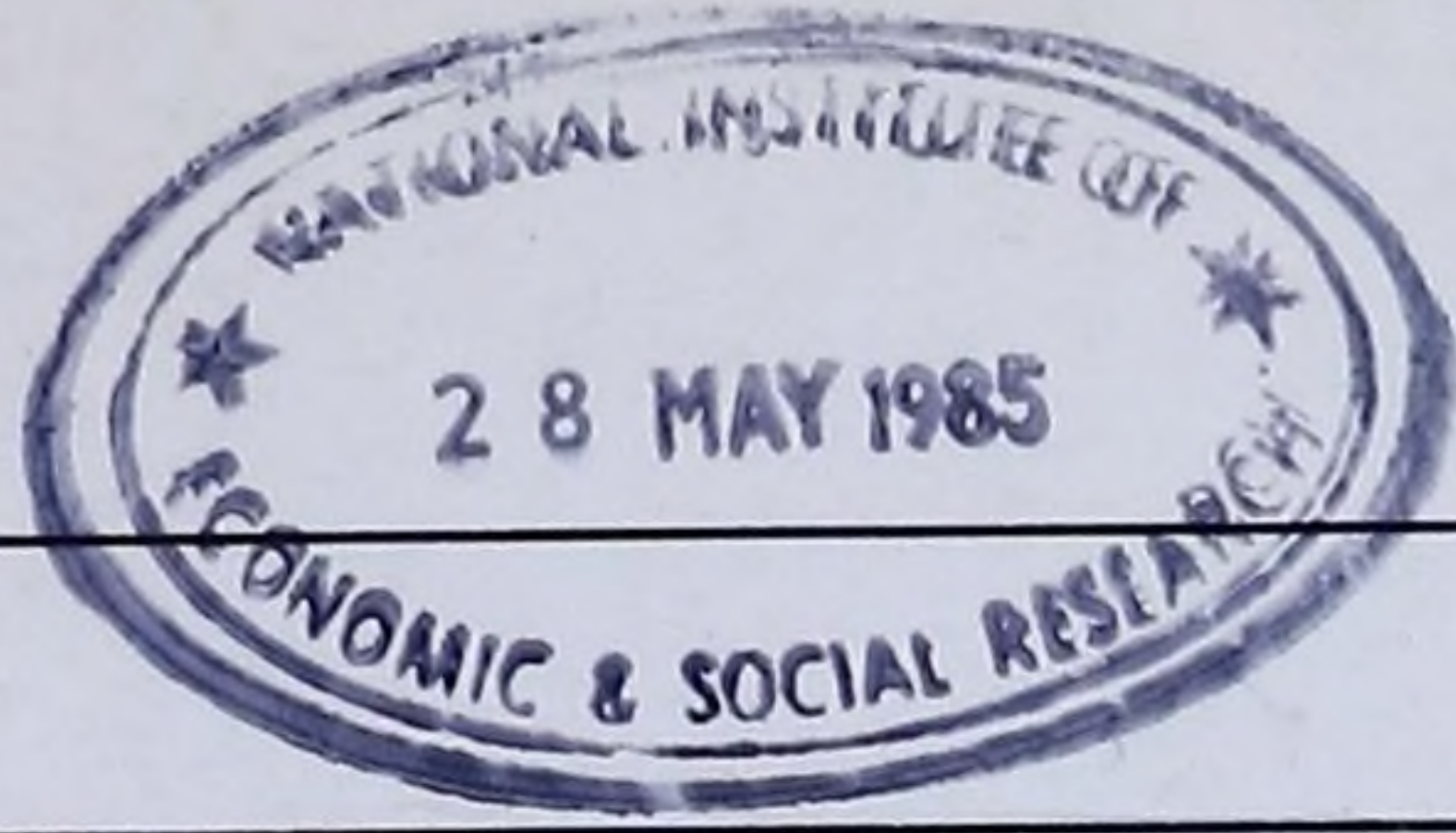


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May 1985

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Government Statistical Service

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

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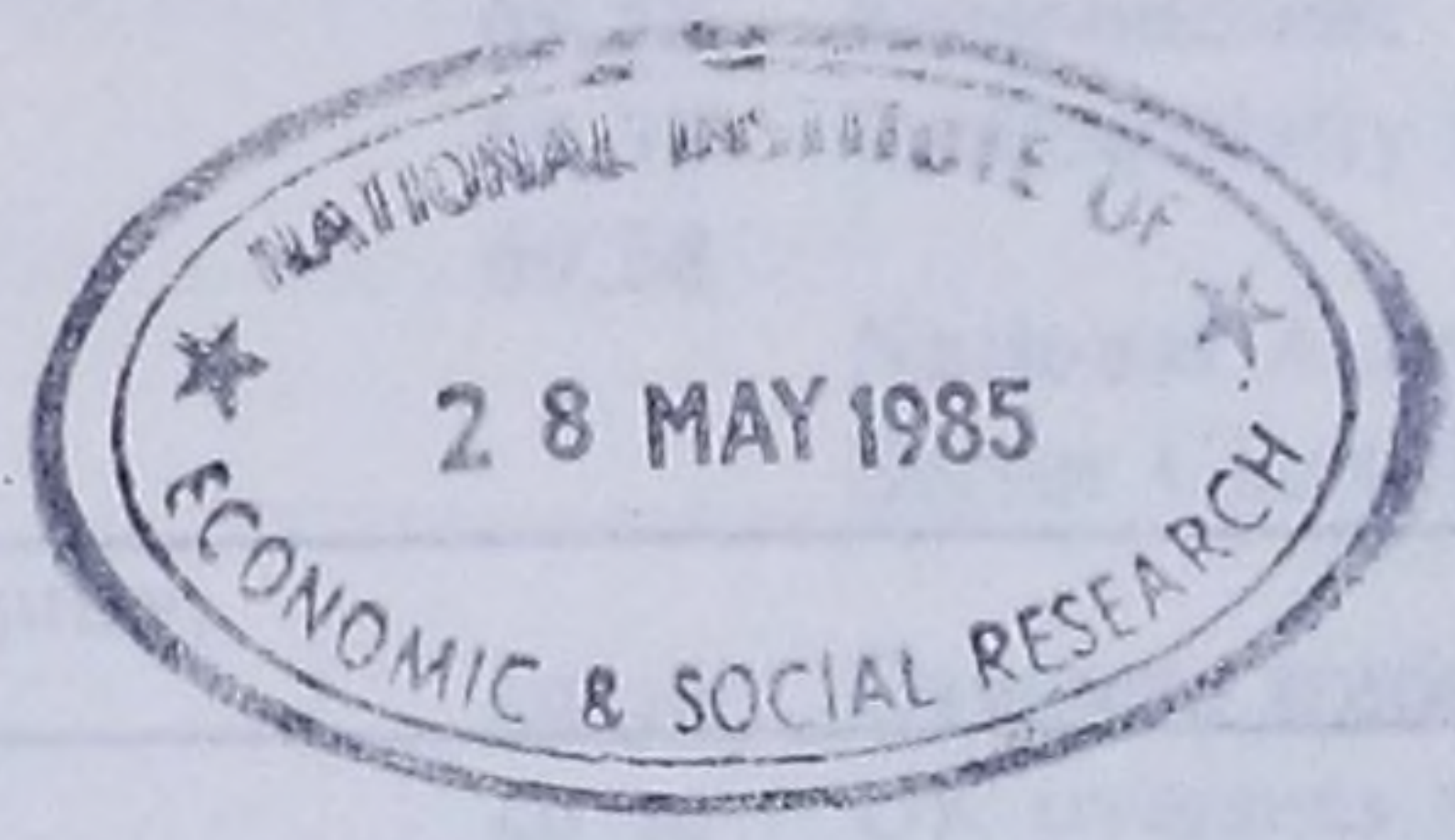
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The Editor is willing to consider for publication letters of interest but cannot enter into correspondence on the matters raised.

Address: The Editor
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 London SW1P 3AQ

New Director for the Central Statistical Office and Head of the Government Statistical Service



The Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, FRS, MP, has approved the appointment of Mr Jack Hibbert to succeed Sir John Boreham as Director of the Central Statistical Office and Head of the Government Statistical Service from 1 August 1985.

Mr Hibbert, who is 53, was educated at Leeds Grammar School and the London School of Economics. After National Service in the Royal Air Force he joined the Exchequer and Audit Department in 1952 and transferred to the Central Statistical Office in 1960. He has worked in several fields of economic

statistics in the CSO including public expenditure, capital formation and balance of payments.

Mr Hibbert was promoted in 1970 to Chief Statistician and in 1973 was appointed Assistant Director (Grade 3) of the National Income and Expenditure Division at the CSO. He spent a period on loan as a consultant to OECD and EUROSTAT in 1981. On his return in 1982 he joined the Department of Trade and Industry on appointment to his present post as Head of Statistics Division 2.

The Scottish Office – centenary

Andrew Burnside, Chief Statistician, Scottish Office

Broad history

1985 is the centenary year of the Scottish Office. It is therefore with considerable pleasure that I take this opportunity to describe its functions and, briefly, its statistical activities. I am grateful to colleagues throughout the Office for contributions on their areas of work.

To celebrate its centenary, the Scottish Office has commissioned a study describing its main activities over that period and the increase in its responsibilities since 1885 when it was housed in its entirety in Dover House, Whitehall. This study, entitled *The Thistle and The Crown*, has been written by former Under Secretary, John Gibson, and will be published in June by HMSO. For all of our Whitehall colleagues who have never been quite sure what the Scottish Office does, this should be an interesting book; and, for our friends in the Welsh Office, it will no doubt become prescribed reading.

The present day Scottish Office is a confederation of five functional Departments and a group of Central Services Divisions, each headed by a Deputy Secretary, under the overall command of one Permanent Secretary. While much of its activity is under legislation common to National Departments much also is in respect of policies with a distinctive Scottish legal or institutional basis. Thus, e.g., law enforcement is governed by the principles of Scots Law (Roman Dutch in its origin) and the long established system of public prosecution; and, in education, there are substantial differences from the English system e.g. with respect to curriculum, certification, and the range of subjects studied to University entrance level.

The Departments are the Scottish Education Department (which has responsibilities in Scotland similar to those of the Department of Education and Science, with the major exception of universities and the major addition of responsibilities for social work and the children's hearing system), the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (which has functions similar to those of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, with the major exception of food), the Scottish Home and Health Department (with responsibilities similar to those of the Health side of the Department of Health and Social Security and, on the law and order side, with many of the functions of the Home Office), the Scottish Development Department (whose functions are similar to many of those of the Department of the Environment

and the Department of Transport), and the Industry Department for Scotland (which has general over-sight of the Scottish economy together with certain executive responsibilities in respect of economic development and industrial assistance). All these Departments are responsible to the Secretary of State for Scotland, who has, since 1926, had Cabinet rank. In addition to these Scottish Office Departments another office of interest to statisticians which reports to the Secretary of State is that of the Registrar General for Scotland.

Current statisticians

Statisticians are engaged in work for each of the five Departments and also for Central Services Divisions. At present the total number of statisticians (all established grades) is twenty-six. The staff are posted as follows:

Scottish Education Department (SED)	10
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland (DAFS)	2
Scottish Home and Health Department (SHHD)	2
Industry Department for Scotland (IDS)	5
Central Services (including four engaged primarily on work for the Scottish Development Department (SDD))	7

The statisticians are located in four separate buildings in Edinburgh and also one in Glasgow (part of IDS). Although the General Register Office (Scotland) is not part of the Scottish Office, there is close contact with the present Registrar General (a former Chief Statistician in the Scottish Office) and with his two statisticians (who have also previously worked within the Scottish Office). Within SHHD there are no statisticians engaged on health matters. A feature of the National Health Service in Scotland is the Common Services Agency which is charged, *inter alia*, with collecting and disseminating statistics and providing statistical services both to the Department and to the fifteen Scottish Health Boards. Within the Agency, the Information Services Division have a statistical/research staff of twelve.

The rise of the statistician

There have been statisticians, in the current Government Statistical Service (GSS) sense of the word, in the Scottish Office for over thirty years now. The first, who enjoyed the title of 'Statistician to the Secretary of State

This is the fifth in a series of articles on the structure and functions of the Government Statistical Service. The sixth in the series, on the Home Office, will appear in the August 1985 issue.

for Scotland', was primarily engaged on economic matters which were a major concern of post-war Government in Scotland. He introduced the Index of Industrial Production for Scotland in the early 1950s and published the first collation of Scottish statistics (largely economic) in 1953, the *Digest of Scottish Statistics*. The statistician (all grades) complement remained at one until the mid-1960s; was three in 1966 (excluding those on health statistics); and is currently twenty-six.

A varied life

A feature of the work of the Scottish Office is its variety, and this applies as much to statisticians as to others. Statisticians move, e.g., between posts in education, economics and fisheries. (It should be said, too, that many Scottish Office statisticians began their Civil Service careers in Whitehall Departments and that many who began in the Scottish Office are now in other Departments.) The following describes the activities in which statisticians are engaged within the Scottish Office. The description is necessarily an illustration of their work rather than an exhaustive account.



Agriculture and Fisheries

Agriculture

Agricultural statistics were among the first in the Scottish Office, so we give them pride of place, as befits their 'primary' nature in any case. In contrast to the early statistical activity in this field it has to be said that it is the latest in the Scottish Office to have the services of a statistician having, until very recently, been the preserve of economists within DAFS.

Among a very wide range of physical and financial statistics relating to a particularly well documented industry, a major and long-standing source of statistics is the Scottish Agricultural Census. The need for livestock information with the advance of cattle plague in 1865 led to the first comprehensive Agricultural Census of Great Britain in the following year and has been conducted at least annually ever since. For most of its first 100 years, the Census consisted of no more than totals of livestock, crops and labour at various geographical levels. Since 1960, however, computer processing has allowed the production of much more complex analyses, both regular and *ad hoc*. Its results are widely used across the range of agricultural policies in Scotland.

The United Kingdom's entry to the European Community required an immediate contribution to Community statistics. The Census, with very little modification, was able to provide not only the information required on crop and livestock populations, but also

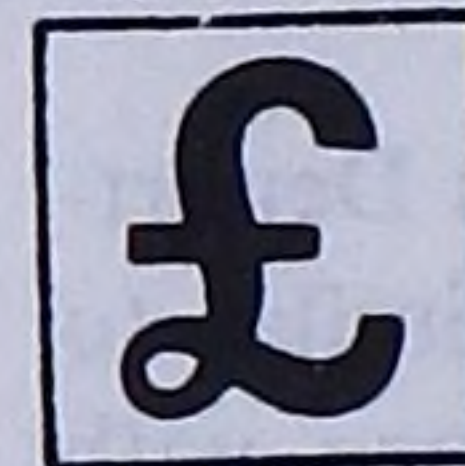
much of what was needed for periodic community structure surveys. Much effort is now going into improving the speed and flexibility of producing results, in particular, through the use of computer terminals and micros. But the Agricultural Census can be expected to remain a recognisable descendant of the inquiry of a century earlier.



Sea fisheries

Also within DAFS, there is important activity on sea fisheries statistics. Statistics for Scottish sea fisheries play an integral role in the management of the fishing industry in Scotland and are, for example, essential for the assessment of fish stocks and the monitoring of catches subject to quotas. With agreement on the European Community Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) in 1983, the evaluation of the uptake of fish quotas by the Scottish industry is a continuing function of the Department. The statistics are also a major contribution to the statistics of catches in the North East Atlantic which are coordinated by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea. The Council's figures, in turn, are used to make scientific assessment of fish stocks and to determine the total allowable catch for the main commercial fish species.

On 1 April this year the latest development in the Common Fisheries Policy was introduced – the European Community Fishing Vessels Log Book. This should enhance the enforcement of fish quotas at sea. The sea fisheries statistics have been collected from fish market sales notes under the Sea Fisheries Scotland Amendment Act 1885 (It's that year again!); but the sales notes have proved adaptable and will now conform to the new Community requirements.



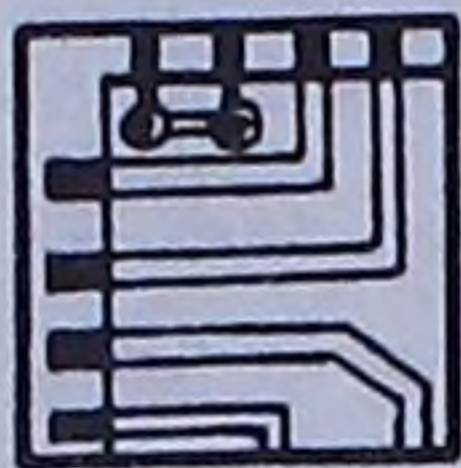
Scottish economic statistics

The Secretary of State's powers in Scottish economic affairs have grown considerably in the post-war period. The departmental and public demand for economic statistics and analysis has increased correspondingly and it was in the 1970s that the number of economic statisticians in the Scottish Office saw its greatest growth within a Unit combining economists and statisticians. The statisticians in the Industry Department for Scotland undertake (in contrast to most of their Scottish Office statistical colleagues) little direct collection of statistics – the statistics used mostly derive from national enquiries. They are concerned, rather, with developing Scottish priorities within the national statistical framework; advising on matters of policy; undertaking Scottish analyses; and producing publications of Scottish economic statistics.



From left to right: Munro Dunn (DAFS), Bill McNie (IDS), Jim Cuthbert (SED) and the author with Edinburgh Castle in the background.

In the early 1970s, the Scottish Office produced the first official regional accounts for Scotland. These were later developed by the Central Statistical Office together with accounts for all the United Kingdom regions. The most recent achievement by the Scottish Office in the regional accounting field has been the completion of Scottish input-output tables for 1979. These distinguish 83 industries. At the level of about forty industries, comparison is possible between these latest tables and the first Scottish tables produced in 1973 (by Fraser of Allander Institute, the Scottish Council and IBM) and with the United Kingdom tables for 1979.



As noted above, an Index of Industrial Production for Scotland has been published since 1953. Currently steps are being taken to publish production indices at a more detailed industry level to enhance their usefulness. Following recent university work on service sector output measures, work is under way within the Department to extend the Index of Industrial Production to produce output estimates of Scottish gross domestic product.



As can be imagined, there are many other activities to which the statisticians must turn their hands in this field. Of these, the main one is probably labour statistics. In addition to making considerable use of the Department of Employment's censuses and surveys, the Department maintain a data-base on manufacturing employment – the Scottish Manufacturing Establishments Record (SCOMER) – with information going back as far as 1950. This information is valuable not only for departmental briefing and day to day needs, but also for more detailed research on, e.g., incoming firms and small businesses. This Record is now being integrated with the Regional Data System operated by the Department of Trade and Industry and this latter system contains information on selective financial assistance at the level of individual establishment.

The main IDS publication is a twice yearly *Scottish Economic Bulletin* (HMSO). This carries articles by both economists and statisticians, together with the main quarterly and annual economic series for Scotland, and short reports on topical issues.

