum clearance, dwelling repair and improvement; Housing Finance; and General notes.

Reference

Northern Ireland Housing Statistics to December 1983 (HMSO Belfast) (Price £3.90 net)

HEALTH

Amputation statistics

The first published report on amputation statistics was issued by the Department of Health and Social Security in June 1984. It contains details of patients attending Artificial Limb and Appliance Centres during 1983, with separate figures for England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Reference

Amputation Statistics for England, Wales and Northern Ireland 1983 (Department of Health and Social Security) (Price £5.00 net) ISBN 0 946539 82 0. Available from DHSS Distribution Unit, PO Box 21, Canons Park, Honeypot Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 1AY.

Mental illness and mental handicap hospital statistics

The latest annual report on the facilities and services of mental illness and mental handicap hospitals and units in England was issued by the Department of Health and Social Security in October 1984. It contains detailed information on the facilities and services in individual hospitals for 1981 with regional and national summaries for 1980 and 1981.

Reference

The facilities and services of mental illness and mental handicap hospitals in England 1980-1981 (HMSO) (Price £8.50 net) ISBN 0 11 321009 4

Health and safety statistics

Two recent publications from the Health and Safety Executive contain provisional 1983 statistics on certain aspects of occupational injuries and enforcement activities.

More comprehensive details of definitive statistics for 1981 and 1982 will be published in due course. This will contain statistics collected under the reporting regulations which came into operation on 1 January 1981—the Notification of Accidents and Dangerous Occurrences (NADO) Regulations. Although in the same general form as previous publications it will not be strictly comparable. A further break in the statistical series has resulted from changes in the arrangements for industrial injury benefit introduced in April 1983.

Further details of available data can be obtained from:

Economics and Statistics Unit Magdalen House Stanley Precinct Bootle Merseyside L20 3QZ

References

Manufacturing and Service Industries 1983 Report (HMSO October 1984) (Price £6.00 net)

Health and Safety Commission Report 1983-1984 (HMSO 1984) (Price £4.50 net)

Scottish Health

Scottish Health Statistics

The 26th edition of Scottish Health Statistics will be published in December. It is the most comprehensive set of detailed statistics on the NHS in Scotland. The volume contains statistics on births; infant and child health; morbidity and mortality; hospital in-patient statistics; hospital, community, family practitioner and central health services; abortion statistics; and staffing and costs of the NHS.

Health in Brief

This pocket companion to Scottish Health Statistics will be published at the same time. A wide range of detailed publications is also produced – these are listed in appendices to Scottish Health Statistics and Health in Brief.

Scottish Cardiac Surgery Statistics 1983

The first published volume of cardiac surgery statistics was published in November. It contains information on Scottish patients accepted for cardiac surgery in Scotland or England. Analyses include waiting lists, waiting times, procedures required, admissions, procedures performed, mean wait and mean stay. Analyses

are shown by area of residence, hospital of treatment, age and sex. The analyses in this publication are only a selection of what is available. Requests for further information should be sent to: Dr J. A. Webb, Community Medicine Specialist, at the address below.

National Manpower Statistics

The first issue (referring to 31 March 1984) of a new sixmonthly report giving details of NHS manpower in Scotland was published in October. The booklet gives trends since 1975, and for current data, analyses by nature of contract, sex and employing authority.

Scottish Mental Health In-Patient Statistics
The 1982 edition of this publication was published in October 1984. It provides detailed statistics on admissions to, discharges from, and residents in Scottish Psychiatric Hospitals. Information is provided on diagnosis, age, sex and length of stay.

Hospital Utilisation Statistics and Hospital Bed Resources

Statistics for year ending 31 March 1983 was published in November 1984. The first gives data on hospital beds, bed use, waiting lists, and outpatient attendances, analysed by specialty. The second contains data on the numbers of available beds by hospital and specialty.

Copies (prices below) can be obtained from:

Information Services Division
Common Services Agency
Trinity Park House
South Trinity Road
Edinburgh EH5 3SQ

Telephone: 031 552 6255 Ext. 2707

References

Scottish Health Statistics 1983 (HMSO 1984) (Price forthcoming)
The following are available from the address above:
Health in Brief 1983 (Price £1 net)
National Manpower Statistics 1984 (Price £3)
Scottish Mental Health In-Patient Statistics 1982, Free
Hospital Utilisation Statistics 1983 (Price £4)
Hospital Bed Resources 1983 (Price £5)
Scottish Cardiac Surgery Statistics 1983 (Price £5)

EDUCATION

Demand for higher education in Great Britain 1984-2000

This report (RE100) provides a brief analysis of past trends of the number of students on higher education courses in universities and public sector establishments of further education in Great Britain and discusses future demand. There are projections up to the year 2000 of qualified leavers and young and mature home initial entrants, full-time, sandwich and part-time students with supporting graphs showing variants of the projections.

An associated Technical Report has been prepared for those who wish to examine the supporting material.

Free copies of the Report (RE100) are obtainable from:

Publications Despatch Centre
Department of Education and Science
Honeypot Lane
Stanmore
Middlesex HA7 1AZ

Copies of the Technical Report to DES Report on Education RE100, priced £8, are available from:

Department of Education and Science Room 337 Mowden Hall Staindrop Road Darlington DL3 9BG

MANPOWER AND EARNINGS

The unemployed: survey estimates for 1983 compared with the monthly count

Statistics of the unemployed can be obtained either from administrative records or by means of surveys of the labour force. In this country, as in nearly all Western European countries, administrative records are the source for the monthly statistics of unemployment while household surveys provide less frequent information on a different basis. An article published in the August issue of *Employment Gazette* compared the numbers of unemployed in the second quarter of 1983 as given by the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the monthly claimant count.

The 1983 LFS identified some 2.95 million people who said they had been included in the claimant count, identical to the second quarter average of the monthly count. Using the survey definition of unemployment, the inquiry gave a total of 2.94 million unemployed people. Although the figure is almost identical to the claimant count, it includes some students and people on special measures who would not conventionally be described as unemployed.

The number of unemployed women identified by the LFS was 1.09 million; rather higher than the 0.82 million in the female claimant count. This imbalance is not unexpected, since many married women are not eligible for unemployment or supplementary benefits when out of work. The survey total of 1.85 million unemployed men was correspondingly lower than the claimant count figure of 2.13 million.

The LFS results indicated that about 820,000 people were seeking work but were not claimants. This might seem to suggest that the monthly count of claimants understates the level of unemployment. However, the survey also identified an equally large group of

people - some 840,000 - who were claimants but had not looked for work in the reference week.

Many of the claimants classed as inactive may have genuinely wished to work had a job been available but for various reasons they had not actively looked for work in the reference week. The fact that they did not look for work in the reference week does not imply that they had not looked for work over a longer period. The 1984 LFS will additionally obtain information about job search in a four-week reference period but such information is not available from the 1983 LFS.

Only a very small minority (about 5 per cent) of the inactive claimants specifically said they did not want or need a job. The reason people gave most frequently for not looking for work was that they did not believe that any jobs were available.

Reference

Employment Gazette, August 1984 (HMSO monthly) (Price £2.75 net)

Unemployment statistics for small areas and review of travel-to-work areas

An article in the September 1984 issue of Employment Gazette describes changes being made to the system for producing local unemployment data, aggregating figures by local authority electoral wards. The new system enables more accurate figures to be produced for administrative areas such as counties and extends the range of areas for which unemployment figures are routinely produced to include parliamentary constituencies and local authority districts. The first data for these areas from the new system are included in the article, and table 2.4 of the labour market data section of the Gazette now includes totals and unemployment rates for the recently revised travel-to-work areas. Travel-to-work areas are defined so that most people who live in them also work in them and vice versa, so that unemployment rates can provide a meaningful measure of local mismatch between labour supply and demand. A supplement to the same issue of Employment Gazette describes the methods used to redefine these areas, based on commuting problems from the 1981 Census of Population. Detailed definitions of the new areas in terms of wards are also included.

Reference

Employment Gazette, September 1984 (HMSO monthly) (Price £2.75 net)

Civilian labour force estimates for 1983

An article in the August 1984 issue of *Employment Gazette* presented estimates of the Great Britain civilian labour force in mid-1983, based on results from the 1983 Labour Force Survey. These showed that the labour force had fallen by some 85 thousand since mid-1981, due to declining male activity rates, particularly in the older age groups, which more than

offset the effects of increasing population and a small rise in female activity rates.

The article discusses the differences between these estimates and the 1981-based projections published in February, and considers the implications for likely movements in the labour force to 1984 and beyond. The labour force estimates for the years 1971 to 1981 have been revised slightly to incorporate improved information on the economic activity of full time students. A further article published in the October *Employment Gazette* presented regional estimates of the labour force, consistent with the national estimates.

Reference

Employment Gazette, August and October 1984 (HMSO monthly) (Price £2.75 net each)

Access to the main labour market data sets

A note listing the main labour market data sets for which the government has responsibility, and giving an up-to-date overview of their availability, has been compiled by the Employment Market Research Unit (EMRU) in the Department of Employment (DE).

The note contains brief descriptions of sources such as the main household and workplace surveys and the Department of Employment's regular published series; it attempts to make the data a little more accessible by listing the timetables for release and publication of each dataset, with the name of a contact.

Free copies are available from Mrs J. Wells, Employment Market Research Unit, Level 3, Caxton House, Tothill Street, SW1. Telephone: 01-213 7543.

Women part-time workers: evidence from the 1980 Women and Employment Survey

The Employment Gazette, September 1984, contains an article compiled by Barbara Ballard from the report of the 1980 Women and Employment Survey. It looks at women part-time workers and shows that part-time working is particularly associated with the stage of life when women's domestic responsibilities are most demanding. It also shows how the part-time workers differ significantly from women who work full-time in terms of family characteristics, occupations, rates of pay, employee benefits, trade union membership, job priorities and attitudes to working. This article is one of a series on the results of the Women and Employment Survey, see Statistical News 65.33 and 66.48.

Reference

Employment Gazette, September 1984 (HMSO monthly) (Price £2.75 net)

Women and Employment – a lifetime perspective by Jean Martin and Ceridwen

Roberts (HMSO) (Price £9.50 net) ISBN 0 11 691090 9

Pay as you earn (PAYE) statistics

An article in October Economic Trends presents statistics based on a one per cent sample of PAYE end

of year documents for years 1976-77 to 1981-82. The PAYE sample is the source of estimates of pay underlying the national and regional accounts figures of wages and salaries. The information is also used by a number of government departments.

The PAYE documents relate to particular employments and the article presents a number of analyses based on the aggregation of sample data at this level, including totals of pay and tax deducted by industry and region, deductions (tax and national insurance contributions) from pay by industry, estimates of numbers in employment by sex and industry and average annualised pay by sex.

The PAYE data are also analysed in terms of the total of pay, etc. in a year of a person, by bringing together the information for all employments in that year. The article presents analyses of average pay of persons by region and also compares person records for two adjacent years, analysing movements between employers and industries.

In addition to the data, the article also gives some background information on the operation of the PAYE system and on the statistical sample.

Further information can be obtained from:

Roger Staton,
Statistics Division,
Board of Inland Revenue,
Somerset House,
Strand,
London WC2R 1LB.

Reference

Economic Trends No. 372 October 1984 (HMSO) (Price £11.25 net)

Armed forces pay (Service medical and dental officers)

A supplement to the Thirteenth Report of the Review Body on Armed Forces Pay, published in July 1984, deals with the pay of Service medical and dental officers. Recommended military salaries for the ranks of Captain to Colonel, appropriate at 1 April 1984 and 1 November 1984, are in Table 1; paragraphs 28-30 include details of recommended salaries for Brigadiers, pre-registration medical practitioners and cadets; and paragraphs 31-36 are concerned with medical additional pay. (The Government has announced acceptance of the recommendations.) Appendix 2 gives a summary of key manning statistics for the defence medical services from 1981 to 1984. Appendix 3 details salaries introduced at 1 April 1983 and 1 January 1984 and a full list of the Review Body's Report is in Appendix 1.

Reference

Review Body on Armed Forces Pay, Service Medical and Dental Officers, Supplement to Thirteenth Report: Cmnd. 9301 (HMSO July 1984) (Price £3.00 net)

AGRICULTURE

Economic accounts for United Kingdom agriculture

Hitherto there has been no definitive series of economic accounts for agriculture covering a long span of years. The existing published sources, mainly the *Annual Review of Agriculture* White Papers and the *Annual Abstract of Statistics*, were confusing because of the changes in coverage and methodology that had taken place from time to time and they also differed in the amount of detail presented.

MAFF have now compiled a long-term series of accounts, running from 1937/38 to 1974/75, adjusted to give consistent coverage throughout and giving the greatest amount of detail possible. These are crop-year (June – May) accounts. The crop-year series has now been discontinued and the present economic accounts for agriculture are prepared on a calendar-year basis in accordance with the coverage and definitions prescribed by the Statistical Office of the European Communities. These are published in the series of booklets *Departmental Net Income Calculation* issued each year as background material to the Annual Review, but are not strictly comparable with the crop-year series.

Copies of the booklet Departmental Net Income Calculations: Historical Series 1937/38 to 1974/75 are available free from:

MAFF,
Statistics Division I,
Room 583,
Great Westminster House,
London SW1P 2AE
Telephone: 01-216 7574

Agricultural censuses and surveys

June 1983 Agricultural and Horticultural Census
Final results for England were published in Statistical
Information Notice STATS 44/84 on 20 February 1984.
This notice also included details of the census of minor
holdings in England which was held in March 1983.

Final results for the United Kingdom were published in Statistical Information Notice STATS 66/84 on 9 March 1984.

Straw Survey 1983

Results for England and Wales were published in Statistical Information Notice STATS 339/83 on 30 December 1983.

October 1983 Vegetables and Flowers Survey

The results of this census of vegetables and flowers grown in the open in England and Wales were published in Statistical Information Notice STATS 106/84 on 30 April 1984.

December 1983 Agricultural Survey

The main results of this sample survey were published in Press Notice No 67 on 1 March 1984. Details of fertiliser stocks and the use of quarried lime were published in Statistical Information Notice STATS 188/84 on 1 August 1984.

December 1983 Agricultural Machinery Survey

The results for England including those derived from the census of Agricultural Labour and Machinery Contractors, also held on 1 December, were published in Statistical Information Notice STATS 88/84 on 9 April 1984.

December 1983 Glasshouse Census

The results for England and Wales were published in Statistical Information Notice STATS 103/84 on 26 April 1984.

Annual Estimates of Crop Production – 1983 Harvest The annual estimates of production with the areas and average yields for the principal agricultural crops in England, England and Wales and the United Kingdom were published in Statistical Information Notice STATS 196/84 on 13 August 1984.

April 1984 Pig Survey

The results of this survey on pigs in England and Wales and the United Kingdom which is conducted in accordance with European Community legislation were published in Statistical Information Notice STATS 144/84 on 12 June 1984.

June 1984 Agricultural and Horticultural Census

- (i) For the first time early results were produced from the June census data for England. Details, for selected items, were published in Press Notice No 231 on 5 July 1984.
- (ii) Provisional results for the United Kingdom with seperate details for England were published in Press Notice No 286 on 21 August 1984.

Copies of the Statistical Information Notices can be obtained, free of charge, from:

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food,

Room 615

Government Buildings

Epsom Road

Guildford, Surrey, GU1 2LD

Telephone: 0483 68121 Ext 577

Results of the Scottish sample pig census for April, 1984 The results of Scottish Sample Pig Census for April, 1984 were published as a Scottish Office Press Notice on 1 August 1984 (Press Notice No 862/84).

Provisional results of the Scottish June agricultural census for 1984

The provisional results of the June 1984 Scottish Agricultural Census were published as a Scottish Office Press Notice on 9 August 1984 (Press Notice No 895/84).

The Press notices are free and available from:

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland

Economics and Statistics Unit Chesser House

500 Gorgie Road

Edinburgh, EH11 3AW

Telephone: 031-443 4020

Agricultural Statistics United Kingdom 1983

This volume, which is the latest in a long series of similar publications, records for reference purposes the main figures from the annual agricultural censuses and regular surveys of agricultural prices. The 1983 volume was published in October 1984.

Reference

Agricultural Statistics for the United Kingdom 1983 (HMSO 1984) (Price £9.75 net)

Agriculture in Scotland 1983

The annual Command Paper Agriculture in Scotland was recently published. The Report contains both commentary and tables on the various aspects of Scottish agriculture. It commences with a brief review of the general agricultural situation in Scotland. Chapter 2 covers output, production and prices, Chapter 3 processing and marketing, and Chapter 4 deals with subsidies. Other chapters cover estate management; land use and tenure; improvement schemes and cooperation; crop improvement and pest control; livestock improvement; animal health; R&D, educational and advisory services; agricultural labour; economics and statistics; and Departmental organisation and finance.