Education

While IDS has responsibilities in the field of manpower and training and the careers service in Scotland, it is the Scottish Education Department which has, understandably, the major responsibilities for education in Scotland (other than universities). The work of the

Department preceded the formation of the Scottish Office as such. To this long-standing concern with education in Scotland, there was added in 1970 responsibility for social work services.



Education

The education system in Scotland has evolved separately from that in the rest of the United Kingdom, and has a number of distinctive features. The system is also changing very rapidly – and these changes tend to play a dominant role in the life of SED statisticians just now. The following are examples of major current educational initiatives:

The 'Munn and Dunning'[†] reforms of curriculum and assessment mean that courses for 14 to 16 year olds are being revised to give a greater emphasis to the practical application of knowledge, and that certification will be extended to all school pupils in the form of the new Standard Grade.

Non-advanced vocational further educational qualifications are being revised on a modular basis. A new National Certificate has been introduced, which records the modules completed by young people in schools or further education colleges. The effect is to blur the previously clear-cut distinction between school and post-school education.

A review is currently being conducted by the Scottish Tertiary Education Advisory Council of the organisation of tertiary education in Scotland.

Provision of statistical support for the education divisions of SED is the responsibility of a division headed by a Chief Statistician, and containing six other statistical professionals – as well as a number of administrative staff. There are close relationships between statisticians and policy makers in SED – one illustration of which is the fact that the 'Statistics' Division also has policy responsibility for school staffing and teacher supply.

One important aspect of the Statistics Division's functions is, of course, the collection of data: data on schools and teachers (the annual School Census), on the qualifications of school leavers, and on the further education system. Because of the current changes in Scottish education, each of these systems is undergoing major modifications. Other important, but unrelated, developments are also under way: e.g., the extension of the Further Education Statistics System to provide improved information on college costs.

Data collection is, however, only the initial part of the activity of the Division. The second major activity is the production of the forecasts and projections which

[†] The Munn report – *The structure of the curriculum in the third and fourth years of the Scottish secondary school*. (HMSO 1977) The Dunning report – *Assessment for all: report of the committee to review assessment in the third and fourth years of secondary education in Scotland*. (HMSO 1977)

underlie much educational planning. This includes, for example, projecting numbers of pupils, students and teachers for the annual public expenditure planning round; projecting the required number of trainee teachers for the annual determination of intake quotas to colleges of education; student award projections; and long-term projections of the demand for higher education, which are an important input to strategic review of the structure of the higher education system. This projection activity depends on an extensive suite of models developed by the Division.

The third important area of activity includes dissemination of statistics (one of the principal vehicles being a series of Statistical Bulletins, see page 69.31), and also contribution to a large number of *ad hoc* requests and studies, for administrative divisions and the Educational Inspectorate.

Finally, it is worth mentioning one particular initiative which is, as far as we are aware, a unique example of collaboration between Government departments and a university. In the late 1970s, SED and the Centre for Educational Sociology (CES) at Edinburgh University were running separate surveys of Scottish school leavers. It seemed sensible to rationalise these surveys, so after 1980, SED and CES collaborated in carrying out the biennial Scottish School Leavers Survey. In 1985, the survey is being significantly enhanced; in addition to surveying a ten per cent sample of leavers from secondary schools, the survey will now also cover a ten per cent sample of the previous year's fourth year in Scottish schools. In 1986, there will be a follow-up of this fourth year cohort. The enhanced survey is being funded jointly by SED, Manpower Services Commission, the Industry Department for Scotland, and the Department of Employment. The survey will play a key role in monitoring the changing paths of transition through the post-school stages. It also provides essential base data for projecting future demand for higher education.



Social work

The work of the Social Work Statistics Branch is, for a small outfit, wide ranging. Information is collected on the children's hearing system (the alternative, for the most part, to Court proceedings against children), children in-care, and a wide range of services by local authorities' Social Work Departments.

In the 1970s the statistical systems in the social work field were greatly expanded by a series of complex, individually-based, returns. These have survived and (with safeguards for confidentiality) developed in the case of children's hearings and children in-care returns, but have, in the light of experience, been dropped as regards

the measurement of the general case work of social workers and the monitoring of social work staff details.

Contributing, as it does, to an area of considerable local authority spending on services where the pressure or demand has been upwards due to unemployment, changes in family structure, and the increasing age of the population, the statistics branch plays an important part in the formulation of policies and priorities. Reflecting this, the branch is at present coordinating work under the aegis of the Department and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities to provide more even statistical coverage over all social work services and to create a better link between expenditure information and the statistics on service provision.

Central services

Within the Central Services Divisions the statisticians, in practice, perform most of their work on behalf of the Scottish Development Department. The main exceptions are in respect of local government finance and manpower planning, both of which are Central Service functions.



Local government finance

On the local government finance side, the statistician is closely involved with the divisions who have responsibility for the Government's policy on local authority spending in Scotland. As can be imagined this is a fairly active job at present! The work covers the full range of statistician's activities – from collection and review of local authority income and expenditure returns to publication of results (and collaboration with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy in certain of their publications) to the production of analyses and models with which to advise the policy makers on issues such as the control of capital spending, rate support grant distribution, penalties for local authority overspending, and the effects of the 1985 revaluation of rateable values in Scotland.



Manpower planning

On manpower planning, the work at present consists of modelling the development of the various levels of the administration group in the Scottish Office. As and when unification at grade 7 is introduced, it is to be expected that this work will require to be extended to the professional, technical and scientific grades also (e.g. to such as statisticians where, in the absence of detailed modelling, it is widely believed that there is a blockage between 'Statistician' and 'Chief Statistician!'). Work has also been done recently in support of the Scottish Office's part in the inter-departmental study on the Identification and Development of Internal Talent.



Housing

The main area of work on behalf of SDD is in respect of housing. The poor legacy of housing in Scotland forms a significant part of John Gibson's forthcoming book and long before the establishment of a housing statistician there was extensive interest in statistics in this field in Scotland. The Housing Statistics Branch has, as much as any in the Scottish Office, recently given its publications a major overhaul. Its major volume, *Scottish Housing Statistics* (HMSO) has been put on to annual, instead of quarterly, frequency in the interests of economy. Timely publication of quarterly data is now aimed at by means of a much slimmer Statistical Bulletin. Statistical Bulletins (see page 69.32) have, indeed, been introduced on a common format throughout the whole Scottish Office. They seek to improve the presentation and interpretation of statistics in the belief that large statistical tables copiously underwritten with footnotes are not necessarily the best means of conveying information.



SDD, non-housing

SDD, in its non-housing activities, exhibits considerable diversity. The statistical work is correspondingly spread rather than concentrated. Analysis of road accidents is one important function. Recent work in this field points to the need for greater analysis in order to identify the causes of a high and increasing incidence of accidents in certain age groups and to inform action for prevention. Although many of the transport statistics (e.g. on buses) are collected nationally there is a Scottish user interest which requires to be met both through *ad hoc* analysis and regular publications. Environmental monitoring also features in the work of this section. In 1984 the statistician collaborated with colleagues in SDD in the HM Industrial Pollution Inspectorate in producing Statistical Bulletins analysing radioactive discharges from nuclear establishments and the monitoring of the environment for radioactivity in Scotland. Lastly, it may be mentioned that this section also produces the main general volume of Scottish statistics, the *Scottish Abstract of Statistics* (HMSO) which is the lineal descendant of the *Digest of Scottish Statistics* first produced in the 1950s.



Law and order

Last, and by no means least, in the array of statistical activities in the Scottish Office are the responsibilities of the statisticians in SHHD who deal with crime, court

proceedings, penalty and prison statistics.

The work of these statisticians is in large measure concerned with the operation of large data collecting systems which have, nevertheless, to respond to the changes in the criminal procedure and policy which arise from time to time. Thus the likely adoption of alternatives to prosecution in certain circumstances in Scotland will have to be reflected by the statistical system and, so far as possible, monitored by those statistics. Similarly, the introduction in 1981 of powers for the Police to detain suspects for questioning for a period, called for careful monitoring of the impact on civil liberties.

Other recent work involved assessing whether the current prison estate could cope with a system of allocating offenders in which they were sent to local prisons irrespective of the length of their sentence. This exercise (the results of which are still being considered) was part of an assessment of whether such a system would be acceptable and more efficient than the present policy of designating penal establishments for particular types of prisoner, e.g., those serving long sentences. The advent of computerisation by the several criminal justice agencies in Scotland (Police, prosecution and court service) may lead to a greater and more powerful range of data being available than hitherto. While this is an exciting possibility and could provide valuable new information – on, e.g., patterns of re-offending – satisfactory provision for 'anonymity' of data will be a vital prerequisite. If found feasible and acceptable, the new system could also result in cost savings in the production of statistics – and this is one example of a search throughout statistics in the Scottish Office for greater efficiency in our activities.

Conclusion

The present spread of statisticians throughout the Scottish Office is one solution to keeping in close touch with policy divisions while also maintaining a professional approach within a centrally managed Government Statistical Service. The bedding-out – with the main exception of SED – of statisticians in small numbers throughout the Office may be thought to dilute the impact but, on balance, and reflecting the federal structure of Scottish Office Departments, it seems the best arrangement. It remains to be seen, with the present financial management initiative towards greater efficiency in Government activities and greater effectiveness in policy delivery, if this closeness to 'policy' colleagues will lead to a new emphasis in the statistician's functions.

The present number of statisticians, at twenty-six, shows – in spite of some reduction in recent years – remarkable growth over the numbers in 1966 (3) and in 1951 (1). What the numbers will be in the year 2000 cannot be projected with any confidence!

State figures

Transcript of a filmed conversation in 1984 between Sir John Boreham (JB) Director of the Central Statistical Office and Head of the Government Statistical Service and his predecessor Sir Claus Moser (CM) – edited by Tom Griffin, Chief Statistician, Central Statistical Office

Ways to the top

JB: Claus, I took over from you just under six years ago as Head of the Government Statistical Service (GSS); how did you get to that great position?

CM: Well, actually it all started when I was interned by the British Government in 1940, and all of us who were interned found something to do. I was just out of school, and one of the chaps set up a camp statistical office to count the refugees who were interned.

JB: A Central Statistical Office (CSO).

CM: Yes, and he wanted an assistant, he asked me and I thought it was rather a good subject. So I started on statistics. Later I became an academic and ultimately got more and more interested in the applications of statistics. You came up as an economist didn't you? I came up as a social statistician through the London School of Economics. In time I got involved in various government things – the Robbins Committee and so on. And then when Mr Wilson was Prime Minister he wanted to make a change and in 1967 I was invited to direct the CSO. How did you begin?

JB: I never know where to begin my story – most certainly not behind barbed wire. When I arrived at Oxford after doing my Air Force service, I really didn't know what I was going to do at all and I chose the PPE degree because it didn't close many options and I was interested in politics and philosophy anyway. My tutor said 'Oh, don't waste your time on that. Concentrate on the economics'. That was Tony Crosland. I then found that I had to choose an optional subject and there was a very short list to choose from; one of them was logic, another was statistics and I decided that statistics would be very easy for me because I had done maths. I was married and I had a son at that time so I needed some easy things. So I did the statistics optional paper and then loved it, found it actually suited me very well indeed and went almost directly into government statistics. It was 1951.

CM: You had a proper career in official statistics?

JB: Yes, wandering about through a number of departments – food, agriculture, demography, industry, technology, science, national accounts.

CM: So we're both applied statisticians.

JB: Very much so, I think.

CM: And our mathematical statistical brethren probably rather look down on us, do they?

(Laughter)

JB: I don't think any of them would admit it for a minute but I suspect they do in their heart of hearts – yes.

CM: There is still this great divide which has always saddened me. When I was President of the Royal Statistical Society I made all the usual noises about building bridges between theoretical statisticians and us applied chaps but it was a fairly hopeless quest, I think. We approach things so differently.

JB: Isn't it one of those quests that you've just got to go on with anyway? The need for it is very much in the roots of statistics. The name 'state figures' (this talk) is one root and the other is mathematical. Pascal, I suppose, is the father of the mathematical statistics. Both of those rivers go on flowing, they mingle and separate again. But you can't, we can't, just let them separate.

Hard times

CM: We ought to talk perhaps, a bit later, about how we see our roles as statisticians. Is it true to say that you, having come up through economics as you've explained, and taken over the Government Statistical Service from me in 1978, (I went there in 1967) – in a sense have had a harder time than I had?

JB: In my paranoid moments, when I think the world is against me – yes, I think you had an easier time. But I don't think it's true really because what you had to do was creative. You had to speed growth; certainly the climate was favourable, but speeding the growth of a service and multiplying it by two or three and, even more important, adding so much to the authority of statistics in the business of government, is not easy at all. What I had to do had another kind of difficulty. I had to reduce the size of the service a great deal – by about a quarter – in the six years, while doing all I could to preserve the essential parts of the service. I'm sure you want to talk about that later on.

CM: Obviously I've thought back, as I've watched from outside the cuts that have been forced on you in the last years, I've looked back to the things I tried to do when I was appointed; some I was instructed to do. Harold Wilson said to me 'I want you to concentrate very much on improving social statistics'; that's an area we ought to come back to. And another thing that is very relevant to my time is that the government had just had the Fulton Report on the Civil Service which gave

the professional a much greater role, if you remember. One very non-professional Permanent Secretary said to me when I came in: 'Do visit the Ministry of Technology (where you were at the time); it is full of economists and statisticians and other queers of that kind'. I always remember that. Obviously in the eyes of the traditional Permanent Secretary we were all rather queer. Now, one of the things that saddened me from outside about the change from my days to your days is the departure from what I set my heart on – making the Government Statistical Service something that served government, of course, but everybody else as well – the whole nation.

JB: Yes, yes.

CM: It was not just a tool of government but I have the impression that the Rayner Report stepped back from that and said 'No, GSS is for government, not for industry, etc.'. Now is that a true impression and, if so, why did you have to put up with that change? Or did you believe in it?

JB: It's true, like a caricature. The White Paper that came out in 1981 as a result of the Rayner Review didn't say that the Government Statistical Service should only serve government. I played quite a part in writing that White Paper and I agree with it. Recently I have been quite surprised; I went back to papers that I wrote before the Rayner Review, before the White Paper was even thought of, and found that I wrote then that the Government Statistical Service exists to serve government primarily but of course the whole community. It put much more emphasis on government needs but also stressed the need for better public access to government statistics. It is tremendously important for a highly developed, highly educated, wealthy twenty-first century society to know about itself. It must know the sources of its wealth, the distribution of its wealth, and the nature of the people who are rebelling against it. It must know about its labour market. Otherwise it can't even exist; it certainly can't develop. Therefore somebody has got to provide this statistical service to the whole community.

CM: It must be government?

JB: I don't see why. Some things government must do, for example, a census of population. I don't think that that could conceivably be privatised or the national accounts and all the constituents of it. I suspect criminal justice figures could not be done by anybody but government, but a lot of other things can be done outside.

CM: Well, fair enough, but let me interrupt you on the national accounts. I'm outside now and may have got all this wrong but the national accounts, which are the pride of any Government Statistical Service around the world, are built up from millions of little pieces of information, aren't they? Take a very specific sort of example, take industrial production. We collected far

more production information, say about the paper and packaging industry than government needed because we thought that as we're doing all this we should help the paper and packaging industry at the same time. So we went into a lot of micro details and I have an impression that quite a lot of that has gone by the board.

JB: Indeed so.

CM: Well if it has, firstly how does the paper and packaging industry now get its information and secondly does it not actually weaken the macro-statistics, namely the national accounts, because some of the bits and pieces are missing?

JB: I think there are about 76 separate questions there.

CM: I'll stay with you for some of those.

(Laughter)

JB: There have been two big changes over industrial statistics. Round about 1969, shortly after you took over, we quite deliberately decided to do a great deal of industry's statistical collection for it because it seemed, in national resource terms, effective. We were going to have to collect broad aggregate figures anyway; it was cheaper to do the detail at the same time and that ran for ten years. When Mrs Thatcher's government came in, with the emphasis on industry looking after itself, I made a statement at one of those Statistics Users' Conferences that the government was going to move back; we will only collect statistics about industry that we need for our national accounts, and other policy purposes. I expected to be lynched. (This was a Conference for industrial users of statistics.) But I wasn't. There was very little response and since then we have indeed reduced the amount of industrial detail; something like 500 product headings in the quarterly inquiries have been abolished. As we've reduced sample size so we've reduced detail. Industrial users are beginning to grumble quite forcibly now, but it's taken a long time to get there. I don't know which is the right way of doing it but with our sort of national accounts I think the way we are doing it now is right. However, the Germans and the Dutch argue that the way we do our national accounts is absurd. We ought to start with the transactions matrix (input-output) and make the national accounts depend on that. That route is only possible if you have the industrial and product detail required.

CM: We can disagree on this although it's a very important issue. I think it's a step back because I feel that leaving it to industry – (the same probably applies to other sectors of the economy, not just industry but services, finance, the lot) – leaving it to them to do their own thing is a step back.

JB: Why a step back?

CM: Because I fear that it risks differences of definition and incompatibility between different areas of data. I think it probably increases form filling that we

all want to minimise. I was closely wedded to the idea of government statisticians taking on the entire responsibility and doing the whole job in the interests of unified statistics for the nation. I agree with you that Government is the prime client but I would say that with slight hesitation. But still, one can argue about this for ever.

JB: I think we did.

(Laughter)

What is the GSS for?

JB: Is it not extraordinary that even in the business of running a statistical service you find it necessary to say (and it is absolutely right) that you don't believe in minimising government? That political, philosophical, or even religious belief affects the way you ran the Government Statistical Service.

CM: I interrupted you at that point. I think we ought to go back to that because it's very striking. We're saying that the jobs we have done now for nearly two decades, are not only important for the efficiency of government and all that sort of stuff but essential for democracy. Can you illustrate that?

JB: I've never been terribly convincing on the subject and the symptom of that is that I fall back into analogies, which are always weak. There are colossal arguments about evolution but, never mind, let me just make some big assertions. Human evolution changed gear and accelerated enormously when individual human beings started being conscious of themselves, stopped merely behaving and began to watch themselves behaving. They became self-conscious. I think democracies can only develop and evolve if they become self-conscious which means knowing about themselves as a

*Sir John Boreham
and
Sir Claus Moser
in conversation*



CM: It jolly well does. I think this is what makes it exciting. That is why I think life for applied statisticians is much more interesting than for our mathematical statistical colleagues.

JB: We will get a go at them sometime!

CM: I used to find it enormously heady stuff when I was in charge. We'll talk about objectivity and integrity in a moment but to see one's figures being integral to what was being discussed in Cabinet and to what was happening to the nation made the job fascinating. Otherwise we would just be bookkeepers.

JB: A discussion I've never had, but have often wanted to have, with a statistical colleague from a truly centrally planned economy, is about how different it is there. When I spoke just now I said how a modern developed democracy lives, moves and develops through knowledge of itself.

community in the same way as an individual can observe how he behaves and reacts and modifies himself accordingly. So a society with a good statistical service (we'll come back to just what that means in a minute) can see how it is behaving and then decide to do what it really wants to do.

CM: That applies in totalitarian countries as well as in democracy. We are just saying that a society needs to see how it is behaving. That applies too in the Soviet Union.

JB: I don't want to use this occasion to be rude about totalitarian regimes, saying why I don't like them so let me just stay with democratic regimes. In a democracy, the people (I can't avoid these big concepts) the people need to know what's happening and that means figures and descriptions.

CM: Indeed.

JB: The case for labour statistics, employment, unemployment, wages (all of that) originated with the desire to make the labour market work better, so that everybody knew the amounts coming forward and the prices, etc. But at once it became obvious that the way the labour market was working was a critical indicator of the success of society. And we voters must know about that if we are to exercise our political democratic rights in a knowing way. Otherwise we're ignorant; we don't know what's happening. So the figures must be collected, they must be analysed and a decent amount of interpretation done and published. That critical last step is quite different in a democracy (I think) from in a totalitarian regime. In a totalitarian regime you don't actually need to publish anything. The government needs to know what's happening but the people don't need to.

CM: You said statistics are needed for people to exercise their democratic rights in an informed and rational way. Here we are at the end of May 1984 and there is a terrific debate about the miners. Well that is the labour market. So what you would say, in order for the ordinary man in the street (who's got nothing to do with mining), to make up his mind on these issues he shouldn't just listen to Scargill and MacGregor? He should also have good information about how well paid the miners are, how many hours they work, conditions of work etc. etc?

JB: Yes. And the other big debate, which I think underlies the mining one (the huge debate over the whole of the last five years) is whether the decision to produce something is based on something being saleable in a competitive market or is based on the employees' rights to a particular job. That is political/philosophical and the whole of the economic statistics underlies it but in a rather deep background way.

History

CM: We're talking in rather grand terms about what we're about, what our role is. I think it's fair to say that that's not how it began. How did government statistics begin in this country? The seeds were sown before the 1939 war. A lot of government departments had statistical offices. The first statistics division was in the Board of Trade. So it's 150 years that they've been counting production. And the first population census was 1801 so we started counting people in 1801 and exports in 18 what?

JB: I refuse to say it because I can't remember but what happened in 1830 was setting up the Board of Trade Statistics division. And then the Ministry of Labour Statistics and Education Statistics were set up late in the 19th century. By 1939 there were a lot of well developed, experienced, mature statistics divisions in government departments.

CM: OK. But then of course the change from those days is enormous. My predecessor Harry Campion, later Sir Harry Campion, was the first Head of the CSO. It was always said that the way the CSO came about was that Churchill as Prime Minister said that he was fed up (he used better language than that) he was fed up with getting different definitions, different figures on shipping tonnage from different sources – one from the Minister of Shipping, one from the Minister of Defence. He said he wanted one central source and that's how the CSO was set up. True or false?

JB: That is true. The CSO was set up initially to make sure that all figures of available supplies, munitions, etc. etc. all the statistics of war, were consistent and that a quotation I am always using, 'The Cabinet need never argue about figures'. They can argue about forecasts, they can argue about policies but they need never argue about figures. If they ever do, that's a failure for me and the CSO. That is true. The initial spark that ignited the CSO was war statistics but a lot of the initial fuel was national accounts because paying for the war was equally important. Keynes was in the Treasury then and the two things really got going simultaneously. They provided the CSO with its *raison d'être* and so it remains. We mentioned earlier, and you said you would like to come back to it, that one of your many revolutions was an improvement in social statistics (which was always rather a Cinderella and to some extent remains so). It's interesting because social policies are separate. Nearly entirely. There is housing policy, there is criminal justice policy, there is social security policy. They don't overlap, they don't interact much with each other. Personally I think they should more but they don't much in practice. The Secretary of State for Education wants to run his education policy on his own so that (and this is your story and I shouldn't be talking), what you did was to create a coherent (alas you can't call it articulated) view of society. The two tremendous actual things that you did were the General Household Survey (the first general purpose social survey in Britain) and the publication of *Social Trends* which tries very hard to be a generally synoptic coherent review of everything happening in society.

CM: If you remember I said earlier, John, that Harold Wilson, Prime Minister when he appointed me, actually made it an instruction that I should give social statistics a greater priority. Also of course I was Professor of Social Statistics – I mean that's my field – and that's probably the reason I was appointed.

JB: No, just general distinction.

CM: Well thank you. It was very close to my heart and there were several reasons why it was always a Cinderella. You've mentioned one in that it's much harder to integrate or to articulate because the Minister

of Education and the Minister of Housing would each want to do their own thing whereas on the economics side the national accounts are the integrating forces. But it is also still true in the mid-eighties that the government are more concerned with economic matters than with social matters because social progress is only possible if the economy is running well enough. At least that's one way of arguing isn't it? That unless we have a reasonable growth rate we cannot spend more on hospitals, schools, etc.

JB: I'm surprised to hear you say that... I would have thought you would have argued the other way.

CM: Well, I personally would argue the other way but I am trying to explain why social policies always tend to take a bit of a back seat. I am sure most Ministers, when they troop into the Prime Minister to be told what jobs they are going to have, hope that they are going to be given an economics department rather than a social policy department. Education is always regarded as a bit of a backwater (to me it should be number one in the hierarchy), Home Office the banana skins and so on. Even leaving aside the statistical problem of integrated social data there is a hesitation to give social policy high priority. It did change in the end – I was very very lucky because of Harold Wilson – and there came to be a renewed feeling of duty to concern oneself more with social problems and with monitoring the effects of economic progress in terms of poverty, housing, etc.

So we made it a high priority and you were as keen on that as I was. We did have some achievements, as you said. *Social Trends* – I'm very proud of that. (You've done marvellously in sustaining it.) Also the General Household Survey which as you said is a general purpose survey.

I want to ask you a question. It's genuine because I am out of touch. There are two other areas that we spent countless hours trying to make progress in and spent many happy hours travelling to conferences around the world discussing. One was social indicators – the catch phrase of the early 70s. The number of books on social indicators, the number of conferences – unbelievable. There was this feeling that here is a new thing, like index numbers, and here is a new area of activity. It seems to me somewhat to have fizzled out and I don't know why. And secondly, Professor Sir Richard Stone[†], that great man, did wonders in trying to do for social statistics what he'd done for the national accounts, to integrate the system. Has that fizzled out too?

[†] Professor Sir Richard Stone, Fellow of Kings College, Cambridge, was awarded the 1984 Nobel prize for Economics for his work establishing a single internally consistent framework for national income, output and expenditure statistics.

Professor Stone began his work in the Ministry of Economic Warfare and transferred to the Offices of the War Cabinet, Central Statistical Office. In 1944 he published the standard textbook on national income accounting. He left the Central Statistical Office in 1945 to become Director of the Department of Applied Economics, Cambridge.

JB: I think that both of those have fizzled out. Well, you must remember that I was always rather sceptical about social indicators. It seemed to me that there are highly relevant social statistics and there are less relevant ones – I accept that. I think that we are still terribly short of social statistics indicating the success of policies. We are quite good at inputs, we know the cost of the Health Service, we know how much it costs for a woman to have a baby, we know how much it costs to treat a man for cancer etc. All those inputs we know quite well. We're rotten at knowing whether the nation is healthier than it was ten years ago. When the social indicators movement was at its height we all thought it was going to be quite easy to find measures of the health of the nation, to find measures of the state of education. But when we actually got down to work we found it was incredibly difficult. We tried the various subjective indicators, asking people how they feel, but even they turned out to be very difficult and very expensive. I hate to say it can't be done Claus...

CM: But I think that you are not actually saying that one cannot measure how ill people are or how healthy, what you are saying is it is very difficult to relate that to input.

JB: Yes, for two kinds of reason. One is, (this is a naughty remark but never mind!), that on the whole politicians do not like unquestionable, objective measures of the success of their policies –

CM: Or failures.

JB: Or failures – exactly. The other reason is that it is genuinely difficult to establish consensus; I mean we all know what a ton is or what a yard is...

CM: Do you remember incidentally how we had to fight at one point about not clearing with Ministers what we said in *Social Trends*? We'll come back to integrity in a moment but that was a good fight to have won. There was a time when they would say 'Well if you are going to say all these things about social conditions they had better be departmentally cleared' and we said 'The CSO will publish this' and we won that. You are quite right there is a sort of fear. So you think that that was perhaps a blind alley, the social indicator movement as it used to be called?

JB: Yes, as a movement called social indicators. I think the alley of this is not blind; the alley which is terribly important to keep going in is to widen the area of measurement over which consensus is possible.

CM: By the way, before we leave social statistics, has it been a victim of the Rayner cuts? Have you had to be fiercer in cutting out social statistics rather than economic statistics?

JB: What has happened is that *Social Trends* is reduced in size, but I believe its content is every bit as good. I am now slightly tougher over pricing, not very much tougher. I try to get back part of the costs of pre-

paring *Social Trends*, but you see the raw material, (that is the statistics produced in all the departments of social policy), is required for managing those services. You can't run the Health Service without jolly good health statistics. What we do in the CSO is to put it all together into what I call a coherent view of the whole of society.

Management

CM: Moving on from that John, my whole eleven years were in part devoted to trying to integrate the GSS and to take over all financing and budgeting for the whole of the Government Statistical Service. I failed on that.

JB: You had such a rotten deputy!

CM: and so I was very keen that the CSO should play a much stronger role in running the whole GSS and all that stuff. I had the impression in my last two years that I lost quite a lot of those battles, that departments were again flexing their muscles and stressing their independence, not only the Permanent Secretaries but also the Statisticians in the different departments. They wanted their independence more than I wanted it. Am I right in thinking that you had one small step back? In one sense the CSO interferes less with other departments, yet in another sense it has taken an enormous step forward by having a single budget. Am I right?

JB: Yes. It isn't a real budget, of course, because I don't control what particular departments decide to spend on statistics; it's a Mickey Mouse budget, but it's fairly real. I do now know how much is spent on each statistical programme and once a year I pay an inspectorial visit to each Director of Statistics and discuss what they have spent their money on, have they spent more than they expected, less than they expected, what improvements in efficiency have they made, in what way have they reaped those improvements in efficiency, have they improved the quality of their output or its quantity and so forth?

CM: What happens as the result of your visit? Do you sack him?

JB: I haven't actually sacked anybody at that level yet but clearly the way they perform in those fields determines critically, not only my view of them, but also their Permanent Secretaries' view of them and therefore their prospects. The exercise is fairly real, even though it's Mickey Mouse. I now put a great deal of emphasis on serving the customers and after asking what they have done about efficiency I say 'Well, what have you done for the department? Has the department benefitted from your statistical service?'. I concentrate on that because it seems to me that that is the place to start. I want to move on to ask, in addition to that, 'What have you done for society? OK, your department is doing its business more effectively because of your work, that's great. What about society as a whole, how have you benefitted them?' I haven't done that yet but I hope to

next time round. Having done all that, I mean done all these inspectorial visits, I then write a stewardship report for the Prime Minister.

CM: I am glad you mentioned that because one of the things I cared most about, which I think we always agree on, is that the CSO should remain part of the Cabinet Office, and secondly that the Director of the CSO and the Head of the Government Statistical Service – the same person – should report directly to the Prime Minister though of course via the Secretary of the Cabinet. Now we owe it to Harry Champion, our predecessor, the only other Head there has ever been, for securing that in the first place and he fought a number of battles. He fought one very great battle, I think in the 1950s, when the Treasury wanted to take over the CSO. He said the CSO must not go to the Treasury. Then when I was there I made it almost – well one can't make it a condition – but I said that I was totally committed to it staying there. It is after all a key arm of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet and I thought that to win the integrity and the priority battles, one had to be with the top Minister, so the CSO has remained there. Have you had any battles to keep it there?

JB: I think that it is accepted absolutely that the CSO should be part of the Cabinet Office. I think it is mentioned whenever there is a change of government....

Integrity

JB: Yes, but the CSO in the Cabinet Office I think is absolutely accepted and quite rightly too. Going back to what I said earlier, the function of the CSO remains to make sure that the Cabinet need never argue about figures and it can only do that from a non-departmental position. That's where integrity comes in. Secondly, again the CSO cannot be in a department because just occasionally the CSO needs to argue for an objective line and it couldn't do that if it were in a department. Claus, we've touched once or twice already on integrity and objectivity. That is actually a central subject in your job and mine. I have the feeling that you had tougher fights over integrity than I have had. There have been some, certainly, but they haven't been really fierce and when I was working with you some of them were really very tight indeed.

CM: Yes. I think there have always been fights and I think Harry Champion before both of us had fights. There's said to be on record in one of the files, a note from the Chancellor to him saying 'The figures you have sent me on the balance of payments are not compatible with government policy. Recalculate'. Well, he had fights. I had two occasions when I wrote a resignation letter over an integrity issue. I think the point, John, is that this is easily the most important job for the Head of the Government Statistical Service, to

fight for objectivity and independence. Harry Campion left us a good legacy with objectivity, but of course the more we expanded and the more I got myself, for all sorts of reasons, into the political arena, (I saw a lot of my Prime Ministers and of Ministers generally) and the more I sought a lot of publicity for statistics, the more all that happened, the more danger there was and the more important it became to fight for integrity. Also, this relates to another point on which I would love to have your views as a semi-Economist/Statistician. I tried very much to move statisticians away from their traditional back room posture of just producing figures, the old Germanic style, to a position in which they analyse the figures and they publish the analysis and then perhaps get into interpretation. How far do you go in analysis and interpretation?

JB: As far as possible. That's a non-answer because as you have just said it turns critically on where you stand, on how well established governmental and public acceptance of your objectivity are, but I would always say that government statisticians must go to the limit on interpretation and analysis.

CM: Well, let me ask you to give an example, balance of payments statistics, say. Here they are, here are the figures, you've collected them as well as you can.

JB: Well, I'd put them together, then you assess their quality – that's straightforward to do – then, what do they signify? What is happening?

CM: They've gone up or down.

JB: Well, some go up, some go down. What is happening to the whole array of international transactions of the UK economy, and its parts, with the rest of the world?

CM: That is all that matters is it?

JB: That is all.

CM: Is that analysis?

JB: No I'd call that interpretation.

CM: So would you go as far as to show that the government's policy of doing so and so and so and so is failing?

JB: No I wouldn't.

CM: You couldn't get away with it.

JB: I couldn't get away with it and I don't think I would want to.

CM: Why not?

JB: Not in a published document. Internally, yes.

CM: In a note to a Minister?

JB: Oh yes. Most certainly. I mean that is what statisticians are for.

CM: But that's a subtle point. Why do you, (and I'm agreeing with you) why do you think that for the public you wouldn't say this shows up ministerial policies but for the Ministers you would say it?

JB: Because we are Civil Servants. We are the Minister's staff.

CM: Yes, that's the answer.

JB: Lots of people can criticize the Minister, and they will, and they must be able to use official figures to do so but there is no need for us to do that.

CM: But you would say to the Minister – I often did and I'm sure you did it all the time and to Prime Ministers too – these figures do show, Prime Minister, that X Y and Z are not working. So, this is a newish role you and I have set for ourselves. I mean Harry Campion actually wouldn't have done this.

JB: No. This is very much your third revolution. I mentioned the two in social statistics. The third and, in a sense, by far the most important, was increasing the standing of statisticians in the business of government. You got it accepted that that is what statisticians are for. They were not putting figures together, they were providing managerial and policy advice to the managers.

CM: That's the one that matters most to me and that is going to stick is it?

JB: Yes. That, it seems to me, is getting stronger all the time.

CM: That's very good news.

JB: When I said earlier (this isn't of any relevance) that I thought you'd had bigger fights over integrity than I had, I said to myself, and I now say it out loud 'I sometimes wonder if I have been too easy'. The two well known 'integrity issues' in my time have been that funny little tax and price index and the change in the basis of the unemployment figures.

CM: Amazing how that didn't become a row publicly.

JB: I felt that they were not integrity issues. They were certainly matters of statistical management but it didn't seem to me that they concerned integrity at all.

CM: Well these are judgements. I think you were right on both counts but that's the agonising judgement isn't it, when to fight?

JB: I think the thing is now that the integrity issues about statistics are... now I was going to say mostly settled but I don't think that is true because the more we go on trying to widen the area in which there is consensus over measurement the more we will get fresh integrity issues. One very dear to my heart which I would like to make more progress on is current trends. You remember in the good old days we used to say 'Too much attention should not be paid to one month's figures'. So we used to work out the rate of change between the last three months and the three months before that. I – and you started it in the CSO – did a great deal of work on trying to find better ways of assessing the current trend and then to establish a consensus that these statistical methods are acceptable. If the results have to be revised there will be integrity issues over them.

What matters most?

CM: But as you say people always think that what I fought for most in my years was posts and promotions, seniority and titles. Well, it mattered in a way, and our post was upgraded, and so were lots of others which have now again been downgraded or lost, but those weren't the important things; the important thing was the standing of the whole service and that seems to be increasing all the time and long may it do so. In fact if you were to ask me – and I'll save you the trouble, I'll ask myself, – what matters most looking back, and what I would say to a successor? (You leave in a year and a bit don't you?) I would say, cut back a bit on collection. Analyse and interpret more; we are not figure collectors, we are statisticians – and this is where the mathematical statisticians (my final dig) feel, wrongly, that we have just produced figures that go into abstracts. We are part of policy, part of the management of the nation and what could be more important?

So do analysis and interpretation as far as the market will bear, so to speak, as far as one can get away with it, and above all never give in on an integrity issue that you feel deep down is an integrity issue. What would you say to your successor? What will you say to your successor when you give him your instructions?

JB: I'll say that. I'll also put a lot of importance on remembering his stewardship. I will say 'You are looking after £120 million worth of spending on this tool which is absolutely central to democracy; make sure it's being well spent all the time. And the other thing is something that I'm rather boringly well known for. The good statistician must be at least as good with words as he is with figures. It's no good our just delivering figures, we've got to deliver them in words – which is what we have been doing for the last hour or so'.

CM: Well I hope that we either both go to hell or both to heaven and that wherever we are we'll set up a good statistical service there!

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Changing from a manual to a computer system – the lessons from aid statistics

Brian Hammond, Statistician, Overseas Development Administration

Introduction

The Overseas Development Administration (ODA) is responsible for managing Britain's programme of development aid to the poorer countries of the world. The Statistics Division employs five professional statisticians in the Statistics Support Group, who provide statistical advice and assistance to developing countries, and three statisticians and seven support staff in the Aid Statistics Group, who are charged with answering all questions relating to statistics of Britain's and other donor countries' aid.

The Aid Statistics Group take their figures from administrative records and re-work them to show the total amounts given to each of the one hundred and twenty plus countries which Britain aids. The series kept include the amounts of money committed for future expenditure in each country, the amounts actually spent, the numbers of trainees brought to this country for training, the numbers of personnel Britain supplies to fill overseas posts and repayments from past aid loans. The figures are analysed by the type of aid being given, e.g. for specific projects, by the country receiving the aid directly or the multilateral or UK development agency through which the funds are channelled, and, for project aid, by the economic sector in the recipient country which will benefit from the aid.