Reference

Agriculture in Scotland Report for 1983 Cmnd. 9230 (HMSO) August 1984 (Price £5.45 net) ISBN 0 10 192300 7

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INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS

Business Monitors – Annual Census of Production 1982

Readers of Statistical News are made aware of the results of the 1982 Census of Production as the Business Monitors become available. The following table lists the monitors published since notification in the last number of Statistical News.

Business	Description	Standard
Monitor		Industrial
Number		Classification
		1980 Group
	the same and the same of the same of the same of	Heading
PA 130	Extraction of mineral oil and natural gas	130
PA 140	Mineral oil processing	140
PA 161	Production and distribution of electricity	161
PA 162	Public gas supply	162
PA 223	Drawing, cold rolling and cold forming of steel	223
PA 231	Extraction of stone, clay, sand and gravel	231
PA 239	Extraction of miscellaneous minerals (including	239
	salt)	
PA 243	Building products of concrete, cement or plaster	243
PA 245	Working of stone and other non-metallic minerals	245
PA 248	Refractory and ceramic goods	248
PA 257	Pharmaceutical products	257
PA 316	Hand tools and finished metal goods	316
PA 320	Industrial plant and steelwork	320
PA 324	Machinery for the food, chemical and related	324
	industries, process engineering contractors	
PA 327	Machinery for printing, paper, wood, leather,	327
	rubber, glass and related industries: laundry and	stead Nests
	dry cleaning machinery	
PA 329	Ordnance, small arms and ammunition	329
PA 341	Insulated wire and cables	341
PA 342	Basic electrical equipment	342
PA 343	Electrical equipment for industrial use, and bat-	343
	teries and accumulators	
PA 345	Miscellaneous electronic equipment	345
PA 347	Electric lamps and other electric lighting equipment	347
PA 353	Motor vehicles parts	353
PA 362	Railway and tramway vehicles	362
PA 365	Miscellaneous vehicles	365
PA 372	Medical and surgical equipment and orthopaedic	372
	appliances	
PA 374	Clocks, watches and other timing devices	374
PA 411	Organic oils and fats	411
PA 415	Fish processing	415
PA 416	Grain milling	416
PA 419	Bread, biscuits and flour confectionery	419
PA 420	Sugar and sugar by-products	420
PA 422	Animal feeding stuffs	422
PA 426	Wines, cider and perry	426
PA 428	Soft drinks	428
PA 429	Tobacco industry	429
PA 432	Cotton and silk industries	432
PA 434	Spinning and weaving of flax, hemp and ramie	434
PA 435	Jute and polypropylene yarns and fabrics	435
PA 453	Clothing, hats and gloves	453
PA 455	Household textiles and other made up textiles	455
PA 456	Fur goods	456
PA 461	Sawmilling, planing etc, of wood	416
PA 463	Builders' carpentry and joinery	463
PA 466	Articles of cork and plaiting materials, and brushes	466
	and brooms	10000000
PA 471	Pulp, paper and board	471
PA 481	Rubber products	481

All 111 Business Monitors in the series have now been published.

PA 492

Musical instruments

Copies of these Business Monitors are available on standing order from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 276, London, SW8 5DT (Telephone 01-622 3316) or through any Government Bookshop.

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

Business Statistics Office

Government Buildings

Cardiff Road

NEWPORT

Gwent

NPT 1XG

Telephone: Newport 56111 (STD Code 0633)

Ext 2455

Individual monitors or a free brochure describing the full range of Monitors with prices and order form may be obtained from:

The Librarian

Business Statistics Office

Government Buildings

Cardiff Road

NEWPORT

Gwent

NPT 1XG

Telephone: Newport 56111 (STD Code 0633)

Ext 2973

Classified list of manufacturing businesses 1984 (PO 1007)

As mentioned in the previous issue of *Statistical News* on page 66.52, Business Monitor PO 1007, available in six parts, is about to be published. Each part is priced at £11.50 including postage and packing.

The magnetic tape version of PO 1007 covering all six parts is priced at £172 plus postage and packing for United Kingdom non database issuers.

For further information on PO 1007 or any other inquiries relating to Business Monitors please contact:

The Librarian

Business Statistics Office

Government Buildings

Cardiff Road

NEWPORT

Gwent

NPT 1XG

Telephone: Newport 56111 (STD Code 0633)

Ext 2973

Telex: 497121/2 answerback BSONPT G

Business Monitor PA1003 Analyses of United Kingdom manufacturing (local) units by employment size

A further Business Monitor in the PA1003 series was published recently. It presents analyses of the register of United Kingdom manufacturing units maintained by the Business Statistics Office and is based on register details held in September 1983, at which time most employment data for the units covered in the analyses related to 1981.

Reference

Business monitor PA 1003 Analyses of United Kingdom manufacturing (local) units by employment size 1983 (HMSO 1984) (Price £8 net) ISBN 0 11 514115 4

Housing and construction statistics

Housing and Construction Statistics, 1973-1983 is the fifth edition of this annual reference book which illustrates trends over the past decade.

There is detailed information on the volume and type of construction orders and output, on manpower and materials, costs and prices, and, for housing, on building, the dwellingstock, renovation and energy conservation work, rents, prices and mortgages. Among the 128 tables in this edition are five new tables which provide additional information on the stock of housing associations' dwellings, renovation work, mortgage advances to first-time purchases, rent registration cases and housing land transactions.

Reference

Housing and Construction Statistics, Great Britain, 1973-1983 (HMSO September 1984) (Price £24 net)

Electrical engineering

An article in *British business* 17 August 1984 summarises the position of the electrical engineering industry, as defined by the Standard Industrial Classification 1980, up to the end of 1983. The first two tables show production indices and sales figures respectively, and tables three and four cover imports and exports. The sales figures are at constant (1980) prices, while overseas trade figures are at current prices. The fifth table shows employment in Great Britain.

Reference

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

Performance in the Electricity Supply Industry

The Electricity Council has recently published a report Indicators of Electricity Supply Industry Performance, 1983/84. The purpose of this report is to complement the reviews contained in the Annual Reports of the Generating Board and the twelve Area Boards by putting the relative importance of the Industry's costs into perspective, by expanding the range of performance indicators presented and by providing comparative statistics of the performance of individual Boards in key areas of their operations. Attention is drawn to the impact which differing economic, geographic and demographic backgrounds can have on the results of individual Area Boards and the consequent difficulty of making objective inter-Board comparisons. Trends within Boards are considered a more useful measure. Copies are available from the Council's Public Relations Department, 30 Millbank, London SW1P 4RD, price £2.35 net.

Small firms: definition

In British business 22 June Pom Ganguly, Statistician in the Department of Trade and Industry's Small Firms Division discusses the problems in arriving at a satisfactory answer to the question 'How small is a small firm?'. He concludes that there are no easy answers and it will come as no surprise that the search for a definition of a small firm is far from over. Not only are there conceptual problems in the way of a universal definition which is the most suitable for all purposes, there are the practical problems of inadequate data which make it difficult to test all but the simplest of ideas.

Whatever the definition chosen it will therefore to some extent, be unsatisfactory for some uses. The Department of Trade and Industry has thus decided not to go for a single definition but to adopt a flexible attitude which, within the broad guidelines discussed, allows each case to be looked at on its merits.

Previous articles in *British business* (covered in *Statistical News* 56.29, 57.26, 58.32, 59.45, 61.24, 63.36, 64.29, 65.36, and 66.53) have provided regional analyses of the stocks of businesses and of births and deaths of firms in the United Kingdom based on VAT data.

Inquiries about, but not requests for, the articles should be addressed to:

Mr Pom Ganguly, Small Firms Division, DTI, Room 214, Ashdown House 123 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6RB

Reference

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

Small firms: job generation

Professor Colin Gallagher and Henry Stewart of Newcastle University with support from the Economic and Social Research Council have undertaken research on patterns of job generation. Pom Ganguly, Statistician, in the Department of Trade and Industry's Small Firms Division has edited abridged versions of the study which appeared in articles in *British business* 13 July and 7 September 1984.

The first article was a comparison of data for 1971 and 1981, it describes the study and gives detailed results. The second article is a comparison of data for the years 1971-1981, 1981-2, 1982-83, it also contains notes on data considerations.

The full report, price £2.00, is available from Professor Colin Gallagher, Department of Industrial Management, Stephenson Building, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU

Telephone: 0632 328511 Ext. 2188.