As part of the Rayner Review of the Government Statistical Service in 1980 it was recommended that the work of the Aid Statistics Group be computerised. A degree of rationalisation was certainly necessary as a variety of manual systems had developed which meant the same item of data was frequently processed more than once. A computerised system offered the opportunity to record each item of data once and once only in a central database. The objectives of the system were to produce timely and accurate publications directly from the database and to improve both the speed at which *ad hoc* enquiries, in particular Parliamentary Questions, could be answered and the range of information available. The necessary savings were found by a reduction of ten in the complement of support staff.

Steps

Following the recommendation to computerise, the first hurdle was to decide the type of system to be used. The way in which the data would be structured, the likely costings and coverage of the system were discussed with the ODA's ADP Unit. It was decided to extend

Statistics Division's existing contract with Comshare, a commercial computing bureau which had been used for occasional *ad hoc* statistical analyses, to cover this work. It was also decided to limit the system initially to ODA's financial flows (that is commitments, expenditure and repayments) to and from developing countries.

The next stage was to organise the transfer of data from the manual systems to the database. The bulk of the information was taken from Accounts Department records, in particular the value, title, country and expenditure to date on the two hundred grants and loans which ODA had in existence at the end of the 1978/79 financial year. Each grant and loan had to be coded to show what type of aid was being given, whether it was a grant or loan, which part of ODA's budget it was being funded from, what interest rate was being charged and what conditions were attached to where the money could be spent (locally or only in the United Kingdom). It was then necessary to add codes to enable the records to be updated from other computer systems and to use the database to provide updates for other systems, in particular that of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to whom the ODA send annual returns.

As the data were being added to the system, so the database structure was firmed up. A basic hierarchy was established which has been maintained since. At the highest level, for which the data sets are prefixed by an 'A', the system records aid to a particular country, a multilateral agency or to an institution in the United Kingdom involved in providing technical co-operation (TC) to developing countries. At the 'B' level the individual grants and loans and types of TC provided to each country are recorded. At the 'C' level the individual projects funded from each grant or loan are recorded.

It was then necessary to decide the frequency with which the database would be updated and the amount of data which would be retained. It was decided that quarterly data were not needed on the system as the summary expenditure figures which are required, *inter alia*, for the Balance of Payments returns, are available in Accounts Department reports. As both financial year and calendar year figures are needed, data is recorded for each and also for the period April to December each year, so that the contribution of each financial year to the calendar year figures can be calculated.

Programming and documentation

Once the database structure and content had been decided it was necessary to develop the updating and reporting routines. One reason for choosing Comshare was that it offered a very flexible database package (Questor) which uses English-language commands. This meant that the programming could be undertaken by the Statistician and his Assistants in ODA rather than being contracted out. This had the advantage of flexibility as the statisticians were best placed to decide what was needed. It also saved the necessity to draw up a system specification from which someone with less knowledge of aid statistics would program. A further advantage is that the statisticians understand the programs and so are able to amend them and update them as necessary in the light of experience, rather than being stuck with a 'tailor-made' system which no longer fits the customer.

The disadvantage was that the work had to be undertaken while the normal workload of preparing statistical reports and answering questions continued. This meant a very heavy workload while the system was being created and may have meant that implementation was a little slower, but the increased flexibility and greater knowledge of the system gained were well worth it.

Documentation is important in any system. This is the one area which suffered from the do-it-yourself approach, but this is also a frequent problem of so-called 'turnkey' systems (systems delivered ready to run). However as soon as time permitted documentation was produced and the database was used as fully as possible to assist in this task. The programs were internally documented with comments. The codes and table structures (sets) used in the database were printed out to produce the bulk of the 'Users Manual'. In this way the system became as self-documenting as possible with pages of the manual replaced as the sets or programs were updated.

Equipment

Early on in the exercise it was clear that better computing equipment would be needed. The Division started with a teletype terminal operating at 300 baud through a modem to Comshare. First a better Diablo printer/terminal was purchased and subsequently a Lynwood VDU with local editing facilities, programmable functions keys and the ability to have text and tables up to any width on screen. The 300 baud line was replaced with a 1,200 baud dedicated line to Comshare operating from an Altos 8-inch disk drive which provided local storage and error checking on data transmissions. The acquisition of the disk drive permitted the system to be directly updated from disks supplied by Accounts Department, rather than sending the data for punching from computer print-out as had to be done at first.

From the outset one of the justifications of the system was the direct production of camera-ready copy for the annual publication *British Aid Statistics*¹. This was achieved by purchasing a Sanders printer which, by a series of passes across the line with its dot matrix head, achieves a high print quality, permitting programmed changes of font-style and size, bolding, text justification, automatic text centering and proportionally spaced printing. The later addition of a Hewlett-Packard graph plotter has enabled the introduction of some pie-charts into the publication.

A year after work was started on the system the statistical support staff were relocated to East Kilbride in Scotland, with the statisticians remaining in London. The use of a commercial computer bureau meant that both ends of the operation were able to work on the same database through Comshare's national network accessible by a local telephone call. The support staff were provided with a Diablo terminal and, later, a Lynwood VDU to assist with the work of updating the database.

Over the four years the system has operated the Division has acquired two other Lynwood VDUs and a Micro-APL Spectrum micro-computer to assist with the statistical analysis work previously done on Comshare. Increasingly work is being switched from Comshare to the micro, particularly for interrogation of the database. However the database continues to be updated via the programs written for operation on Comshare.

The next stage is to link the staff in Scotland to the micro with a dedicated line (earlier attempts via an acoustic coupler over the Government Telecommunications Network failed) so that data input can be initially to the micro and only transferred to Comshare once checked by the statisticians in London.

Consistency and recoding

A major advantage of the computerised system has been the ability to produce analyses which were previously impossible. Before this could happen a great deal of recoding work had to be done to improve and often correct the classification systems used in the manual processing. All ODA's one thousand plus projects had to be coded by the economic sector which they benefit. Previously the sector had been decided each quarter when new expenditure data was forthcoming. With the computer system, the statistician was able to systematically examine this coding for the first time. It was cross-checked with the staff responsible for administering the projects and, having been corrected, is preserved on the system for all future updates. Similarly the classification used to present statistics of the many ways in which ODA provides technical co-operation – sending experts overseas, training in United Kingdom and overseas, consultancies, minor items of equipment, research and development, etc – was examined and re-worked to

better meet the ODA's requirements.

Another aspect of a computerised system is the ability, or rather the necessity, to check the data for consistency. This can be done at two levels: internal to the database and external with other sources. In ODA's case the former consists of checking that cumulative expenditure data is consistent with the amounts spent in each period, and that there is no negative expenditure (or receipts). External checks are possible with the appropriation accounts for each financial year.

Expansion

Once the work of putting statistics of financial flows on to the computer was complete, it was possible to turn attention to the other statistical series which the Aid Statistics Group maintain. The first such example was to receive a tape from the OECD containing the figures of aid from each bilateral and multilateral aid donor for a run of years. This was used to produce a publication of considerable use to ODA staff who wished to know how much aid other donors gave to the countries for which they are responsible. It was also used to estimate the country-distribution of the significant portion of ODA funds which is now channelled through the multilateral aid agencies.

Once the database was established routines were developed to produce more and more of the output directly from it. This is how the annual returns to the OECD are produced, complete with the codes the OECD needs to update their own database. By December 1982 the Group were in a position to produce the 1982 Edition of *British Aid Statistics* directly from the database. Once this had been achieved the 1983 and 1984 Editions followed quickly, reducing the time lag before publication from fifteen to only seven months after the year-end. This reduction was assisted by the decision to both publish and print *British Aid Statistics* using ODA's own resources. The ODA printing unit is able to produce the 1,000 copies printed annually within a month of finalising the tables. Most copies are circulated within ODA and to British Embassies and High Commissions in developing countries. Annual sales of some two hundred copies are handled by the publications section of the ODA Library. Furthermore the decision to publish in-house has resulted in a reduction in the cover price by a factor of three. At the same time the opportunity was taken to reformat the publication, cutting down its size by a third yet including more information and in a format that was easier to use.

A compendium of ODA funded projects was added to the list of publications. The compendium enables the demand for details of ODA's activities in particular countries, regions or economic sectors to be met, something which had previously proved impossible. The compendium is updated annually and the relevant database is frequently used to answer questions on

specific groups of countries or sectors

In 1983 statistics of manpower and training provided from the Aid Programme were computerised. This resulted in the ability to provide much more detail than previously of the occupation or training being pursued. Future plans include the re-introduction of a publication showing aid flows for the financial year, a publication much in demand within ODA but abandoned for lack of resources in the mid 1970s, and a full analysis of aid by economic sector which combines the data on projects with that on manpower and training aid.

Conclusion

The main lessons that the Division have learnt from this exercise are familiar ones, but worth repeating here. The most important one is that a computer system should not be designed rigidly and then applied with no allowance for changing circumstances. It is far better to introduce the process gradually, adopting a flexible approach, such as adding new codes when needed or changing the database structure if necessary for efficient storage and access. The choice of equipment is important, but here again flexibility is the key. It is better to add to the equipment as the need arises. Good VDUs with a wide screen facility, local editing and function keys are to be preferred. The provision of a good-quality printer capable of providing camera-ready copy is essential if the tedium of proof reading is to be avoided. The Group have also made use of Comshare's laser printer for more bulky reports which do not require such a high quality or large circulation. Programs should be well documented with comments as even the author can have trouble understanding them after a few months.

There is a trade off between storage costs and accessibility, particularly important when using a bureau. Experience has suggested making full use of tape archiving facilities for less frequently used/updated series, while keeping the major aggregates in their own data set rather than compiling them from a more disaggregated level each time that they are needed.

The experience in ODA has been that a comprehensive computer system can be introduced into a small statistical department using its own resources, which did not include computer specialists, and without an interruption in the series produced. The time taken, as in all computing applications, should not be under-estimated, especially the need to correct inconsistencies and re-classify the data properly. However the rewards are well worth the effort with the ability to produce more analyses, earlier and of a better quality even when staff resources are reduced and, in ODA's case, relocated at the same time.

Reference

1. *British Aid Statistics 1979-1983*. 1984 Edition (ODA) July 1984 (Price £5.00) available from ODA Library, Abercrombie House, Eaglesham Road, East Kilbride, G75 8EA

Manpower forecasting for Royal Navy Officers – A micro-computer solution

by Malcolm Bryant, Statistician, Ministry of Defence

Introduction

The Royal Navy exercises careful control over its current and projected manpower numbers in a climate of tight monetary controls imposed by Government. Within these constraints, the Navy tries to achieve the optimal blend of Officers and Ratings by specialisation and rank to meet its commitments both now and in the future. The future strength and structure of the Navy will depend on Defence Policy as well as some factors which cannot easily be controlled. Shifts in Defence Policy may produce changes in the structure of the Navy that will persist for many years.

The tendency of men to leave the Services varies with the perceived attractions of civilian life; a general improvement of employment prospects may induce men to look for work outside the Navy, producing shortages in skills that can be difficult to replace. To stay within its short-term manpower limits, the Navy must be careful not to bring in too many men and women. Yet the senior Officers and Ratings of tomorrow cannot subsequently be brought in from civilian life if they do not join today; they must be recruited now or never. Any recruiting strategy must therefore be based on several, often conflicting, factors.

The Stats(M)2 branch in the Ministry of Defence provides a statistical service to the Navy's manpower planners. An important element of its work is to forecast (perhaps more accurately 'project') the numbers of Royal Navy Officers, by rank and specialisation. These forecasts show the probable effects of various assumptions about manpower policies and are therefore an essential tool to the manpower planners. Up to now, these forecasts have been prepared manually, which is a complicated, error-prone and time-consuming business. This article describes the development of a micro-computer-based forecasting model to replace the manual system.

The Naval Officer structure

In the Royal Navy, the Officer career structure is a simple hierarchy. In order of seniority, the ranks are as follows:

- Rear Admiral and above
- Commodore
- Captain
- Commander
- Lieutenant Commander
- Lieutenant

Sub-Lieutenant

Midshipman

There are four main specialisations within the Navy – Seamen, Engineers, Supply and Secretariat, and Instructors. Officers are recruited separately to each specialisation and each requires its own aptitudes and skills. Depending on an applicant's qualifications and individual preference, he may join the Navy as a 'General List' (GL) or a 'Supplementary List' (SL) Officer. GL Officers are on full career commissions and usually remain in the Navy until retirement. The length of commission for an SL Officer will be pre-determined; typically eight or sixteen years. It is also possible for senior Ratings to be promoted to 'Special Duty' (SD) Officers.

Most recruits will start as Midshipmen and be promoted to Sub-Lieutenant after two years. A further three years will normally be spent as a Sub-Lieutenant before becoming a Lieutenant. Almost all Officers, providing they remain in the Navy long enough, should in due course reach the rank of Lieutenant Commander. Thereafter promotion becomes much more selective and many do not progress to the more senior ranks.

Existing manpower models

There are already some generalised computer-based manpower models available. Many of these models define a manpower structure by the use of a series of 'boxes' to represent grades and 'flows' to represent movement into and out of the boxes such as promotions, wastage and recruitment (see diagram).

Such models also use an associated 'time-variable' (age, seniority, length-of-service) to keep track of when people retire, get promoted and so on.

Perhaps the best known of the models using a box and flow representation is the KENT model, developed at Kent University in the 1970s. The Ministry of Defence has used the KENT model for some civilian manpower planning and developed its own generalised system 'Package-M' for Service manpower structures which tend to be rather more complicated than civilian structures.

Versatile though these existing models are, it is not practicable to use them to forecast Royal Navy Officers. The main reason is that these models are single-indexed, meaning that they only use one time-variable, let us say 'age'. Usually, when people in an organisation reach a certain age they retire. In the Royal Navy however,

Captains retire EITHER at age 55 OR with nine years seniority as a Captain, whichever is the sooner. Officers on Medium Career Commissions retire EITHER after sixteen years service OR at age 38, whichever is the later. To reflect these rules, a new 'double-indexed' model was needed which would forecast using two time-variables, namely age and seniority.

The design of an Officer Forecast Model

Based on the ideas described above, a manpower structure for Royal Navy Officers (excluding Rear Admirals and above) consists of six boxes:

- Box 1 – Captains (including Commodores)
- Box 2 – Commanders
- Box 3 – Lieutenant Commanders
- Box 4 – Lieutenants
- Box 5 – Sub-Lieutenants
- Box 6 – Midshipmen

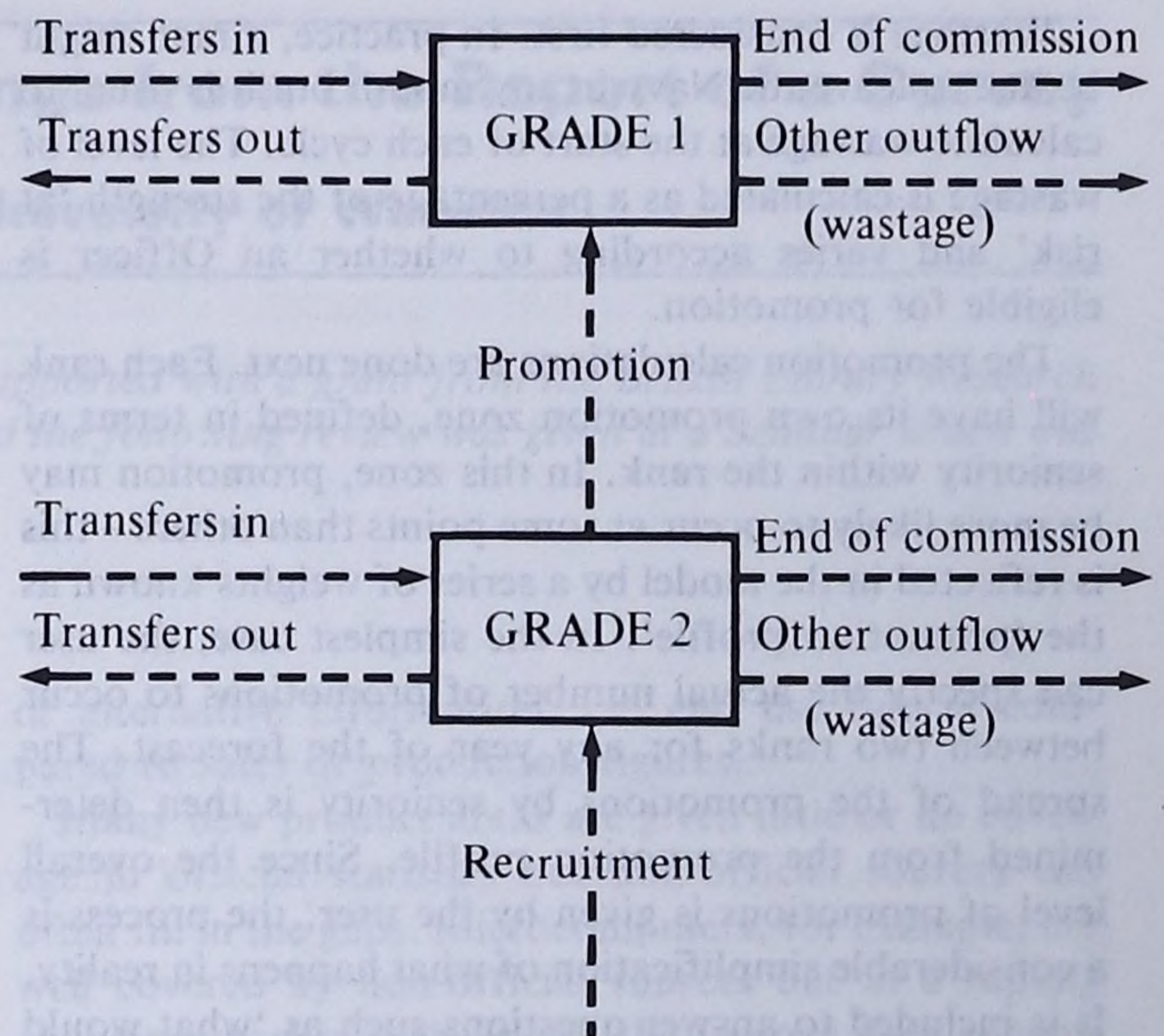
From each box there are two outflows – wastage and end-of-commission. Recruitment is as a Midshipman and there is a promotion flow from Midshipman to Sub-Lieutenant, from Sub-Lieutenant to Lieutenant and so on through the structure. There may be transfers into or out of any box to allow, for example, for Officers changing commissions.

It was decided to implement the new model on in-house microcomputers. This was an important departure from previous policy and represented a conscious move away from the traditional mainframe modelling concept. The reasons were threefold:

1. Greater potential usage. More microcomputers were available than mainframe terminals. Operation of the model would still be possible when the mainframe was unavailable.
2. A more 'user-friendly' environment. It can be difficult to design menu-based programs using sophisticated screen-handling techniques on a mainframe. Many mainframe packages are lacking in this respect. On microcomputers, maximum use can be made of these methods to aid the program users.
3. Ease of program development and maintenance. The time taken to produce software for micros is often less than for equivalent software on mainframes. The availability of Basic interpreters, wordprocessors and other utilities on most micros can be a considerable aid to program development.

The target machines were 8-bit CP/M and Turbodos microcomputers. Six programs were envisaged:

- A data entry program
- A data edit program
- A data print program
- A structure change program
- A forecasting program
- A summary table and graphics output program



It was clear from the outset that the entry of the forecasting assumptions would be time-consuming. This was because of the need to specify data in considerable detail; for example, current numbers of Officers were required for every combination of rank, age and seniority – potentially some 4,000 entries at the keyboard for this alone. Special emphasis was therefore placed on making the data entry and editing programs very easy and quick to use.

To make the model as flexible as possible, no restrictions were placed on the type of Officer structure which could be set up, providing that it had a maximum of six ranks. Any structural changes could be catered for by a special program, allowing ranks to be added or removed, promotion zones altered, retirement points changed and so on. In this way, the one suite of programs could forecast any conceivable Royal Navy Officer structure.

Particular attention was paid to making the run time as fast as possible by avoiding constant disk accesses. All forecasting assumptions were read once at the start of the run and thereafter calculations were performed and results stored in computer memory. In this way, the typical time for a forecast was brought down to about three minutes without sacrificing accuracy.

Operation of the forecasting program

The Officer Forecast Model has an annual forecasting cycle, starting at the beginning of the financial year. This means that from 1 April to 31 March of the following year, the numbers of men who leave, transfer or achieve promotion are calculated by the forecasting program. Like other models of the KENT type, the Officer Forecast Model imposes an order on events which in reality happen continuously.

Wastage is considered first. In practice, a man might be due to leave the Navy in any month but it is usual to calculate wastage at the start of each cycle. The level of wastage is calculated as a percentage of the strength 'at risk' and varies according to whether an Officer is eligible for promotion.

The promotion calculations are done next. Each rank will have its own promotion zone, defined in terms of seniority within the rank. In this zone, promotion may be more likely to occur at some points than others – this is reflected in the model by a series of weights known as the 'promotion profile'. In the simplest case, the user can specify the actual number of promotions to occur between two ranks for any year of the forecast. The spread of the promotions by seniority is then determined from the promotion profile. Since the overall level of promotions is given by the user, the process is a considerable simplification of what happens in reality. It is included to answer questions such as 'what would happen if we promoted twenty Lieutenant Commanders every year?'

A more accurate method of calculating promotions is available since promotion in practice is to a pre-defined 'career factor'. Suppose the career factor for a particular rank is thirty percent. This means that for a cohort of 100 Officers reaching the start of the promotion zone, thirty will have been promoted by the time the cohort moves out of the zone. The determination of the number of Officers to be promoted for each year by rank, age and seniority is the most complex part of the modelling process.

Numbers transferring into or out of the structure are considered next. Up to three types of transfer flow are permitted for each rank. The user will specify the number of men to be transferred for each year of the forecast and the average ages and seniorities at which these transfers are to take place.

The time expiry calculations now take account of those due to retire or complete their commissions in the current cycle. The program must monitor both the ages and the seniorities of everyone in the system and those due to leave will be included in an end-of-commission flow. The current strengths are updated accordingly.

After all the other operations have been completed, the last process in the forecasting cycle is to age everyone by one year. Both ages and seniorities are updated.

These calculations are repeated for as many years as the user has requested. At the end of the forecast, the results can be printed selectively on the VDU or on a printer. Because the run-time of the forecasts is so quick, the user will often experiment with various wastage patterns or recruitment numbers, viewing each forecast on the VDU, before deciding finally on the version of the forecast to be printed on the printer.

Conclusions

The introduction of the Officer Forecast Model has had a significant effect on the work of the Stats(M)2 branch. There has been a considerable improvement in the level of service provided to the Navy – manpower forecasts are now produced in a fraction of the time that was previously possible using manual methods. This has led to a completely new style of working; previously manual forecasts would take so long that to produce one per week was the norm. The speed of the new model has meant that staff can produce the forecasts while sitting at the computer – if the results are not quite what was wanted, amendments can be made and another forecast produced in a matter of minutes. The effects of different manpower policies can therefore be investigated very easily. The increased sophistication of the forecasting process also means that the customers have more confidence in the results!

The successful implementation of this type of model shows that currently available microcomputers can run powerful and complicated software. With micros now coming onto the market with ever more memory and speed, it seems that projects such as manpower modelling, which were once exclusively mounted on mainframe computers will in future be run on micros sitting on desktops. A possible drawback for Statisticians and other advisers is that the customers, seeing sophisticated tools available on their own small computers, will demand direct access to these models. There must therefore be a continuing programme of education and liaison to ensure that all users understand the limitations of the manpower modelling techniques and give a proper interpretation to the results.

Note

This article has been reduced from its original length in order that an interesting introduction to the subject could be projected to all readers. Anyone wishing to have a copy of the full length article and/or to discuss the subject would be welcome to contact the author. The address is: Ministry of Defence, Room 202, Old Admiralty Building, Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BE – Telephone: 01-218 4525.

Non-official statistics – the findings from the Report of a Survey

Dr D. Mort, Warwick Statistics Service, University of Warwick

Research on United Kingdom non-official statistics was supported with a grant from the British Library Research and Development Department. A report was produced and the following review was given at a Seminar which was held in London on 28 February 1985.

Review of research

Business and industry rely heavily on statistical information and many of their requirements can be satisfied using central government statistics. In some cases, however, it is necessary to turn to 'non-official statistics' to answer a particular inquiry, i.e. statistics produced by organisations such as trade associations, professional bodies, stockbrokers, consultants, academic organisations, etc. At Warwick we deal with a range of statistical inquiries mainly from companies and in a recent survey of these inquiries we found that approximately 35 per cent were being answered in some part by using non-official statistics. However, it is difficult to track down non-official sources and there is no central guide to this type of information to compare with the *Guide to Official Statistics* published by the Central Statistical Office.

Our practical experiences at Warwick suggested that more information was needed on non-official statistics and we approached the British Library Research and Development Department to see if they would support a project in this area. They agreed and a survey of United Kingdom non-official statistics of interest to the business community was carried out in 1983 and 1984 and a survey report published in August 1984¹. Outlined below are the general findings of the research.

The research considered any statistical title or service (in hard copy or machine readable form) that was produced on a regular basis, i.e. at least once every five years. 1,112 titles and services were identified published by 653 organisations.

The research considered not only purely statistical publications but any publication that contained a regular statistical time series, such as annual reports, trade journals, press releases, etc. The major publishers were trade associations accounting for 25 per cent of the total, but the second largest group were trade journals containing statistics accounting for 15 per cent of the total and reflecting the importance of this type of publication for statistical and market data.

In general, there is significant overlap between the subject coverage of official and non-official sources but many of the non-official sources can offer more detailed

or alternative information, i.e. end use figures compared to sales or production figures.

Many new product areas are given little or no coverage in official statistics but non-official sources can often fill in the gaps. Microcomputers, for example, are well covered by non-official sources but in a rapidly changing market such as this the various data sources have different levels of accuracy and reliability.

Non-official sources are important sources of certain types of statistics beyond the scope of central government statistics. Salary surveys by occupation and sector, trend and opinion surveys, sector forecasts and certain types of local area statistics fall into this category.

It is a commonly held view that non-official statistics are simply a repackaging of government statistics. 41 per cent of the titles, however, are based on original research or survey work carried out by the producing body and a further 11 per cent are based on other non-official sources.

The major criticism of non-official sources is that they give very little detail on the methods used to compile the statistics – 65 per cent gave no information at all. Similarly, only 36 per cent had detailed notes and definitions and only 18 per cent gave the exact source of every table or time series included.

Surprisingly a high percentage of the sources, 79 per cent, were generally available and only 15 per cent were completely restricted to the members or clients of a particular organisation.

In general, few titles are held in the general library network and this is perhaps not surprising given the detailed and highly specific nature of some of the sources. Nevertheless, the research has identified a 'core list' of approximately 400 titles which we feel should form the basis of a central collection of the most important titles.

Summary

I have only given a general outline of the research here – further details are contained in the research report.

The general conclusion must be that non-official statistics represent an important information source for

business and industry. Although the British Library research has now been completed we will continue monitoring developments in non-official statistics on a regular basis and the first stage in this process will be the publication of a detailed guide to the 1,112 titles identified in the research. Detailed information on the subject content, source of statistics, currency of data, and methods of collection will be included, where possible, for each source along with general details such as the title, frequency, cost, and publisher of each title. The guide will also contain a detailed subject index. The guide will be published in Summer 1985 by Gower

Publishing and we intend to update it on a regular basis. A computer file of the guide will be maintained at Warwick and this will also be updated at regular intervals. We are also planning to build up a European database of non-official statistics and work on this area will commence in 1985.

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.

GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL SERVICE

Opportunities for experienced Statisticians

Statisticians in the Government Statistical Service are concerned with the application of statistics in various fields such as economics, sociology, and computing science. The work requires a broad understanding of the nature of administrative problems and skill in communication, as well as technical ability in the selection, preparation and interpretation of relevant statistics.

There are at least 6 vacancies for main-grade statisticians. The posts are mainly in London, but there may be one or two elsewhere.

Candidates should normally have a degree with first or second class honours involving formal training or work in statistics, e.g. a degree in statistics, mathematics, economics, or computing science or an equivalent qualification; or a higher degree, or a post-graduate university certificate or diploma, involving formal training or work in statistics or computing science; or a pass in the final examinations of the Institute of Statisticians. Exceptionally, candidates without one of these qualifications may be considered if they can show evidence of viable relevant experience and a command of advanced statistical techniques. All candidates must have at least five years' professional experience in statistical work, computing or operational research (e.g. in industry, commerce, the public sector, or higher education).

Salary (Inner London): (under review) £14,195-£18,785. Starting salary according to qualifications and experience. Promotion prospects.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 19 June 1985) write to the Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote reference: G/619.

The Civil Service is an equal opportunity employer.

Trade Association statistics

by Miss J. M. Hynard, Senior Economist, Confederation of British Industry

This article was presented as one of the papers at the British Library Seminar on non-official statistics in London on 28 February 1985

Introduction

This article reviews briefly the work of Trade Associations in collecting and providing statistics, and looks at the advantages and the limitations of Trade Association statistics, compared with statistics produced by other bodies, notably Government statistics. A similar review undertaken a few years ago, was discussed at a Conference of the Statistics Users Council¹, and provides the basis for this short review.

The work of Trade Associations

Trade Associations exist primarily to serve their members and promote their interests. How they actually do this depends, of course, on what their members want, which in turn will vary from industry to industry. The work of Trade Associations thus covers numerous different areas, e.g. representations to Government; promotion of exports; help with legal problems; technical standards; provision of statistics, etc. Where an organisation combines the function of a Trade Association with that of an employers' association, the organisation may also be involved in other areas such as wage negotiations, and pension arrangements.

The priorities accorded by individual Trade Associations to particular areas of work depend on the industry concerned and the requirements of members. Hence the importance a particular Trade Association gives to collecting and providing statistics depends on the judgement of its member-firms about the value of statistics in relation to the many other calls on the limited resources available to the Trade Association. This in turn depends on whether adequate statistical information is already available from other sources such as official publications. The level of Trade Association involvement in statistics therefore varies from, e.g. summary statistics on an annual basis to, at the other extreme, carrying out regular monthly surveys on market conditions affecting their members.

A few years ago the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) surveyed its Trade Association members on the level of statistics provided for their members. It appeared that the majority of Trade Associations do provide some sort of statistics for their member-firms. Most combine private collections of statistics with some 're-processing' of the official statistics related to their sector. The Associations' emphasis is on 'market statistics', that is, what members regard as particularly rele-

vant to their own market situation: this may be detailed statistics on home sales or exports; more up-to-date information; or a different statistical breakdown than that available from other sources of statistics. While Trade Associations collect and produce statistics primarily for use by their own members, some Associations also release them to other interested parties, either free or for a specific charge. The scale of the provision of statistics to non-members could vary from, e.g., a short summary in the form of a press notice, to a published year-book of detailed statistics on production, consumption and trade in different products.

On the question of financing statistical services, most Trade Associations appear to make a general charge on their whole membership, for instance, including such charges in members' subscriptions. However, some Associations charge only those of their members requiring statistical services, and some sell their statistical information to non-members, or charge for specific statistical work carried out for non members.

Advantages and limitations of Trade Associations in collecting statistics

In collecting statistics, Trade Associations rely on the voluntary co-operation of their members. The advantage of this is that a statistical service thus supported by members is cheaper and easier to run than a statutory inquiry because of the lower requirement for reminding and checking. In addition, the members' involvement usually stimulates a more widespread scrutiny of the aggregate data; encourages greater accuracy; and leads to a deeper understanding of the data by both contributing members and Trade Association staff.

Accurate data, especially of fine product detail, requires close contact with those actually in the particular industry, and a good knowledge of the industry itself: in this respect Trade Associations are usually in a good position. They are able to create a fund of knowledge which is immensely helpful in maintaining useful statistical series and classifications. Industrial terminology can often be confusing and it is necessary to avoid any variation in the interpretations of a heading which may arise between different companies. In general, Trade Association members are likely to be more knowledgeable about products, categories, terminology, etc in their particular industry and thus more aware of which items should be included under par-

ticular headings. In addition, statistical inquiry forms can be tailored specifically for one industry, thus facilitating more detailed and relevant questions.

Trade Association staff are also in a good position to create close relationships with their members and become informed of changes in the industry which, to outsiders, may seem to be totally baffling fluctuations in trends. As an example, in the Paper Industry, it is not unusual for a large stock of waste paper to catch fire, and it is important to know if this is the reason for a sudden fall in the industry's total stocks, or whether other factors are responsible. Perhaps incoming supplies have been below normal, maybe because of an industrial dispute, or mill usage may have genuinely increased and some increase in supplies is required. In retailing, a sudden upturn in sales figures for a particular product may be the result of a promotional campaign: those outside the industry may not be aware of this explanation. Thus by keeping an ear to the ground and monitoring changes in technology and markets, Trade Association staff can provide the explanatory footnote which can be so important to the understanding of a statistical table.

Flexibility in response to rapidly developing situations is another advantage of Trade Association statistics. For instance, a quarterly survey can be increased to a monthly survey when more up-to-date information is needed to deal with rapidly changing circumstances. New product areas may be investigated and incorporated more quickly into Trade Association statistics than into Government statistics. Moreover, a sample of Trade Association members can be contacted by telephone to find how they are coping with a particular event, for instance, an industrial dispute such as a dock strike. The Trade Association then has up-to-date information on which to base its decisions and policies.

Trade Associations are also able to collect and provide statistics on specific areas of an industry which, though perhaps not comprising a large sector of the industry, are nevertheless important to firms specialising in those particular areas. Trade Association statistics may complement those available from other sources for example, by providing additional product detail. Moreover, by comparisons with statistics from other sources, Trade Association statistics may help to show up deficiencies and inadequacies in other statistical series, and thus show areas where further investigation or other action is required.

The risk of disclosure of statistical information in industries with only a few large firms is of increasing importance, and is, of course, a problem common to both Government and Trade Association statistics. However, a Trade Association is more likely to be able to keep a sensitive series going, since it can assure its contributing members that circulation of the aggregate

data will be confined to certain people. Such detailed tailoring of the collection and provision of statistics in special situations is not usually feasible for Government statistical inquiries owing to their necessarily standardised approach.

Against these benefits, however, there are one or two factors which may limit the full value of Trade Association statistics. As mentioned earlier, these Associations are voluntary and therefore their coverage of their industry is only as complete as their membership allows. Furthermore, the voluntary nature of the statistical inquiries means that firms can and do opt in and opt out of inquiries from month to month. Depending on the size and activities of the firms involved, this may present statistical staff with a serious problem of continuity. This problem will be particularly acute in industries already affected by disclosure problems: if, say one firm out of five making a particular specialised product does not contribute to an inquiry on a regular basis, the resulting statistical series could give a distorted view of the market for that product.

Most Trade Associations, with a few notable exceptions such as the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, do not cover the whole field of production and wholesale distribution. Some Associations are involved solely with the market for an intermediate product and will not be immediately concerned with developments in the rest of the industry. Perhaps in some industries, Associations would find it beneficial to establish better links with each other so as to permit a fuller appreciation of what is happening in the market as a whole.

In a technologically developing industry such as electronics, there is the problem of new developments taking place quickly and affecting traditional markets, but which for one reason or another, may be spear-headed by firms which are not established producers and do not belong to the appropriate Trade Association. In this case the existing Trade Association statistics may cover the traditional markets well but will not reflect structural changes in the market as new products are developed.

Problems for Trade Associations in providing statistical services

Naturally, the cost of providing a statistical service is a major consideration for Trade Associations. However, it appears that if an Association's members really want a statistical service, they will be prepared to fund it, given the assurance that the Association will operate an efficient and economic unit. Indeed, in some circumstances the costs may be considerably less than the members were previously collectively paying for less satisfactory data from an alternative source. For instance, a long established method of ascertaining the total sales of a consumer product is to commission a market research company to assess the sales by an elaborate and

expensive series of retailer or distributor interviews. An alternative and far cheaper method is for the producers concerned to return figures of their invoiced despatches to their Trade Association. In this way the statistics are not based on a sample and can be broken down into detailed categories, to fit in with members' requirements.

Although Trade Associations collect statistics primarily to provide them to members, most Associations will also respond to requests from non-members for particular statistics, provided they are used only for the purpose indicated. However, demands on Trade Associations' services can become a problem, exceeding the Associations' resources to meet them. Requests for statistical information from non-members may in some cases be in the indirect interest of member-firms, e.g. a supplier of raw materials who wishes to increase his capacity to meet demand expected in the near future. In other cases, such as academic researchers and students, it may not be clear whether the project for which the statistics are required will be of any benefit to the industry concerned. The final decision on how to respond to non-members' requests for statistical services depends on the costs involved for the Associations' member firms, and the resources available.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it seems that a major advantage of Trade Association statistics is that they fill gaps in statistics available from other sources, for example, by providing more detail or covering new products. However, in common with statistics provided by other organisations, including, of course, the Government, Trade Association statistics have both advantages and disadvantages. The extent of these may vary from industry to industry, from Association to Association, and even from product to product with an industry. Furthermore, members within an industry or Association may well have differing views on the usefulness or need for particular statistics. If members feel that the advantages of a particular statistical service outweigh the disadvantages, they will probably be prepared to finance the service, and the Trade Association will obviously aim to meet its members' requirements.