See item above for a list of other articles in British business concerning the small firms sector covered in Statistical News

References

'Major share of job generation is by small firms' British business 13 July 1984 (HMSO weekly) (Price £1.10 net)

'Resilience of the small firms' sector in times of recession' British business 7
September 1984 (HMSO weekly) (Price £1.10 net)

Overseas-owned firms in Scotland

This Statistical Bulletin – Overseas-owned Firms in Scottish Manufacturing in 1981 – was published by the Industry Department for Scotland in October. It is principally based on the 1981 Annual Census of Production and examines gross output, employment, productivity and investment in Scotland in comparison with 1977, 1979 and the United Kingdom. Copies of the Bulletin (price 50p) can be obtained from:

Economics and Statistics Unit Industry Department for Scotland Room 5/31 New St Andrew's House EDINBURGH EH1 3TA

DISTRIBUTION AND OTHER SERVICES

Wholesaling, catering and motor trades

The results of the Business Statistics Office's 1982 inquiries into wholesaling and dealing, catering and allied trades, and the motor trades, together with comparable figures for the years 1979 to 1981 were published in *British business* 10 August 1984.

The 1982 catering inquiry was a benchmark inquiry addressed to a larger than normal sample of businesses and collecting detailed information on purchases and sales in addition to the usual data on turnover, stocks and capital expenditure. The coverage of the wholesaling inquiry was expanded slightly to cover, for the first time, plant hirers without operatives.

The inquiries are based on the VAT trade classification which continues to be aligned with the 1968 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC). Since 1980 certain additional classificatory questions have been asked to enable the results to be reworked into the two-digit class structure of the 1980 SIC.

Reference

British business 10 August 1984 (HMSO weekly) (Price £1.10 net)

Cinemas 1983

The full results of the annual film exhibitors inquiry were recently published in Business Monitor MA2. The Monitor provides analyses by region, seating capacity, box-office takings and size of cinemas.

A summary of the results was also carried in British business.

Reference

Business Monitor MA2 Cinemas 1983 (HMSO September 1984) (Price £4.20 net)
Britsih business 31 August 1984 (HMSO weekly) (Price £1.10 net)

Scottish service sector output

A report published by the Industry Department for Scotland describes research undertaken at Dundee University to develop measures of output of the service sector in Scotland. The report presents annual estimates of output for the period 1962-80 for transport and communication, distributive trades, insurance, banking and finance, professional and scientific services and miscellaneous services. It is available (price £5) from:

Economic and Statistics Unit Industry Department for Scotland Room 5/31 New St Andrew's House EDINBURGH EH1 3TA

TRANSPORT

National Travel Survey 1985/86

The 1985/86 National Travel Survey (NTS) fieldwork will be carried out by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS), who are currently doing the pilot work. The survey will incorporate parallel use of a one-day and a seven-day travel diary so that direct comparisons can be made between the two methods.

Further information is available from:

Mr G S Charles
Department of Transport
Room A613
Romney House
43 Marsham Street
London SW1P 3PY
Telephone: 01-212 8014

Port statistics

The latest edition of the annual publication *Port Statistics 1983* has now been published by the Department of Transport and the British Ports Association. This is the fourth such annual publication produced since the closure of the National Ports Council and the second on the new mode of appearance basis. This publication also corrects certain errors identified in the 1982 publication.

Port Statistics 1983 provides details of total foreign and domestic traffic through the principal ports of Great Britain, by mode of appearance (i.e. broken down into bulk traffic (by commodity), container and roll-on traffic, semi-bulk traffic and conventional traffic), and reveals that 1983 was a record year for overall GB port traffic.

Port Statistics 1983 has been produced jointly by the Department of Transport and the British Ports Association and is available from the latter at Commonwealth House, 1-19 New Oxford St, London WC1A 1DZ, Telephone: 01-242 1200. The price is £21.00 including postage.

Purchases and sales of ships by the UK shipping industry 1983

An article in British business 24 August 1984 shows that the UK private sector shipping industry spent nearly £250 million in 1983, net of disposals, on new and second-hand ships, compared with £390 million in 1982. Fewer deliveries of new ships accounted for all the decrease. In addition £31 million was spent on alterations to existing ships, some £20 million less than in 1982. The UK public sector spent £7 million on new ships in 1983, compared with £11 million in 1982. Accompanying tables include expenditure on new and second-hand ships analysed by country/area of build and type of deliveries of new vessels; new orders placed and vessels on order at 31 December 1983; sales and purchases of second-hand ships. Timing and method of payments are shown in separate tables, also the cost of ships purchased and sold by UK leasing companies based on time of delivery or sale.

Reference

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

Road accidents

Road Accidents Great Britain 1983 was published by HMSO in November for the Department of Transport, the Scottish Development Department and the Welsh Office, price £5.50 net. The main review topics considered include the effects of the first eleven months of compulsory seat belt wearing for front seat occupants of cars and light vans, an account of road safety publicity

campaigns, the 1983 speed survey, the effect of public transport fare changes on road accident casualty levels, drinking and driving and types of pedal cycle accidents.

The main part of the book consists of time series tables and detailed tables relating to 1983, including two new ones; as a result, the tables now include in particular:

- 1 comparison of road deaths with other deaths, by age, from mortality statistics compiled by the Registrar General
- 2 tabulations by individual speed limits (previously only two age groups used)
- 3 casualties by seating position in cars and light vans, relating to the seat belt issue
- 4 disaggregated vehicle/casualty rates by vehicle type and road class
- 5 rates in terms of population by age
- 6 separate information on mopeds in several tables.
- 7 some individual figures (and rates in an article) for groups of heavy goods vehicles by number of axles.

Statistical bulletins, giving quarterly information on road accidents and casualties (currently giving provisional figures up to September 1984) continue to be published. A revised version of the Digest of road accidents statistics by region and county in England (RASER) should be published in (late December/early January). Enquiries on these to Department of Transport, B6.48, Romney House, 43 Marsham Street, London SW1; Telephone: 01-212 6763

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

United Kingdom National Accounts 1984 Edition: corrections

The following amendments should be made to this publication:

Table 1.17 Population and employment

ANALYSIS OF EMPLOYEES IN EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

ANALISIS OF EMPLOTEES IN EMPL	OTMENT BI	INDUSTRI									
	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
All other energy and water supply		The street					ALS SE				A Property
Delete	698	683	694	687	682	671	669	671	654	631	608
Insert	362	364	370	370	365	358	365	369	364	356	349
Education and health services											2246
Delete	2781	2898	3066	3149	3158	3211	3270	3307	3293	3315	3346
Insert	2462	2555	2712	2792	2786	2815	2876	2884	2892	2918	2938
Other services									19 19 11	billy th	
Delete	976	971	1021	1077	1086	1118	1178	1203	1203	1218	1216
Insert	1295	1314	1374	1433	1457	1513	1572	1626	1604	1615	1624

Table 3.15 Rates of change of output per person employed

A corrected version of this table is available on request from the Central Statistical Office Room 58/G, Great George Street, London SW1P 3AQ. Telephone: 01-233 6135/6193

Reference

United Kingdom National Accounts 1984 Edition (HMSO) (Price £13.95 net)

Personal sector saving ratio

The personal sector saving ratio is one of the key statistics to emerge from the compilation of the national income and expenditure accounts. This year, in the 1984 edition of the CSO Blue Book, the ratio has been affected by a refinement to the division between current and capital expenditure, as well as by data revisions. The purpose of a note in September Economic Trends is to explain the change and, more generally, to examine the reliability of the estimates and their susceptibility to revision. A brief description of what is meant by personal saving is given in the note.

References

'A note on the personal sector saving ratio' by Tim Jones Economic Trends No. 371 September 1984 (HMSO) (Price £11.25 net). See the inside back cover for details of how to obtain copies of the article.

United Kingdom National Accounts 1984 Edition, CSO Blue Book (HMSO) September 1984 (Price £13.95 net)

HOME FINANCE

Inland Revenue Statistics 1984

The 1984 edition of *Inland Revenue Statistics* contains statistics on direct taxation, personal and company incomes, capital gains, wealth and property valuations. Extensive notes are included on each subject.

An historical breakdown of net receipts of taxes and numbers of taxpayers is given as well as estimates of the direct costs of allowances and reliefs relating to the taxes administered by the Inland Revenue. The income statistics include data on employment incomes and the incomes of companies.

There are sections on capital transfer tax, capital gains tax and development land tax. Estimates of personal wealth are also given.

Statistics on stamp duties, rateable values, and agricultural land prices complete the set of main tables.

The Appendices show the rates of the various taxes and include tables of income tax thresholds at current and constant prices.

Reference

Inland Revenue Statistics 1984 (HMSO October 1984) (Price £9.50 net)

Cash limits

A White Paper giving provisional outturn figures for cash limited expenditure, including external financing limits of nationalised industries, in 1983-84 and revised figures for 1982-83 was published in July 1984.

The cash limits for 1983-84 for central government voted expenditure were published in the Supply Estimates and listed in Table 1a of the Chief Secretary's memorandum on the Supply Estimates 1983-84. The original cash limits relating to local authorities capital expenditure and certain other expenditure were

announced by written Parliamentary Question on 15 March 1983.

References

Cash Limits 1983-84 provisional outturn (and 1982-83 outturn) Cmnd. 9323 (HMSO) (Price £4.35 net) ISBN 0 10 193230 8
Supply Estimates 1983-84 Cmnd. 8817 (HMSO 1983) (Price £6.60 net) ISBN 0 10 188170 3

Local government financial statistics

The 1982/83 edition of Local Government Financial Statistics in England and Wales was published by HMSO recently. It gives details of local authority expenditure and income during the financial year 1982/83. 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.

Reference

Local Government Financial Statistics in England and Wales 1982/83 (HMSO 1984) (Price £4.60)

Industrial and commercial companies' real rates of return

Until companies started producing Current Cost Accounts (CCA) following the issue of the Statement of Standard Accounting Practice No 16 in March 1980, the main source of estimates of rates of return on capital employed in real terms for UK industrial activities was the national accounts. Analysis by the Bank of England of companies' CCA accounts available from Datastream Ltd revealed a wide discrepancy between the national accounts and CCA measures of the real rate of return. Subsequent figures produced by the bank and the Department of Trade and Industry confirmed this discrepancy.

Although some reasons why the figures differed were known, no quantitative reconciliation was attempted until earlier this year when the question of which figure provided the more appropriate measure of real returns in UK industry was becoming important in various contexts. An inter-departmental group under the chairmanship of Mr Byatt, Deputy Chief Economic Adviser to the Treasury, with representatives from the Treasury, Department of Trade and Industry and Bank of England, was established to attempt to reconcile the two measures. An article in August 1984 *Economic Trends* records its conclusions.

Reference

'Industrial and commercial companies' real rates of return: differences between figures derived from national accounts and company accounts' *Economic Trends No. 370* August 1984 (HMSO) (Price £11.25 net). See the inside back cover for details of how to obtain copies of the article.

Companies' rates of return

British business 21 September 1984 contains the latest annual article on the estimates of rates of return before interest and tax derived from national accounts statistics as published in the CSO Blue Book.

Rates of return calculated from companies' own current cost accounting were included in the latest (fifteenth) issue of Business Monitor MA3, which give the results of the Department of Trade and Industry's company accounts analysis. More disaggregated rates of return derived from the accounts of large companies are published in the Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin September 1984 see page 67.45.

The differences between rates of return calculated from company accounts and from national accounts are discussed in an *Economic Trends* article, August 1984 see item above.

References

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

United Kingdom National Accounts 1984 Edition, The CSO Blue Book (HMSO)

September 1984 (Price £13.95 net)

Business Monitor MA3 Company Finance (HMSO) (Price £8.95 net)

Financial assets of insurance companies and pension funds: 1983

An article in *British business* 7 September 1984 gives figures for holdings of financial assets by insurance companies and pension funds. The total market value of these assets at the end of 1983 was £221 billion, an increase of 22 per cent during the year. This breaks down into £96 billion for long-term insurance funds, £19 billion for general insurance funds and £106 billion for pension funds. Tables show end-year holdings for each year from 1978 to 1983, and net investment during the year, from 1979 to 1983, for each of the three types of fund, and by type of security. More details are given in Business Monitor *MQ5*.

References

British business 7 September 1984 (HMSO weekly) (Price £1.10 net)
Business Monitor MQ5 Insurance companies' and pension funds' Investment
Second quarter 1984 (HMSO) (Price £7.70 annual subscription)

OVERSEAS FINANCE

There was a substantial increase, for the second successive year, in total overseas net earnings of film and television companies from the production and distribution of cinematographic film and television material. An article in *British business*, 5 October 1984 (the latest in an annual series) shows that net earnings in 1983 were £101 million, compared with £78 million in 1982 and £41 million in 1981. Film companies

accounted for most of the overseas net earnings and

for all of the increase between 1982 and 1983.

Overseas transactions by film and television companies

The article contains tables giving, overseas transactions in respect of film and television material 1972-1983, overseas transactions in respect of film companies by area and by category of company 1978-1983 (and by type of transaction 1982-1983). Overseas transactions of the BBC and IBA programme contractors by area are given for 1978-1983. Notes and definitions are also included.

Reference

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

Overseas travel and tourism

British business recently carried the latest article on the annual survey of tourism covering 1983. The estimates and tables in the article were drawn from the results of the International Passenger Survey, which is a sample survey of passengers entering and leaving the United Kingdom. A description of the survey with notes and definitions is given at the end of the article. Results are published quarterly and annually in Business Monitors MQ6 and MA6.

References

British business 17 August 1984 (HMSO weekly) (Price £1.10 net)
Business Monitor MA6 Overseas travel and tourism 1983 (HMSO) September 1984
(Price £4.85 net)

INTERNATIONAL

International comparisons of profitability 1955-82

An article in British business 28 September 1984 gives comparisons for 1982 and updates the comparisons for 1955-81 given in the 19 August 1983 issue. It is based mainly on calculations by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) derived from national account statistics in the standardised form in which they are submitted to OECD and the United Nations. Since last year figures for manufacturing industry in Denmark have become available but those for France for industry plus transport have been deleted as it is now realised that stock appreciation has not been deducted from the profits figures so they are not comparable with those of other countries. In addition to the countries covered in this article, the OECD gives some gross figures for Italy, Luxembourg and New Zealand and net figures for a limited range of years for Australia. Charts show net rates of return to fixed capital for certain countries for non-financial corporations, and for manufacturing industry. Definitions of terms used are given at the end of the article.

Reference

British business 28 September 1984 (HMSO weekly) (Price £1.10 net)

Termination of the world fertility survey programme

The World Fertility Survey (WFS) programme was terminated on 30 June 1984, after twelve years of operation by the International Statistical Institute (ISI). By that time, First Reports from 39 developing country Surveys will have been published, with two more such reports in press.

There will, however, be a continuing ISI/WFS presence at the London offices for the remainder of 1984 in respect of two areas of activity.

Archive.

The Archive will continue to function at its present location until the end of the year, with the terms and conditions governing the distribution of WFS survey data tapes remaining as at present, pending decisions on the form of the Archive's future existence. All correspondence should, as at present, be sent to Mr Beverley Rowe who will continue as Head of the Archive at the address below. Details regarding possible activities of the Archive after 1984 will be announced by ISI at a later date.

Publications Programme.

A number of remaining reports will be finalized, edited and published by ISI through the remaining months of the year. This will include a volume of papers and other reports resulting from the WFS assessment programme which formed the basis of the presentations at the WFS Symposium in London in April 1984, and two concluding summary reports on the WFS programme as a whole. This publication work will be under the direction of Mr David Whitelegge, Chief, WFS Information Section, to whom enquiries on this and other aspects of the WFS can be sent to the International Statistical Institute, 35-37 Grosvenor Gardens, London, SW1W 0BS.

WFS publications will continue to be distributed through the Permanent Office of the International Statistical Institute in Voorburg, Netherlands.

PUBLICATIONS

Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin

In addition to regular articles providing commentary on recent developments in the UK economy, and on domestic and international financial markets, the September issue of the Bank's Quarterly Bulletin contains the following items:

Company profitability and finance

This article continues an annual series (hitherto published in June issues) and updates various estimates of the financial position and profitability of industrial and commercial companies. It notes that the recovery in company profitability gathered pace in 1983 and appears to have continued in the early part of this year. Undistributed income rose sharply in 1983, contributing to an £8 billion financial surplus for industrial and commercial companies. Borrowing from banks fell back last year and capital market issues revived further; companies acquired substantial amounts of liquid assets, especially bank deposits.

The performance of large companies

The previous article analysed the financial position of the company sector using information mainly drawn from the national accounts: this one presents complementary statistics based on the published accounts of large companies, compiled by Datastream Ltd. The main trends revealed by the measures based on these two sources accord reasonably well although the values of certain measures (especially real profitability) are rather different. Using company accounts, it is possible to explore the performance of individual industrial sectors.