Reference

- 1 A. W. Bailey, British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association, and D. E. Davies, British Paper and Board Industry Federation: *The role of Trade Associations in Providing Statistics*. Report of the 1979 Statistics Users Conference. (Out of print)

APPENDIX

Some major publishers of Trade Association statistics

- Advertising Association, Abford House, 15 Wilton Road, London SW1V 1NJ
- Association of Independent Radio Contractors Ltd, Regina House, 259 Old Marylebone Road, London NW1
- British Clothing Industry Association, Wellington House, 6-9 Upper St Martin's Lane, London WC2 9DL
- British Footwear Manufacturers' Federation, Royalty House, 72 Dean Street, London W1V 5HB
- British Insurance Association, PO Box 538, Aldermar House, Queen Street, London EC4P 4JD
- British Paper & Board Industry Federation, Plough Place, Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1AL
- British Plastics Federation, 5 Belgrave Square, London SW1
- British Ports Association, Commonwealth House, 1-19 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DZ
- British Road Federation, Cowdray House, 6 Portugal Street, London WC2A 2HG
- Building Societies Association, 3 Savile Row, London SW1
- Chemical Industries Association, Alembic House, 93 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TU
- Food Manufacturers' Federation, 6 Catherine Street, London WC2B 5JJ
- General Council of British Shipping, 30-32 St Mary Axe, London EC3A 8ET
- Institute of Petroleum, 61 New Cavendish Street, London W1
- Life Offices Association, Aldermar House, Queen Street, London EC4P 4JD
- Machine Tool Trades Association, 62 Bayswater Road, London W2 3PH
- National Council of Building Material Producers, 33 Alfred Place, London WC1E 7EN
- Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, Forbes House, Halkin Street, London SW1X 7DS
- Textile Statistics Bureau, Royal Exchange, Manchester M2 7ED
- Timber Trade Federation of the UK, Clareville House, Whitcomb Street, London WC2
- Unit Trust Association, Park House, 16 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7JP
- Wool Industry Bureau of Statistics, 60 Toller Lane, Bradford DD8 9DA

Recently available statistical series and publications

The following publications containing social statistics have recently, or will soon become available during the April to June quarter of 1985. Unless otherwise specified, copies may be purchased from Her Majesty's Stationery Office. A list of release dates of economic series is published monthly in *Economic Trends*.

Department of Transport

Waterborne Freight in the UK, 1983 (Price £10.00)

Available from: Marine Transport Centre

University of Liverpool

PO Box 147,

Liverpool L69 3BX

Port Statistics Bulletin (85) 16, Provisional 1984 Traffic statistics (Price £10.00)

Available from: British Ports Association

Commonwealth House

1-19 New Oxford Street,

London WC1A 1DZ

New Motor Vehicle Registrations, Great Britain, MM1 (HMSO £15.75 by subscription)

General Trends in Shipping, MR15 (HMSO £8.00)

The following are published by the Department of Transport:

Road Accident Statistics English Regions 1983 (price £5.50)

Coach Speed Survey (85) 4 August 1984 (price £4.00)

Review of Surveys to Businesses and Local Authorities Stage Bus Fares Index (85)7 (price £2.00)

National Road Maintenance Condition Survey (Annual) 1984 (price £2.75)

National Road Maintenance Condition Survey, Deflection Measurements (Annual) 1983 (price £3.35)

UK Shipping Industry Revenue and Expenditure, 1983 (85) 15 (price £2.00)

Heavy Goods Vehicles in Great Britain, 1984 (price £8.00)

Annual Vehicle Census (85) 14 Bulletin (price £2.00)

New Motor Vehicle Registrations, Great Britain (85) 13, Monthly (Statistical Bulletin price £2.00)

The following statistical bulletins are issued on a regular basis:

Quarterly: *Traffic in Great Britain fourth quarter 1984 (85)8*

Road Accident and Casualties in Great Britain fourth quarter 1984 (85)10

Road goods vehicles on roll-on roll-off ferries to mainland Europe fourth quarter 1984 (85)11

Quarterly Transport Statistics fourth quarter 1984 (85)12

Department of Transport publications and statistical bulletins are available from:

Publications Sales Unit

Building No. 1, Victoria Road

South Ruislip

Middlesex HA4 0NZ

Office of Population Censuses and Surveys

Population Trends 39, Spring 1985

Census 1981

Britain's children. Census Guide No. 2 (available from OPCS Information Branch, St Catherines House, 10 Kingsway, London WC2B 6JP).

OPCS Monitors

Infant and perinatal mortality 1983: birthweight DH3 85/1

Live births during 1984 FM1 85/1

Non-advanced further education SS 85/1

Annual Reference Volumes

Abortion statistics 1983 AB No. 10

Marriage and divorce statistics 1982 FM2 No. 9

Electoral statistics 1984 EL No. 11

Birth statistics 1983 FM1 No. 10

Social Survey Reports

Staff attitudes in Prison Service by Alan Marsh *et al* (SS 1175)

Children's dental health in the United Kingdom, 1983, by Jean Todd *et al* (SS 1189)

Differences in drinking patterns between selected regions by Elizabeth Breeze (SS 1161)

1981 Census Post-Enumeration Survey by Malcolm Britton and Francis Birch (SS 1158)

Studies on Medical and Population Subjects

A 1981 socio-economic classification of local and health authorities by John Craig (SMPS No. 48)

Infectious diseases during pregnancy by P. E. M. Fine *et al* (SMPS No. 49)

Occasional Papers (available only from OPCS Information Branch)

The OPCS socio-economic area classifications: an evaluation of their effectiveness for vital statistics by John Haskey (Occasional Paper No. 27)

William Farr, 1807-1883: Commemorative symposium (Occasional Paper No. 33)

Home Office

The following series will be published by HMSO:

Control of immigration statistics, United Kingdom, 1984

Report of the police complaints board, 1984

Report of the Gaming board, 1984

Report of the work of the Equal Opportunities Commission, 1984

Report of the Commission for Racial Equality, 1984

Report of the parole board, 1984

Report of the Commission of Police of the Metropolis, 1984

Statistical Bulletins on the following subjects:

Statistics on the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary provisions) Acts 1974, 1976, 1984 and 1st quarter 1985

Statistics of deaths in police custody in England and Wales 1984

Statistics of breath tests 1984

Statistics of deaths reported to Coroners 1984

Fires in road vehicles

Control of immigration statistics, United Kingdom, 1st quarter 1985

Statistics on the operation of Sec 62 Criminal Law Act 1977, England and Wales, 1984

Notifiable offences recorded by the Police, England and Wales, 1st quarter 1985

Statistics of domestic proceedings in magistrates' courts, 1984

Immigration from the Indian sub-continent, 1984

Statistical Bulletins are available from:

Home Office,
Statistical Department,
Room 1813, Tolworth Tower,
Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7DS

Department of Education and Science

Statistical Bulletins on the following subjects:

1/85 Education statistics for the United Kingdom, 1984 edition

2/85 Survey of shared and extended use of schools in 1983

3/85 Student awards in 1982-83, England and Wales

4/85 Statistics of schools in England, January 1984

5/85 Educational and economic activity of young people aged 16 to 18 years in Great Britain from 1974 to 1984

6/85 Pupils under five years in each Local Education Authority in England, January 1984

Statistical Bulletins are available free of charge from:

Department of Education and Science
Room 1/28, Elizabeth House
York Road, London SE1 7PH

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*.

Further information can be obtained from:

Mr K. A. Fitch
Department of Health and Social Security
Room A2111
Newcastle Central Office
Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE98 1YX
Telephone: Tyneside (091) 2797373

Scottish Education Department

Statistical Bulletins on the following subjects:

Student Award and Bursaries

School Leavers.

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

Residential Accommodation, 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

Scottish Development Department

Statistical Bulletin HSIU No. 12 *Housing Trends in Scotland: quarter ended 30 September 1984.*

This Bulletin, 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. Subjects of recent articles have included: revised employment estimates; retail prices in 1984; hours and holidays; international comparisons of industrial stoppages; recent trends in redundancies; and an historical supplement on employment statistics.

Employment Gazette is published monthly by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, price £2.95 net per issue. Annual subscription inclusive of postage is £34.50.

Welsh Office

Statistics of Road Lengths in Wales: 1984
Welsh Hospital Waiting List Bulletin 1985: No. 1
Key Statistical Indicators for National Health Service Management in Wales No. 3 1984
Environmental Digest for Wales No. 1 1984
1983 Based Home Population Projections for the Counties of Wales
Activities of Social Services Departments: Year Ended 31/3/84
Survey of House Renovation Grants: Wales 1983/84
Staff of Social Services Departments: Year Ended 30 September 1984
Farm Accounts in Wales 1983/84

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

Scottish Home and Health Department

Statistical bulletin No. 1/1985
Recorded crime in 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

Central Statistical Office

Regional Trends No 20 1985 Edition (HMSO)
(Price £17.50 net) published in May 1985

Department of the Environment

Local Government Financial Statistics England and Wales 1983/84
Housing and Construction Statistics, second quarter 1984 Part 1 No. 20 and Part 2 No. 20
Local Housing Statistics Issue 73, figures for 1984
Digest of Environmental Protection and Water Statistics No. 7 1984

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

Monthly: *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 decision: 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

Government Statistical Service

Statisticians

Vacancies exist in a number of Government Departments for Assistant Statisticians to be employed on a short-term basis (up to one year). The posts are varied and interesting and will give insight into statistics in Government.

Applicants should possess a degree or equivalent qualification involving statistics.

One or two similar openings may also become available at a more senior level.

For further details please contact:

John Goddard
Statistician Group Management Unit
Central Statistical Office
Great George Street LONDON SW1P 3AQ
Telephone: 01-233 7779

New surveys notified to the Survey Control Unit December 1984 to February 1985

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 3AO.

New surveys notified December 1984 to February 1985

Title	Sponsor	Those approached	Approximate number approached	Location	Frequency
Business surveys					
Quarterly sales inquiry: Topping-up inquiry	BSO	Manufacturers	3150	UK	AH
Breakfast specials and technical sales data service: Follow up	COI/DEN	Chief executives and Energy Managers	330	GB	AH
PSA Contracts form Research (C1001 and C1001A)	COI/PSA	Contractors	45	GB	AH
Grosvenor House breakfast briefing: Follow-up research	COI/DEN		60	SE	AH
Energy efficiency in private sector office buildings	COI/DEN	Tenant organisations and landlords	142	E	AH
MSC publications survey: youth training scheme leaflets	COI/MSC	Employers	440	GB	AH
HM Customs and Excise: VAT leaflet research	COI/C&E		221		AH
Management and industrial relations in small firms	DEM	Employers	600	E	AH
Survey of young workers scheme 1985	DEM	Employers	860	GB	AH
Enterprise allowance pilot scheme: 2½ year survey	DEM	Self employed	600	GB	AH
Industrial energy survey	DEN	Textile industry	300	GB	AH
Physical and social pilot survey of houses in multiple occupation: Landlord	DOE	Landlords	60	E	AH
Assessment of development commissions factory building programme and small business services	DOE	Manufacturers	500	E	AH
Evaluation of aid under S4 development of Tourism Act 1969: aid recipient	DTI	Tourist industry	70	E	AH
DTI science and technology report – market research	DTI	Readers	NK	UK	AH
Goods vehicle licensing form research	DTP/COI	Road haulage companies	50	EW	AH
Review of franchising as a development tool in Scotland	IDS	Franchisors	46	UK	AH
Environmental topics on farms: Pilot	MAFF	Farmers	220	E	AH
Assessment of quality of farm building design and construction	MAFF	Manufacturers	200	EW	AH
Pesticide usage on soft fruit crops	MAFF	Farmers	800	EW	AH
Environmental topics on farms	MAFF	Farmers	6500	E	AH
Evaluation of influence of disablement advisory service teams	MSC	Employers	500	GB	AH
Evaluation of firms use of tailored training course directories	MSC	Employers	100	W	AH
Evaluation of adult training pilots: Stage 3 (LGA/RTP)	MSC	Employers	200	E	AH
The use of computer based training and interactive video	MSC	Employers	1000	UK	AH
Monitoring the motor code: Trader survey	OFT	Garages	300	GB	AH
Monitoring the footwear code	OFT	Retailers	600	GB	AH
Jewellery, clocks and watches: trader survey	OFT	Retailers	300	GB	AH
Monitoring the vehicle builders and repairers association code	OFT	Garages	300	GB	AH
Review of newspaper distribution: Wholesalers	OFT	Wholesalers	34	UK	AH
Environmental topics on farms	WO	Farmers	1300	W	AH
Local authority surveys					
An evaluation of very sheltered housing	DOE	Housing departments	404	EW	AH
Partnership schemes between builders and local authorities	DOE	Housing departments	456	EW	AH
Local authority housing stock condition	DOE	Housing departments	367	E	AH
Land used for development in south east England	DOE	Planning departments	25	SE	AH
Study of local authority noise measurements	DOE	Health departments	454	GB	AH
Planning appeals research study	SDD	Planning departments	53	S	AH
Local authority taxi and private hire car survey	TRRL	District councils	369	EW	AH
Other surveys					
1984 WRAC officer campaign: Pipeline study	COI/MOD	Women	1040	UK	AH
Energy efficient renovation guides: Communication research	COI/DEN	Housing departments	80	E	AH
National opinion polls insulation tracking study (Two stages)	COI/DEN	Adults	1600	GB	I
Enterprise allowance scheme research 1985	COI/MSC	Adults	600	GB	AH
New enterprise programme qualitative research	COI/MSC	Applicants	130	EW	AH
The social situation of schizophrenic patients living in the community and receiving long-acting neuroleptics	DHSS	Patients	364	SE	AH

New surveys notified December 1984 to February 1985

<i>Title</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Those approached</i>	<i>Approximate number approached</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
Other surveys (continued)					
Attitudes and understanding of terms and conditions of fixed interest national savings certificates	DNS	Adults	36	SE	AH
Physical and social pilot survey of houses in multiple occupation: Resident	DOE	Tenants	375	E	AH
Iron and steel employees readaptation benefits scheme	DTI	Ex-steel employees	1450	WM	AH
Traffic survey for improvement of Al Falloden way	DTP	Drivers	NK	SE	AH
Survey of former project volunteers	MSC	Adults	1000	GB	HY
15% interim follow-up of youth training scheme leavers	MSC	Employees	63000	GB	AH
Monitoring the motor code: Consumer survey	OFT	Drivers	1500	GB	AH
Monitoring the footwear code	OFT	Adults	2000	GB	AH
Monitoring the ABTA code of practice (for package holidays)	OFT	Adults	4000	GB	AH
Jewellery, clocks and watches: Consumer survey	OFT	Adults	2000	GB	AH
Monitoring the vehicle builders and repairers' association code: Consumers	OFT	Drivers	1100	UK	AH
National Maritime Museum survey	OPCS/ NMM	Visitors	500	SE	AH
Seat belt use by the disabled	TRRL	Disabled drivers and passengers	2000	GB	AH
Newcastle Upon Tyne central area shopping survey	TRRL	Shoppers	2000	N	AH
Comprehension of traffic signs	TRRL	Road users	300	GB	AH
East London minicab survey	TRRL	Passengers	2000	SE	AH
Use of wheelchair accessible bus services	TRRL	Disabled passengers	280	NK	AH

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

General

ABTA Association of British Travel Agents
LGA/RTP Local Grant Aid/Recruitment and Training Packages
NK Not Known
WRAC Women's Royal Army Corps
VAT Value Added Tax

Locations

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

Frequency

AH Ad Hoc
HY Half Yearly
I Intermittent

Sponsors

BSO Business Statistics Office
C&E Customs and Excise
COI Central Office of Information
DEM Department of Employment
DEN Department of Energy
DHSS Department of Health and Social Security
DNS Department of National Savings
DOE Department of the Environment
DTI Department of Trade and Industry
DTP Department of Transport
IDS Industry Department for Scotland
MAFF Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
MOD Ministry of Defence
MSC Manpower Services Commission
NMM National Maritime Museum
OFT Office of Fair Trading
OPCS Office of Population Censuses and Surveys
PSA Property Services Agency
SDD Scottish Development Department
TRRL Transport and Road Research Laboratory
WO Welsh Office

STATISTICS USERS' CONFERENCE 1985

The Statistics Users' Conference 1985 will be on financial statistics. It will be held at the Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1 on 13 November. The theme will be adaption and change in the present context of rapidly developing markets, institutions and regulatory measures.

The conference is part of the annual series promoted by the Statistics Users' Council. It is being organised by the Bank of England. Inquiries should be addressed to: D J Fecci Esq., Secretary, Conference Planning Committee, Financial Statistics Division, Bank of England, Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8AH—Telephone: 01-601 4444 ext 3929.

Notes on current developments

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

Census 1981

Post-enumeration survey

In line with the practice following previous censuses, a post-enumeration survey (PES) was carried out almost immediately after the 1981 Census was taken, with three main objectives.

- a. to check whether all persons present on census night in a private household had been correctly enumerated
- b. to verify the classification by census enumerators of unoccupied residential accommodation and
- c. to assess the quality of replies given to census questions, and hence the accuracy of the published 1981 Census results.

The PES was confined to private accommodation; institutions and other communal establishments were excluded from the study because of the highly transient nature of the population enumerated in some of them.

A report of this study is due to be published shortly and covers all three main PES objectives. The volume includes a resume of the main findings (which have previously been published in a series of OPCS Monitors); an overview of the census and PES field methodology; detailed results; and an attempt to integrate some of the results in order to throw light on the overall accuracy and relevance of 1981 Census statistics. The report covers the Census in England and Wales only.

References

- 1981 Census Post-Enumeration Survey by Malcolm Britton and Francis Birch, OPCS Social Survey Report SS 1158, (HMSO, 1985) (Price £15.50)
OPCS Evaluation of the 1981 Census OPCS Monitor CEN 82/3 (OPCS, 1982)
OPCS Evaluation of the 1981 Census: Post-Enumeration Survey OPCS Monitor CEN 83/4 (OPCS, 1983)
OPCS Evaluation of the 1981 Census: Post-Enumeration Survey (Quality Check) OPCS Monitor CEN 84/3 (OPCS, 1984)
(OPCS Monitors are available free from OPCS Information Branch—see page 69.30 for address)

Britain's children

The second booklet in a series of Census Guides was recently published by OPCS. The Guide has a similar format to the first in the series (on the elderly) and through the use of simple maps and diagrams and a straightforward text, provides information on: the falling numbers of children, in both absolute and proportionate terms, over the century; the geographical distribution; the tenure of the homes the children live in; whether their families have access to a car; their social

class; whether their parents go out to work and whether they live in one-parent families.

The booklet is an introduction to what the Census reveals about Britain's children and also provides details of where further information can be obtained.

References

- OPCS *Britain's children* Census Guide No. 2 (OPCS, 1985) (Price £1.50)
OPCS *Britain's elderly population* Census Guide No. 1 (OPCS, 1984) (Price £1.50)
(An additional charge of £1.00 plus VAT will be made per invoice if payment is not received with the order for either item.)