Business finance in the United Kingdom and Germany This article examines the sources and structure of business finance in the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany. It compares the different roles of the banks and the securities markets, and the implications for business finance of the way in which retirement pensions are funded. Even though there has been considerable convergence in the main sources of finance in the two countries, capital gearing in Germany remains generally much higher than is typical in the United Kingdom.

Finance leasing: estimates of investment in assets for leasing out

This short statistical note updates statistics on leasing compiled by the Bank. It introduces new quarterly series for the items previously published only as annual totals.

The international market for floating-rate instruments. This article analyses the present structure and conditions of the international markets for floating rate notes and note issuance facilities—markets that have grown rapidly in the last few years—and describes the main types of borrowers and investors. It assesses the implications of the growth of these markets, particularly for the banks, and shows how such flows are recorded in the United Kingdom balance of payments and international banking statistics.

The variability of exchange rates: measurement and effects

Measures of variability of bilateral and effective exchange rates are discussed in this note which compares variability in periods before and after the introduction of the exchange rate mechanism (ERM) of the EMS. It finds no general tendency for variability to be reduced after the introduction of the ERM; bilateral variability within the ERM and non-ERM groups of currencies has tended to fall, but between these groups it has increased. The note also explores the effect of short-term variability on UK trade.

The Bank's Quarterly Bulletin (at £7.50 per copy) may be obtained from:

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

National Institute Economic Review

The latest issue of the National Institute Economic Review includes the following items:

Fiscal policy and interest rates

The Treasury Bill rate is regarded as an exogenous policy instrument in the National Institute's forecasting model. Other interest rates in the model are linked to this rate by term-structure equations. This approach, while justifiable for forecasting, has limitations when the model is used for policy simulations since it ignores the responses of interest rates to changes in economic conditions. This note by Jane Darby shows how the properties of the model are affected when interest rates are treated as endogenous.

Estimating the confidence intervals of the National Institute model

This note by S. G. Hall reports on some work using stochastic simulation techniques to estimate the confidence intervals of the National Institute's economic model. Estimates are provided of the model's standard errors allowing for the single equation error terms and for the uncertainty of the estimated parameters.

Protectionism and European trade in manufactures

This article by Ann D. Morgan examines developments

in trade between the European Community and the

This article by Ann D. Morgan examines developments in trade between the European Community and the rest of the world from 1970 to 1982, and attempts to assess the consequences of increased tariff protection against all imports of manufactures from outside Western Europe. It concludes that the effects of a moderate rise in tariffs would be small. A high tariff of 50 per cent or more would have a substantial effect on trade, but not on output and would be unlikely to yield any terms of trade gain.

Also included in the current Review were the following papers resulting from the Conference on 'Full employment as a policy objective' held at the National Institute in July 1984.

On the Measurement of Employment and

Unemployment —David Metcalf

Government, Unions and

Stagflation in the UK —Marcus Miller

Is There an External

Constraint? —John Williamson

Full Employment as a Policy

Objective —NIESR

It is not possible in a synopsis to do justice to a full day of wide-ranging discussion. The existence of a very large margin of slack in the labour market was not questioned; the case for attaching high priority to its reduction was generally acknowledged. An objective of reducing unemployment to two million was suggested, but it was felt that if the aim were to provide jobs for all those 'genuinely seeking work' then perhaps that target was not ambitious enough.

Reference

National Institute Economic Review No. 109 August 1984, available from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, 2 Dean Trench Street, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HE (Price £8.50 including postage)

Parliamentary election results

The Public Information Office of the House of Commons has published three Factsheets (Nos. 16, 22 and 27) on election results. These were compiled by the Statistical Section of the House of Commons Library's Research Division,

No. 16 Statistical digest of By-Election results in the 1979-1983 Parliament includes for each by-election, the votes cast for and vote shares of each candidate, details of total poll, electorate and percentage turnout, and comares the results with the May 1979 General Election results.

No. 22 General election results in June 1983 presents a number of analyses, many of which have not been published elsewhere. The nine tables include a summary of votes cast for each party; the votes cast and seats won by each major party by standard region together with changes from the 1979 General Election; the largest and smallest majorities by party; the largest and smallest turnouts, by county; the numbers of women candidates and Members elected by party; and the largest and smallest constituencies both in terms of area and electorate.

No. 27 By-election results since the general elections of June 1983 gives for each of the by-elections in the present Parliament the votes cast for and vote shares of each candidate, details of majorities, electorates and percentage turnout and compares these with the 1983

General Election results. It is intended to re-issue this Factsheet from time to time as by-elections occur, though not necessarily after each single result.

These Factsheets can be obtained, free of charge, from:

Public Information Office House of Commons LONDON SW1A 0AA Mark envelopes 'Factsheets'

United Kingdom non-official statistical sources

A report by Leona Siddall of the University of Warwick presents the results of a survey carried out between September 1982 and February 1984 of non-official statistical sources of interest to business and industry, produced regularly in and concerning the United Kingdom. The research was funded by the British Library Research and Development Department and the aim was to produce a comprehensive assessment of non-official statistical publishing in the United Kingdom. Postal questionnaires were sent to 3,864 organisations, including trade associations, local authorities, stockbrokers, market research consultants and academic institutions and information was gathered on the titles, frequency, subject content, data sources, availability and cost of any statistics published. In addition, a survey of the use of non-official statistics was carried out. 653 publishing bodies were identified, producing 1,112 titles. The subject content of nonofficial sources is similar to official sources, although non-official sources give a greater breakdown of data. In some subjects, particularly new product areas, nonofficial sources provide the only source of information. A considerable number of the titles, 41 per cent, provide original data not available elsewhere and most of the titles have no restriction on their availability. A small user survey demonstrated the value of nonofficial sources to the business user. The report concludes that non-official statistics provide an important store of information and the report's seven recommendations suggest ways in which this information can be increasingly utilised by the business community. The two main recommendations are for:

- (i) a guide to non-official statistics to be produced. This is now being prepared by Warwick Statistics Service at the University of Warwick and is expected to be published by about end-1984. It will contain details of over 1,200 titles and services identified in the research: and
- (ii) the development of a central core collection of nonofficial statistical materials by the British Library.

Reference

A survey of United Kingdom non-official statistical sources and their role in business information by Leona Siddall, British Library R&D Report 5821 (University of Warwick) August 1984. Available from Warwick Statistics Service, University of Warwick Library, Coventry CV4 7AL, price £12.00 including postage. ISBN 0 903220 19 9.

Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Data Archive Bulletin

The September 1984 issue of this Bulletin (formerly titled the SSRC Data Archive Bulletin) contains a report on the new ESRC-sponsored Centre in Economic Computing and items on assistance with research initiatives, how to obtain data on floppies, new data base management programs at the archive, single economic time series now available from the archive, forthcoming data workshops, census news and notes, GHS and FES news.

A list of data sets acquired since the last Bulletin is given in an appendix and selected data sets are described in more detail in the new acquisitions section.

A software bulletin is included; also notes on recent publications; a diary of forthcoming events; and a section of book reviews.

Reference

ESRC Data Archive Bulletin No. 29 September 1984, available free, from ESRC Data Archive, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex CO4 3SQ.

International publications

The following have recently been published and are available from HMSO:

United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Statistical Office

Statistical papers: Series 5 No. 8

World statistics in brief. United Nations statistical pocketbook, 8th edn., price £2.70 net

Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. Statistical Office

Statistical papers: series D: Community trade (by sea) statistics

Vol 27-30 No. 2 Maritime transport study 1980: analysis of goods moved during 1977-80 between regions of the World, price £34.20 net

Yearbook of construction statistics: 1974-1981, price £27.00 net

Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. Population Division

Population studies 81, Manual X: indirect techniques for demographic estimation.

National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council, Committee on Population and Demography, price £28.80 net

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

Census of Motor Traffic on main international traffic arteries 1980, price £18.00 net

Statistical Office

Energy Balances 1977-1980 and electricity profiles 1976-1981 for selected developing countries and areas, price £24.30 net

International Monetary Fund

Occasional paper, 24, Government employment and pay, some international comparisons by Peter S. Heller and Alan A. Tait, price £4.50 net Government finance statistics yearbook, Vol 7: 1984, price £11.70 net

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Revenue statistics of OECD member countries: 1965-1983, price £13.50 net

Meat balances in OECD countries: 1976-1982, price £6.00 net

Milk and milk products balances in OECD countries: 1974-1982, price £7.80 net

Department of Economics and Statistics

Main economic indicators: historical statistics 1964-1983, price £17.50 net

Commission of the European Communities

Studies collection: Transport series 7 Road freight transport between EEC member states: a feasibility study for a system of price indices, price £3.70 net

Eurostat

Review 1973-1982, price £7.50 net

Structure and activity of Industry, Data by size of enterprises, 1979, price £3.20 net

National accounts ESA, aggregates 1960-1982, price £6.30 net

Demographic statistics 1984, price £10.00 net

Demographic statistics 1984, price £10.00 net Yearbook of regional statistics 1984, price £12.50 net

ACP: basic statistics 1984, price £5.00 net Regional statistics 1982: the Community's financial participation in investments, price £3.20 net Working time statistics: methods and measurement in the European Community, price £9.40 net

Readers should note that the publications of international organisations are subject to price changes.

National Coal Board

The 1983/4 report and accounts of the National Coal Board contains summary statistics of the industry's performance. These include output, productivity, manpower, consumption, stocks, accidents and financial results. Some of the statistics are also given by area.

Reference

National Coal Board Report and Accounts 1983/4. Available from National Coal Board, Purchasing and Contracts Office, Hobart House, Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7AE, price £2.75 net.

World Fertility Survey

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

Comparative studies

- No. 28 Birth Intervals by John Hobcraft and John McDonald
- No. 31 Childlessness and Infecundity by Martin Vaessen
- No. 33 Socio-Economic Differentials in Recent Fertility by Iqbal Alam and J. B. Casterline

Scientific reports series

- No. 53 The Proximate Determinants of Fertility in Ghana by S. K. Gaisie
- No. 54 An Assessment of the Machine Editing Policies of the World Fertility Survey by Thomas W Pullum, Nuri Ozsever and Trudy Harpham
- No. 55 Response Rates, Callbacks and Coverage: The WFS Experience by Albert M. Marckwardt

Fertility survey in Sweden, 1981, A summary of Findings

The determinants of fertility decline in Costa Rica 1964-76 by Luis Rosero, Miguel Gómez and Virginia Rodriguez

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

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

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Royal Statistical Society Study Group on the Government Statistical Service

A study group on the Government Statistical Service was set up by the Royal Statistical Society in 1982 to provide a focus at which the element of accountability to the whole statistics profession by the GSS could be delivered.

The first meeting of the study group was held in February 1983, and between then and the summer of this year there was a total of 8 meetings. The subjects covered were unemployment statistics; National Health Service statistics; the Central Statistical Office's centralised database; civil judicial statistics; statistics of women in government; 'Instead of a 1986 Census'; rate support grant; and forecasts of energy demand.

At the time of going to press the first meeting of the 1984/85 session is due on 25 October on monitoring the effects of compulsory seatbelts. Dates of further meetings, with subjects so far decided are as follows: 22 November 1984 Lead in blood

24 January 1985

14 February 1985

11 April 1985 Criminality of successive

cohorts

23 May 1985

Meetings normally take place at 5.00 pm in the Manson Theatre of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London WC1. Confirmation of dates, venues and subjects should be sought from the Royal Statistical Society programme.

International Conference on Population, Mexico City, 6-14 August 1984

The second International Conference on Population was held in Mexico City from 6-14 August 1984, at which over 140 member states of the United Nations were represented. The United Kingdom's delegation, led by Lord Glenarthur, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Health and Social Security comprised officials from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys and the Overseas Development Administration and the Hon. Charles Morrison, MP., Chairman of the Parliamentary Group on Population and Development. OPCS members of the delegation were Mr Frank Whitehead, Deputy Director, deputy leader of the delegation, Miss Jean Thompson, Chief Statistician, Population Statistics Division, and Mrs Margaret Lane, Statistician. The purpose of the Conference was to review and appraise progress over the past decade in the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action adopted at the World Population Conference in Bucharest, 1974 and to make recommendations for further action towards implementation. At the completion of its work the Mexico City Conference adopted by consensus a set of detailed recommendations for the further implementation of the World Population Plan of Action, and the Mexico City Declaration on Population and Development.

Free copies of the Mexico City declaration and the recommendations for the further implementation of the World Population Plan of Action may be obtained from Mrs M. E. Lane, Room 639, OPCS, St Catherines House, 10 Kingsway, London WC2B 6JP.

GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL SERVICE

Appointments and changes

Mr H. Collings, Grade 5 (Chief Statistician), Department of Education and Science, transferred to the Department of Transport on 1 July 1984 to succeed Miss G. P. Ford recently retired.

Mr P. L. Turnbull, Statistician, Manpower Services Commission, was promoted to Grade 5 (Chief Statistician) and transferred to the Department of Education

and Science to succeed Mr Collings on 13 August 1984. Ms P. A. Stewart, Statistician, Department of the Environment, was promoted to Grade 5 (Chief Statistician) on 16 July 1984 and transferred to the Department of Health and Social Security to succeed Miss M. Robson recently retired.

Mr R. C. Woods, Grade 5 (Chief Statistician), Department of Trade and Industry returned from service in Zimbabwe on 27 July 1984.

Mr C. J. Griffin, Statistician, Department of the Environment, was promoted to Grade 5 (Chief Statistician) on 30 July 1984.

Mr J. R. Merchant, Grade 5, Cabinet Office (MPO), transferred to the Director of Public Prosecutions Office on 17 September 1984.

Mr D. B. Manwaring, Grade 5, Department of Trade and Industry, retired on 21 September 1984.

Mr B. F. Middleton, Grade 5, HM Customs and Excise, retired on 23 September 1984.

Dr D. Wishart, Grade 5, Scottish Office, transferred to Scottish Education Department to take up post as Head of Division (Vocation Further Education) and was succeeded, on promotion, by Mr A. M. Burnside, Principal, Scottish Office both from 1 October 1984.

Mr J. R. Williams, Grade 5, Home Office retired on 31 October 1984.

Mr S. F. James, Grade 3, Head of S1 Division, Department of Trade and Industry retires on 30 November 1984 and will be succeeded on promotion, by Mr N. Harvey, Grade 5, HM Customs and Excise.

Reviews of regular surveys

Set out below is a list of recently completed category B reviews (See *Statistical News*, 61.33) to businesses. These surveys are subject to an internal departmental review and a report which is monitored by the Survey Control Unit. Any enquiries concerning a survey or its review should be made to the appropriate departmental contact point given below.

- 1. H. M. Jones
 Producer price index survey
 Business Statistics Office
 Cardiff Road, Newport,
 Gwent NPT 1XG
- 2. Stocks of sugar held for manufacture of food and drink.
- 3. EC sugar import and export commitments.
- 4. Throughput and stocks of dead poultry.
- 5. Production of potato crisps and other snack foods.
- 6. Crude and refined vegetable oils, use, production, stocks.
- 7. Return from manufacturers of margarine and compound fats.

- 8. Wheat and barley diseases.
- Fertiliser practice on farms
 A. J. Barnett
 Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food
 Whitehall Place
 London SW1
- 10. Sample pig enquiries April and August
 A. J. Barnett
 Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food
 address as above
 E. Swires-Hennessy
 Welsh Office
 Cathays Park
 Cardiff
 CF1 3NQ
- 11. Annual return of stocks of narcotic drugs
 T. J. Kavanagh
 Home Office
 50 Queen Anne's Gate
 London
 SW1H 9AT

LATE ITEMS

Regional accounts

The November issue of *Economics Trends* will include an article on UK regional accounts. It is intended to publish provisional estimates by region of gross domestic product and personal income in 1983. The tables include analysis of regional GDP by industry and by factor income. The income measure of GDP is given at factor cost.

Estimates of general government gross domestic fixed capital formation by purpose of government are also included for the years up to and including 1982.

Reference

Economic Trends No 368 (HMSO) November 1984 (Price £11.25 net). See the inside back cover for details of how to obtain copies of the article.

Stock of consumer durables in the United Kingdom

An article in the March 1978 issue of Economic Trends (subsequently reprinted in Studies in Official Statistics Number 35) by J. R. Calder entitled 'The stock of consumer durables in the United Kingdom' provided a selection of figures over the run of years end-1966 to end-1976 for the total and major components of consumer durables. Six variants were considered, two methods of calculating depreciation (straight-line and reducing balance) for each of three life-length assumptions (short, medium and long). Estimates were provided at current (end-year) prices and at constant (1970) prices.