Population Trends

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

Shaping the next census

The 1984 Statistics Users' Conference held last November at the Royal Society took place at an opportune moment for census takers in Britain. The 1981 main publications programme had been completed and the process of shaping the next census in 1991 was just beginning. This article by Dr C. M. Glennie, the Registrar General for Scotland, is the edited text of the talk presented at the conference by him on behalf of OPCS and the General Register Office for Scotland.

Travel to work: changing patterns 1971-81

This article by Roland Beacham of OPCS Census Division, described the main results of the 1981 Census on car availability, means of transport to work and workplace for people in employment in the week prior to the census day (5 April 1981). Journeys to work are measured by comparing areas of residence with areas of workplace and, in this Census, by the straight line distance in kilometres between the two locations.

Better measures of population density

The conventional measure of the average population density of an area is unaffected by the distribution of the population within the area. An alternative average is suggested which does depend on this distribution, and thus on the density of each locality within the overall area. The results of these 'population weighted' calculations for the counties of England and Wales are discussed by John Craig of OPCS Population Statistics Division, and it is shown that there are important differences in the two sets of density patterns as well as in the absolute figures.

The history of migrant flows in the Republic of Ireland
The results of the 1981 Censuses in the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom provide an opportunity to review patterns and trends in migration, especially between the two countries. The findings for the 1971-81 decade are set in their historical context by Donal Gervey of the Central Statistics Office, Dublin, and it is shown that this recent decade was substantially different from previous periods.

Reference

Population Trends 39 Spring 1985 (HMSO, 1985) (Price £4.50 net)

Socio-economic classification of areas

After the 1971 Census OPCS produced a multivariate socio-economic classification of all local authority areas in Great Britain with the aim of deriving a standard classification of areal units which could be used to summarise any census and survey data. With census data an analysis of over 450 areas is lengthy and it is difficult to detect patterns; grouping similar districts may help bring these out. (An article discussing OPCS's interest in such classifications appeared in *Statistical News* 28.4.)

This socio-economic classification has recently been evaluated for use with registration data in a report published by OPCS in April. A set of vital statistics measuring fertility, illegitimacy, sex ratio, population density, infant and general mortality is used in a series of analyses to test the effectiveness of the area classifications.

A second report from OPCS updates the original study and gives methods and results of a comparable study which has been made using the results of the 1981 Census; the analysis has been extended to include the local areas used in the administration of the National Health Service in Great Britain.

References

Socio-economic classification of local authority areas by Richard Webber and John Craig, OPCS Studies on Medical and Population Subjects No. 35 (HMSO, 1978) (Price £4.75 net)

The OPCS socio-economic area classifications: an evaluation of their effectiveness for vital statistics by John Haskey, OPCS Occasional Paper 27 (OPCS, 1985) (Price £3 from OPCS Information Branch – see page 69.30 for address)

A 1981 socio-economic classification of local and health authorities of Great Britain by John Craig, OPCS Studies on Medical and Population Subjects No. 48 (HMSO, 1985) (Price to be announced)

Births, conceptions and abortions

There were 629 thousand live births in England and Wales during 1983, 3 thousand more than in 1982 though the total period fertility rate for the year was 1.76, the same figure as for the previous year. These figures are included in the OPCS annual report on birth statistics for 1983 which was published in February. The

volume contains a commentary on trends in fertility together with detailed analyses of births by month and quarter of occurrence, legitimacy, age of parents, number of previous liveborn children, duration of marriage, multiple births, area of usual residence of mother, place of confinement, the countries of birth of both parents, and the social class of the father. The report also contains analysis of births up to the end of 1983 to women born in each year from 1920 to 1968 and analysis of conceptions from 1972 to 1982 leading to maternities or abortions to women resident in England and Wales.

A further annual report on abortions was published in January giving the total number of terminations notified under the 1967 Abortion Act to residents and non-residents in England and Wales during 1983.

The summary figures of births for the year 1984 were also published in February by OPCS in the latest in their series of Monitors.

References

OPCS Birth statistics 1983 Series FM1 No. 10 (HMSO, 1985) (Price £7.40 net)

OPCS Abortion statistics 1983 Series AB No. 10 (HMSO, 1985) (Price £6.20 net)

OPCS Live births during 1984 OPCS Monitor FM1 85/1 (available from OPCS Information Branch – see page 69.30 for details)

Infant and perinatal mortality

In February OPCS published in a Monitor the latest (1983) statistics available analysing the relationship between birthweight and infant and perinatal mortality in England and Wales. Because of a general improvement in birthweight reporting in recent years the birthweight-specific mortality figures contained in the report are probably the most accurate that OPCS have been able to produce to date.

Information on perinatal and infant mortality by birthweight is made available by linking the infant death record to the corresponding birth record; OPCS have carried out this linkage since 1975 and details are given in the Monitor along with the analysis for single and multiple births; analysis by legitimacy and social class; by age of mother; by parity; by mother's country of birth; and by cause of death.

General infant and perinatal mortality statistics (numbers and rates) for regional health authorities for 1983 have been published in a separate Monitor.

References

OPCS Infant and perinatal mortality 1983: birthweight OPCS Monitor DH3 85/1 (OPCS, 1985)

OPCS Infant and perinatal mortality 1983: regional health authorities OPCS Monitor DH3 85/2 (OPCS, 1985)

OPCS Monitors are available free from OPCS Information Branch – see page 69.30 for address

Electoral statistics 1984

Statistics of the 1984 Electoral Register were published in an OPCS report in February. The volume is divided into three sections:

- a. The Parliamentary section contains tables showing the number of Parliamentary electors in the United Kingdom and its constituent countries 1975 to 1984; Parliamentary constituencies with the largest and smallest electorate in 1984, and the largest in terms of area; a breakdown of the Parliamentary constituencies by percentage of electoral quota; and the number of Parliamentary electors on the 1983 and 1984 registers.
- b. The local government section relates to England and Wales only and shows the number of local government electors on the 1984 register.
- c. Included this year is a table showing the numbers of votes cast at the European Assembly election on 14 June 1984 in each European Assembly constituency in the United Kingdom.

Reference

OPCS *Electoral statistics 1984* Series EL No. 11 (HMSO, 1985) (Price £4.10 net)

Population estimates (Scotland)

The 1983 based population projections for Scotland to Local Authority and District level are now available from GRO (S), Room 42, New Register House, Edinburgh EH1 3YT. The projections run to 2001 for Regions and Health Board Areas and to 1996 for Districts. A summary booklet is available at a cost of £1.50, more detailed results can be supplied in the form of microfiche or prints from microfiche.

Population Estimates 1984

Mid-year estimates of the population for Scotland, Regions, Health Board Areas and Districts are now available. Tables showing distribution by age and sex will be published shortly by the GRO (Scotland) in *Population Estimates, Scotland, 1984*.

Vital statistics (Scotland)

Provisional Annual Statistics for 1984 appeared in the Registrar General's *Vital Statistics Return*, Weeks 9 to 12 1985 which was published during April.

The *Vital Statistics Return* is obtainable every four weeks for an annual subscription of £20.00. The order form is obtained from:

The Publications EO
General Register Office for Scotland
Vital Statistics Branch, Ladywell House
Ladywell Road, Edinburgh EH12 7TF

For further information please telephone: 031-334 0380 Ext 243.

SOCIAL STATISTICS

Family Expenditure Survey (FES)

The March 1985 *Employment Gazette* carried the annual article showing the expenditure pattern from the survey for the year ended June 1984, in respect of 'Pensioner', 'General Index' and 'High Income' households. The article also included the weights derived from the survey and other data to be used in 1985 for the General Index of Retail Prices. An article in the April 1985 *Employment Gazette* carried the weights to be used in 1985 for the special indices of retail prices compiled for one and two person pensioner households.

Quarterly FES analyses and some annual analyses continue to be published in the Labour Market Data section of *Employment Gazette* as they become available: for example, the March 1985 issue included results up to and including the second quarter of 1984.

References

Employment Gazette, March and April 1985 (HMSO) (Price £2.95 per issue)

Household projections

Estimates of total households in England and Wales at 5-yearly intervals from 1981 to 2001, calculated from the 1981-based population projections, were published by the Department of the Environment (DOE) in March.

For England, there are estimates sub-divided between male and female heads of households and into broad age-groups, and for the English regions, counties, metropolitan districts and London boroughs, the numbers are broken down between household types.

The figures were calculated by applying headship rates, extrapolated from 1961, 1966, 1971 and 1981 Census data, to population projections made by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys. This set of projections is the first to use headship rates derived from the 1981 Census.

The DOE is able to provide more detailed breakdowns and the underlying headship rates, and can also arrange to produce projections for alternative areas or on different assumptions from those used in the published projections.

References

1981-based Estimates of Numbers of Households in England, the Regions, Counties, Metropolitan Districts and London Boroughs 1981-2001 (DOE, 1985) (price £25 from DOE Sales Unit, Building 1, Victoria Road, South Ruislip, HA4 0NZ: Telephone 01-845 7788)

Household Projection Service, DOE, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB; Telephone 01-212 8555.

Applications to buy public sector houses 1983

A Statistical Bulletin (HSIU No. 11) issued by the Scottish Development Department in January 1985 gives details of applications by sitting tenants of local authority, New Town Development Corporation and Scottish Special Housing Association during 1983, to buy their homes. Information is also given on sales to sitting tenants by these agencies.

Comment and tables cover applications to purchase; withdrawals and refusals; sales; time from application to completion of sale and discounts.

Statistical Bulletins price 50p can be obtained from the address given on page 69.31.

Prison service

The results of a major survey into staff attitudes to work in the Prison Service by OPCS was published in March, the main purpose of which was to extend the work of the May Committee in understanding areas of dissatisfaction among all grades of Prison Officers. The OPCS researchers were given a wide brief by the Home Office and developed a questionnaire that explored all possible areas of satisfaction and dissatisfaction, conflicts of interests and feelings that staff held about their work.

Reference

Staff attitudes in the Prison Service by Alan Marsh, Joy Dobbs, Janet Monk and Amanda White, OPCS Social Survey Report SS 1175 (HMSO, 1985) (Price £13 net)

Reconvictions and recalls of life licensees

An analysis of the rates of reconviction and recall of those released from custody on life licence up to the end of 1983 was issued on 7 February in a Home Office Statistical Bulletin. Sentences of life imprisonment are reviewed by the Life Sentence Board and in some cases those serving life sentences are recommended for release on licence. Life sentence prisoners who are released, are released on a licence which can be revoked if the offender commits another offence or for some other reason. The records of persons released on life licence from prison department establishments during the period 1973-83 were examined to produce rates for those reconvicted or recalled to prison within two or five years of first release. Of those released in the period 1973-81 about 2 per cent were convicted of a 'grave' offence and 8 per cent were recalled within two years of release. Of those released in 1973-78 about 4 per cent were convicted of a 'grave' offence and 15 per cent were recalled within 5 years of release.

Reference

Reconvictions and recalls of life licensees, Home Office Statistical Bulletin No. 3/85, price £1.50 net. See page 69.31 for availability.

Young offenders

Home Office Statistical Bulletin 2/85 – *Young offenders in prison department establishments under the Criminal Justice Act 1982: July 1983 – June 1984* (published 5 February 1985) provides information on the numbers received after Part 1 of the Act came into effect on 24 May 1983 and makes comparisons with previous years. The information is analysed by type of custody, sex, age and length of sentence and the effect on the prison population of the changes in the sentencing structure is discussed. The bulletin extends the information published in bulletin No. 3/84 and in *Prison statistics 1983* (Cmnd. 9363) (Price £10.85 net). The bulletin costs £2.50, see page 69.31 for availability.

The sentencing of young offenders

Home Office Statistical Bulletin 12/85 – *The sentencing of young offenders under the Criminal Justice Act 1982: July 1983 – June 1984* which was published on 7 May 1985 extends the information on sentencing of young offenders published in Chapter 7 of *Criminal statistics, England and Wales, 1983* (Cmnd. 9349). The bulletin compares the sentencing of offenders aged under 21 in 1982 with that in the twelve-month period 1 July 1983 to 30 June 1984, i.e. in a full year before and after 24 May 1983 when the new sentencing structure for young offenders introduced by the Criminal Justice Act 1982 came fully into force. The numbers of offenders sentenced in 1983/84 are estimates incorporating provisional data on court proceedings for the first half of 1984.

The bulletin covers mainly sentencing for indictable offences, and considers changes in the sentencing patterns between 1982 and 1983/84 separately for offenders aged 10-13, 14-16 and 17-20, and also changes in the lengths of immediate custodial sentences.

The bulletin cost £2.50, see page 69.31 for availability.

Reference

Criminal statistics, England and Wales, 1983 (Cmnd. 9349) HMSO (Price £12.30 net)

Regional drinking

Published recently were the results of a survey undertaken by OPCS on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Security to identify differences in average drinking patterns between two pairs of health regions considered to be at opposite extremes of the 'consumption/alcohol risk spectrum'. The survey attempted to discover whether regional differences in drinking behaviour could be explained by various types of residential and social environment.

Reference

Differences in drinking patterns between selected regions by Elizabeth Breeze, OPCS Social Survey Report SS 1161 (HMSO, 1985) (Price £12.00 net)

HEALTH

In-patient statistics from the mental health enquiry England 1982

Reports of the in-patient statistics collected in the Mental Health Enquiry have now been published for the years 1964 to 1982; the exceptions being 1972 because of printing restrictions and 1980 because 1981 data was available at the drafting stage.

This latest report published in March 1985 for the Department of Health and Social Security contains detailed tables on admissions, discharges, deaths, resident patients and legal status relating to 1982 and less detailed trend tables giving information for 1972 and 1978 to 1982.

The analyses in the report are only a selection of those available. Requests for further information and any enquiries should be sent to:

Statistics and Research Division, Branch SR2
Department of Health and Social Security
Hannibal House
Elephant and Castle
London, SE1 6TE

Reference

In-patient statistics from the mental health enquiry for England 1982 (HMSO) March 1985 (price £6.25 net)

Infectious diseases during pregnancy

A joint study has been produced by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine which was published in May. The late effects of antenatal virus exposure have been investigated by following up a sample of persons born after exposure to virus infection *in utero* and who were no older than 40 at the time of the study. An equal number of control individuals matched for sex, age and birthplace were also followed up. Methodological problems in such long-term studies are described and particular attention is given to various selection biases affecting different ascertainment groups for this study.

Reference

Infectious diseases during pregnancy by P. E. M. Fine, J. A. Clarkson, J. Snowman, A. M. Adelstein and S. M. Evans, OPCS Studies on Medical and Population Subjects No. 49 (HMSO, 1985) (Price to be announced)

Children's dental health

The first national study of children's dental health (which was published in 1975) envisaged that future surveys would be carried out to measure changes from the baseline established in 1973. Ten years on, OPCS was again commissioned by DHSS in conjunction, this time, with the Welsh Office, the Scottish Home and Health Department and the Department of Social Services in Northern Ireland to undertake a second study to provide data for such changes in children's dental health to

be measured and also to establish the general state of children's dental health in the constituent countries of the United Kingdom in 1983. The report of this latest survey was published in April.

References

Children's dental health in England and Wales, 1973 by Jean Todd (HMSO, 1975) (no longer in print)

Children's dental health in the United Kingdom, 1983 by Jean Todd and Tricia Dodd, OPCS Social Survey Report SS 1189 (HMSO, 1985) (Price £13.00)

EDUCATION

Non-advanced further education

A recent OPCS Monitor presented the main findings from a survey of 16-year olds in England designed to give an indication of the demand within this age-group for non-advanced further education courses outside school commencing in Autumn 1983, and the extent to which that demand had been satisfied. The survey was undertaken by OPCS at the request of the Department of Education and Science and the results cover such aspects as acceptance and take-up of courses, types of course sought, demand for subjects, and advice and attitudes towards further education.

Reference

OPCS Non-advanced further education OPCS Monitor SS 85/1 (OPCS, 1985) (available free from OPCS Information Branch—see page 69.30 for address)

Student awards and bursaries

Published biennially, this bulletin deals with the number of Scottish students in receipt of awards made by the Scottish Education Department under the Students' Allowances Scheme in sessions 1980/81, 1981/82 and 1982/83 and the cost of these awards. Information is also given about bursaries awarded by education authorities (See page 69.31).

School leavers

This bulletin gives information about the number of pupils leaving school in Scotland in the ten sessions 1973/74 to 1982/83 inclusive (See page 69.31).

MANPOWER AND EARNINGS

Employment estimates

As foreshadowed in the article 'Revised Employment Estimates' in the July 1984 issue of *Employment Gazette* (page 319), the employment estimates have been revised to incorporate data now available from the 1984 sample Labour Force Survey (LFS). The results of the 1981 and 1983 Labour Force Surveys have also been reviewed and consequent adjustments are reflected in

the revised series. The seasonally adjusted estimates also take into account the annual updating of seasonal factors.

The new series show the *employed labour force* following the same broad pattern of change as the previous estimates with a decline until March 1983 followed by increases. However the new estimates show both a steeper fall and a faster rate of increase. This is the net result of a downward revision, which increases in size throughout the period, to the estimates of employees in employment, and a slight downward revision to the self employment estimates to June 1983 followed by a rapidly increasing upward revision.

Revised series for 1981 to 1984 were published in the March 1985 *Employment Gazette* along with an article describing their derivation.

References

Employment Gazette, July 1984 and March 1985 (HMSO) (price £2.75 and £2.95 net respectively)

Employment in the public and private sectors 1978-84

March *Economic Trends* contained the latest annual article in the series on public and private sector employment. The article gives mid-year estimates of employment in the United Kingdom, analysed by sector and broad industry group for 1979 to 1984. The estimates are consistent with the Census of Employment 1981, and have been updated in line with the Labour Force Surveys 1983 and 1984. Changes in the employed labour force between 1978/84 and 1983/84 are analysed, and detailed figures of employment in the main categories of the public sector from 1978 to 1984 have been included.

References

'Employment in the public and private sectors, 1978 to 1984' by I. G. Richardson, *Economic Trends* No. 377, March 1985 (HMSO) (Price £9.95 net).

Self-employed

The February edition of the Manpower Services Commission's *Labour Market Quarterly Report* contains a special feature on the self-employed, using information collected in the 1983 Labour Force Survey.

The feature examines the statistical background to the rise in those self-employed during the past five years: the 1984 figure of 2.5 million is equivalent to one in ten of those in employment, the highest proportion since 1921.

The feature provides information on occupation and flows into and out of self-employment in the following tables:

- a. Self employment by occupation, (Broad occupational groups), 1981 and 1983.

- b. Self employment 1983 by economic activity one year earlier, and self employment 1982 by activity one year later.
- c. Occupational change for those self employed in 1983 who were employees in 1982, and
- d. Distribution of occupation; Flows 1982-1983.

The feature also discusses the number of self employed with employees, and the age and gender composition of self employment.

Among the standard items covered by the Report are: the trends in employment, unemployment and vacancies and the economic outlook.