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

The exercise has been extended annually to include the end of more recent years. The base-year of the constant price figures has been up-dated from 1970 to 1980.

The latest extension of the exercise, to end 1983, has now been completed. A short paper summarising the results is available, updating the text affected by changes in methodology and some of the tables given in the *Economic Trends* article, of which off-prints are also available. A small charge, of £1.20 each including postage, is made for these items.

Enquiries to:

Mr F Shean
Room 71C/3
Central Statistical Office
Great George Street
London
SW1P 3AQ
Telephone: 01-233 7497

References

Economic Trends No. 293, March 1978, (HMSO). Studies in Official Statistics Number 35; Personal sector balance sheets and current developments in Inland Revenue estimates of personal wealth 1978 (HMSO).

The continuous household survey (Northern Ireland)

The Policy Planning and Research Unit (PPRU) have published a Monitor, No 1/84—Preliminary Results for 1983 in advance of the forthcoming Annual Report on the 1983 Continuous Household Survey (CHS). The CHS is a continuous survey based on a sample of the general population resident in private households in Northern Ireland. The nature and aims of the survey are similar to those of the General Household Survey carried out by OPCS in Great Britain.

PPRU Monitor No 1 has been modelled on those published by OPCS for GHS and contains a short selection of tables and analyses on up-to-date social, economic and demographic information covered by the survey.

Free copies of the Monitor and further information can be obtained from:

Mr G Stevenson
Social Division
Policy Planning and Research Unit
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3SW
Telephone: 0232-63210 Ext 2473

Alphabetical Index

The index to Statistical News covers the last nine issues. Page numbers are prefixed by the issue number, e.g. 64.18 signifies number 64, page 18.

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.

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

abortion statistics, 64.24 accountancy profession, role of, 63.39 adoptions, 64.21 aerospace and electronics cost indices, 64.28 manpower, training and outlook, 62.23 agricultural and horticultural census, 67.37 constant price indices of production, Northern Ireland, 61.22 crop production, annual estimates harvest, 1981, 59.37, 1982, 62.21, 63.29, 1983, 67.38 December census, 1981, 61.21, 1983, 67.38 December, glasshouse census, 62.21, 67.38 Departmental Net Income Calculation, 61.21, 67.37 economic report, Scottish, 64.28 irrigation survey, 63.28 June agricultural census, 1982, 59.37, 61.21, 1983, 63.29, 67.37 machinery census, 62.21, 67.38 orchard fruit survey, 63.28 pig inquiry, sample, April 1982, 59.37, April 1983, 62.21, April 1984, 67.38 Scotland, 60.25, 63.29, 64.28, 67.38 price indices, 64.27 Scottish agricultural censuses, June, 59.38, 63.29, 65.35, 67.38 December 61.21, 65.35 straw survey, 67.37 vegetable and flower census, 61.21, 67.37 wages and employment, 59.36, 63.28 workers, hours and earnings, 60.25, 62.20, 66.50 Agricultural Statistics for the United Kingdom, 61.21, 63.29, 67.38 agriculture, economic accounts, UK, 67.37 Agriculture in Scotland, 63.29, 67.38

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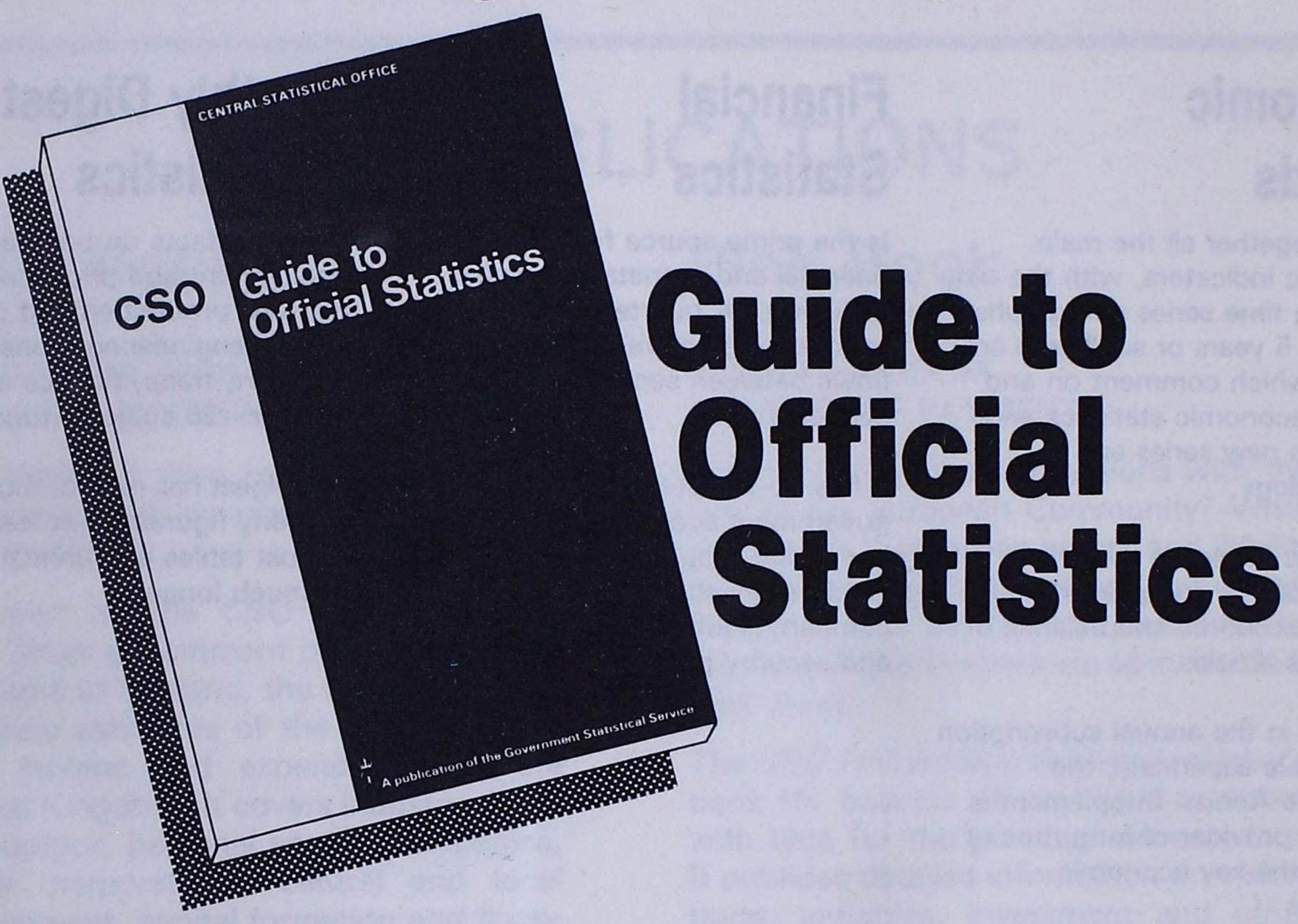
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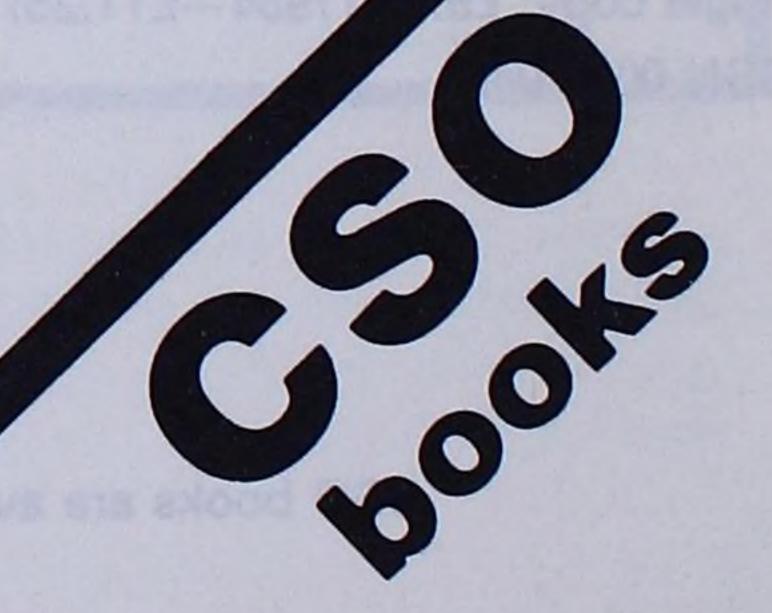
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