Enquiries about the Report should be sent to:

Alan Robinson
Statistics 1/Training Division
Manpower Services Commission
Head Office
Moorfoot
Sheffield
S1 4PQ

Telephone: 0742 704194 (GTN 2023 4194)

Reference

Labour Market Quarterly Report, February 1984 (Manpower Services Commission) (Free of Charge)

Registered disabled people in the public sector

An article in *Employment Gazette* for February, continuing the series started in 1976, showed figures at about mid-1984 for a wide cross-section of public sector employers. These figures are an incomplete guide to the employment of disabled people since they only recognise the employment of those disabled people who choose to register as such, and their number has declined in recent years. Government departments; county, district, Greater London area, and Scottish regional, islands and district councils; regional and district health authorities; Scottish health boards; other bodies within the national health service; nationalised industries and public authorities; electricity boards and regional water authorities are covered.

Reference

Employment Gazette February 1985 (HMSO) (Price £2.95 net)

Recent trends in Scottish employment

The December 1984 *Statistical Bulletin* presents some new estimates of seasonally adjusted series of employees in employment in Scotland from June 1977 to June 1984.

Copies, 50 pence each, are available from:

Scottish Office Library
Official Publications Sales
Room 2/65, New St Andrews House
Edinburgh EH1 3TG

Offshore employment in the northern North Sea 1983

A Statistical Bulletin issued by the Industry Department for Scotland presents estimates of employment in 1983 on oil and gas related offshore installations and vessels located in the northern North Sea. These follow on from earlier estimates given for the years 1980 to 1982 in the *Scottish Economic Bulletin* (Nos. 25 and 27). Details of the data on which the figures in this Bulletin are based are contained in the Annex.

The estimates follow the general methodology used for previous surveys. The survey background and the reasons for adjusting the data are described in the earlier articles in the *Scottish Economic Bulletin* series. Particular adjustments made to the 1983 results which differ from those made to previous surveys and points of statistical interest are detailed in this Bulletin. The survey results for 1982 are repeated in the tables to allow comparison.

References

Offshore employment in the northern North Sea in 1983 Statistical Bulletin No E1.1, issued by the Industry Department for Scotland, price 50p, obtainable from the Scottish Office Library, Official Publications Sales, Room 2/65, New St Andrew's House, Edinburgh EH1 3TG.

Scottish Economic Bulletin (HMSO quarterly) (Price, Nos. 25 and 27 £6.00 net each)

New earnings survey 1984 – vocational training

The New Earnings Survey for April 1984 included for the first time since 1974 a question on whether the employee covered in the survey was working as an apprentice (whether indentured or not) or was receiving some other formal vocational training. Formal vocational training was taken to cover a commitment by the employer and the employee to a programme of training (including associated education) and work experience lasting at least twelve months.

Of the 135,000 full-time employees for whom returns were obtained in the survey, 5,421 (about four per cent) were said to be engaged in formal vocational training, of whom 1,573 (1.2 per cent) were working as apprentices.

Part F of the report on the New Earnings Survey 1984 (published on January 31) contains a number of analyses of the relative numbers and average weekly earnings and hours of employees engaged in formal vocational training. It should be emphasised that these details only cover employees and will not reflect those engaged in training programmes within firms under the Youth Training Scheme who do not have contracts of employment.

Reference

New Earnings Survey 1984 (HMSO in six parts) (Price £8.10 net each or subscription for the whole set of six £48.00 including postage)

Earnings and hours of manual workers

The February 1985 *Employment Gazette* contained an article giving results of the latest voluntary annual survey of the earnings and hours of manual employees in the United Kingdom in October 1984. The survey is one of the main sources of such information at detailed industrial level.

The figures presented in the article are based on the Standard Industrial Classification Revised 1980 (SIC 1980). The industry analyses will not be directly comparable therefore with those published in previous years which were based on the 1968 Standard Industrial Classification. However, to enable results on the two classifications to be linked, the results of the October 1983 survey have been re-analysed according to SIC(1980), and results for both October 1983 and October 1984 on a comparable industrial classification are shown in the article.

Reference

Employment Gazette February 1985 (HMSO) (Price £2.95 net)

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Annual Review of Agriculture 1985

The White Paper *Annual Review of Agriculture 1985* (Cmnd. 9423) published in February sets out the data considered during the Annual Review of the economic conditions and prospects of the United Kingdom agricultural industry.

There are three sections commenting on the state of the industry, general developments, and commodity trends together with a statistical annex. The twenty nine tables in the annex cover largely the same ground as last year's White Paper (Cmnd. 9137).

Where there has been no change in the basis of the tables, some of the figures differ from those in previous Annual Review White Papers because of later information, changes in the scope and nature of the available data and improvements in statistical methods. The forecasts for 1984 generally reflect the position up to the end of the year, as seen at November 1984.

Reference

Annual Review of Agriculture 1985, Cmnd. 9423 (HMSO) (Price £5.65 net)
ISBN 0 10 194230 3

Departmental net income calculation: Annual review 1985 (1975-1984)

This booklet is the usual annual release to supplement the Annual Review White Paper.

Departmental net income calculation: sources and methods

This booklet attempts to shed some light on the various methods used in compiling the accounts.

The above publications were published by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in the first week of February. They are free and available from the address given immediately below.

Basic horticultural statistics for the United Kingdom 1975-1984

This annual booklet contains a ten year time series of data on the cropped area, gross yield, gross production, output, monthly marketing patterns, average ex-farm gate price and value of all home produced fruit, vegetables and potato crops in the United Kingdom. It also provides data on the area and value of output of hops and flowers and nursery stocks, details of international trade and quantities sold into intervention.

Enquiries should be addressed to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Room 500A, Great Westminster House, Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AE – Telephone: 01-216 6763.

Agricultural censuses and surveys

June 1984 agricultural and horticultural census

Final results for England were published in Statistical Information Notice *STATS 295/84* on 18 December 1984.

Final results for the United Kingdom were published in MAFF Statistics Notice *STATS 33/85* on 5 February 1985.

Straw survey 1984

Results for England and Wales were published in Statistical Information Notice *STATS 292/84* on 13 December 1984.

December 1984 agricultural survey

Results for England were published in MAFF Press Release Notice No. 57 on 19 January 1985.

Production of canned and bottled fruit and vegetables

Results of the MAFF survey showing production during the fourth quarter of 1984 and the total for the year were published in MAFF Statistics Notice *STATS 66/85* issued on 8 March 1985. Copies of this Notice can be obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Room 500A, Great Westminster House, Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AE (Telephone: 01-216 6763).

Potato crisps and snack foods

Results of the third quarter of 1984 were published in

MAFF Statistics Notice *STATS 30/85* on 1 February 1985.

Results of the fourth quarter 1984 were published in MAFF Statistics Notice *STATS 72/85* issued on 12 March 1985.

Stocks of home grown wheat, barley and oats – England and Wales

Figures for end November 1984 and end December 1984 were published in MAFF Statistics Notices *STATS 38/85* and *STATS 50/85* issued on 6 February and 21 February 1985 respectively.

Final results of the Scottish June agricultural census for 1984

The final results of the June 1984 Scottish Agricultural Census were published on 13 December 1984. A press notice was not issued but statistical tables of the results are available from the following address:

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for
Scotland
Economics and Statistics Unit
Chesser House, 500 Gorgie Road
Edinburgh EH11 3AW
Telephone: 031-443 4020

INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS

Business starts and stops: UK county analysis 1980-83

Several articles in *British business*, the earliest on 2 April 1982 and the latest on 2 November 1984, have provided regional information on the stock of businesses and the numbers which start and stop to trade, based on VAT data collected for routine administrative purposes.

The articles of 11 November 1983 (on the regional stocks of businesses) and of 10 February 1984 (on starts and stops) broke the information down by assisted area status within the regions. An article in *British business*, 18 January 1985, presents the information by counties within regions for the period 1980-83.

Previous articles in *British business* have been covered in *Statistical News* 56.29, 57.26, 58.32, 59.45, 61.24, 63.36, 64.29, 65.36, 66.53, 67.40 and 68.41.

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 £1.25 net)

Aerospace and electronics cost indices

A new Business Monitor (MM19) was published in April containing the aerospace and electronics cost indices with 1980=100. Previously this information was available from the Business Statistics Office in the form of a monthly booklet.

The 1975=100 cost indices are currently published in *British business* and are being continued until the middle of 1988 to allow long-running contracts, incorporating the existing indices, to be concluded.

The new monthly Business Monitor is available on subscription, price £15.75 per annum, from HMSO Books, PO Box 276, London SW8 5DT.

Reference

British business (HMSO weekly) (Price £1.25 net)

DISTRIBUTION

Retailing inquiry 1982

Business Monitor *SDO 25* contains the complete set of results from the retailing inquiry for 1982. This was a 'full' inquiry, such as is now undertaken every second year, collecting information on retail turnover and outlets (for England, Scotland and Wales separately), turnover by commodity, stocks, capital expenditure, purchases for resale and persons engaged.

The Monitor contains various detailed analyses of the retail trade by kind of business, form of organisation, turnover, persons engaged and number of outlets. There are also tables showing commodity sales by kind of business and form of organisation, capital expenditure by type of asset, retail outlets and turnover in England, Scotland and Wales and sales by special forms of trading. An Appendix contains revised data for 1980 which reflects the improved grossing methodology introduced for the 1982 results.

Reference

Business Monitor *SDO 25 Retailing 1982* (HMSO) (Price £12.50 net)

TRANSPORT

Vehicle excise duty evasion in Great Britain

A survey of travel by unlicensed vehicles in June 1984, and a study leading to estimates of the amount of duty evasion in a full year, are reported in a recent Statistics Bulletin published by the Department of Transport.

The registration numbers of moving vehicles were recorded at 55 points on the road in Great Britain. Observations were made for a total of twelve hours at each site, spread over Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday, June 16, 17 and 20. Some 74,000 vehicles

seen were identified as either licensed or unlicensed on those dates according to the records of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre, Swansea.

The Bulletin presents estimates of total mileages run by unlicensed vehicles by vehicle class, road class, region and day of week. Certain characteristics of evaders are identified (age of vehicle, age and sex of keeper, length of time unlicensed). After making allowance for the lower average mileage run by unlicensed vehicles, the Bulletin gives estimates of the number of unlicensed vehicles in use and of the likely amount of duty evasion in 1984/85. Further information given in Appendices includes estimates of the total number of drivers who are evaders at some point during a full year, and of the total stock of unlicensed vehicles (derived from DVLC records) including those which are not in use.

Vehicle Excise Duty Evasion in Great Britain in 1984/85 may be obtained from: Departments of the Environment and Transport, Publications Sales Unit, Building 1, Victoria Road, South Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 0NZ; Telephone 01-845 7788 ext 200. The price is £12.00 (post free). Orders should be accompanied by remittance made payable to the Department of Transport.

Review of form 'Roads 199'

The Department of Transport collects road length statistics for highway authorities in England and coordinates returns for the whole of Great Britain. 'Form Roads 199' is the questionnaire used to collect the data annually from each of the English highway authorities.

The data are used *inter alia*

- i* in the national traffic census to provide the correct weighting for traffic counts when calculating vehicle-kilometres for each road class,
- ii* as a needs indicator in the calculation of Rate Support Grant and
- iii* in the production of comparative statistics on road construction and maintenance expenditure.

'Form Roads 199' was extensively revised in April 1984. Before the revision, the form and two other forms (Roads Forms 1 and 2) were used to collect road length data. The revision achieved the following:

- i* the revised form incorporated a simplified version of all three forms,
- ii* the new form could also be used as a computer input document, thus reducing data-preparation costs and
- iii* a section of guidance notes was introduced to standardize the definitions.

The local authority associations were consulted about the revision to 'Form Roads 199' and gave their approval.

Any enquiries regarding the review should be directed to:

Dr A. D. Butler
Department of Transport
Room A6.24
Romney House
43 Marsham Street
London SW1 3PY

Road accidents in English regions 1983

The third edition of Road Accident Statistics English Regions (RASER) was published in April.

This publication provides data of most use to traffic engineers, planners and administrators. The data are compiled according to county groupings covered by local government and Department of Transport regional offices. As RASER is confined to background national statistics, it should be regarded as a supplement to *Road Accidents Great Britain* (RAGB) which is the basic publication on road accident statistics (see *Statistical News* 68.29). Limited Scottish and Welsh data are included in RASER for completeness.

The main accident tables are:

- 1 Casualties by severity, region and rate per 100,000 population: 1979-1983
 - 2 Accident rates by year, road class, region and severity: 1981-1983 average
 - 3 Accidents by county, road class and severity: 1981-1983
 - 4 Accidents per 100 kilometres of road by county, road class and severity: 1981-1983 average
 - 5 Vehicles and casualties per accident: by county, severity and road class: 1983
 - 6 Monthly accidents and indices (average month = 100): by region: 1983
 - 7 Trunk road accidents (including motorways) by region and number of lanes: 1983
 - 8 Accidents on selected main roads by county: by severity, those involving pedestrians, at junctions, on dual carriageways, on lit or unlit roads at night, on wet roads by day/night, vehicles involved: 1983
 - 9 Individual motorways in England: accidents casualties by severity and vehicles by type: 1983
- and table 10 provides regional background statistics.

In addition there are charts showing:

- 1 Casualties on all roads and on non built-up roads: by severity: 1983
- 2 Child/Adult casualties per 100,000 population, all severities: 1983
- 3 Regional Accident Indices (1975-1977 average = 100): 1975-1983
- 4 Relationship between accidents and traffic, by severity, region and road class: 1981-1983 average

See page 69.30 for purchasing details of this publication.

Enquiries about the contents of this publication should be made to:

Department of Transport
STB Division
Room A7/05
Romney House
43 Marsham Street
London SW1P 3PY
Telephone: 01-212 5977

Port statistics

A new statistical bulletin is to be published jointly by the Department of Transport and the British Ports Association in June.

The bulletin will contain provisional 1984 statistics on total foreign and domestic traffic by mode of appearance and principal bulk commodity. Other statistics will include tonnages through the top twenty ports, container and roll-on traffic, international passenger and passenger vehicle movements. In addition, a summary table is provided showing HM Customs value and volume statistics analysed by port of entry/exit and by country of consignment/destination.

Port Statistics Bulletin (85)16 will be available soon at £10.00 from the British Ports Association, Commonwealth House, 1-19 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DZ Telephone: 01-242 1200

Waterborne freight in the United Kingdom

The second issue in this annual series of reports has now been published. It is issued, jointly, by the Department of Transport and the Marine Transport Centre University of Liverpool and gives estimates of tonnes lifted and tonne-kilometres moved by coastal shipping and on inland waterways in 1983. Also included are summary time-series back to 1972. Traffic is analysed by mode of appearance, principal commodities and type of movement (coastline, one-port, foreign or internal). Port groups of origin and destination are given for coastal traffic while for waterway traffic the analysis is by port group and waterway capacity. Two additional tables are included in this issue summarising goods traffic for each of the major inland waterway routes, 1980-1983.

The information on waterway traffic for 1983 updates the findings of an earlier survey of the 1980 situation (see *Statistical News* 59.41). An updating report for 1981/82 was published in early 1984 (see *Statistical News* 66.55). The survey and updates of coastal shipping and waterway traffic were discussed in an article in *Transport Statistics Great Britain 1972-82* (HMSO October 1983, price £19.00 net). *Transport Statistics Great Britain 1973-83* (December 1984, price £19.50 net) included some provisional results for 1983.

Waterborne Freight in the UK, 1983 is available (price £10.00 per copy including postage) from the Marine Transport Centre, University of Liverpool, PO Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX.

HOME FINANCE

The Government's Expenditure Plans 1985-86 to 1987-88

The Government's detailed spending plans for the period 1985-86 to 1987-88 are contained in the Public Expenditure White Paper which was published on 22 January 1985. As last year the publication is divided into two volumes. This year particular attention has been paid to introducing a more popular style in Volume 1. It provides a broad overview of the public expenditure plans and analyses where the money goes, who spends it and what it is spent on. Volume 1 includes heavily rounded figures and makes more use of visual aids than in the past. As a counterpart Part 2 – at the beginning of Volume II – gives more comprehensive statistical analysis for those wanting to study the fine detail. Detailed programme chapters – this year in Part 3 – have been further improved by, for example, including more material on output measures and performance indicators.

References

The Government's Expenditure Plans 1985-86 to 1987-88 Cmnd. 9428-1 and 9428-11 (HMSO January 1985) (Price, Volume 1 £4.10 net; Volume II £15.00 net) ISBN 0 10 194280 X and 81 8

Financial Statement and Budget Report 1985-86

The Financial Statement and Budget Report 1985-86 (FSBR) was published on March 19 1985.

Part 1 'The Budget Proposals' summarises the main proposals, these are described in detail in Parts 4 and 5. A table shows the direct effect of the Budget proposals on public sector transactions.

Part 2 'Medium-term Financial Strategy' sets out the framework within which the Government's policy operates. Comment, tables and charts cover – recent financial conditions: monetary policy; fiscal policy; public expenditure; revenue; public sector borrowing; comparison with the 1984 revenue and expenditure projections; and conclusions.

Part 3 'The Economy: Recent Developments and Prospects to mid-1986' deals with: the world economy; the exchange rate and the balance of payments; inflation; demand and activity; productivity and the labour market; forecast and outturn (compared with the main elements of the forecast published in the 1984 FSBR); short term economic prospects; and ends with an indication of the error margins. A table shows constant price forecasts at 1980 prices seasonally adjusted of expenditure, imports and gross domestic

product to first half 1986.

Part 4 'The Budget Tax and National Insurance Proposals in Detail' describes the proposals for Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise, Vehicle Excise Duty and the National Insurance Contributions. A table at the end of this part shows the direct effects of the proposed changes.

Part 5 'Public Expenditure' relates the Budget figures to the Government's expenditure plans for 1985-86 to 1987-88 (see note below). These are drawn up within the framework of last year's Green Paper, *The Next Ten Years* and the medium term financial strategy detailed in Part 2 of the Budget Report.

Part 6 'Public Sector Transactions' provides further information on the transactions of the public sector in 1984-85 and 1985-86. The data shown elaborate the rounded and summary figures for those years shown in Parts 2, 3 and 5. The forecasts for 1985-86 incorporate the effects of Budget measures. The basis of the tables and the relationship between them is outlined.

References

Financial Statement and Budget Report 1985-86 (HMSO March 1985) (Price £5.35 net) ISBN 0 10 226585 2

Financial Statement and Budget Report 1984-85 (HMSO March 1984) (Price £5.35 net) ISBN 0 10 230484 X

The Next Ten Years: Public Expenditure into the 1990s, Cmnd. 9189 (HMSO) (Price £4.55 net) ISBN 0 10 191890 9

Supply Estimates 1985-86, Summary and Guide

Supply Estimates are the means used by the Government to seek fresh Parliamentary authority for the greater part of its expenditure each year. The Estimates are presented to Parliament, usually on Budget Day, and Parliament votes on the provision sought in the following July or August.

The Summary and Guide to the Supply Estimates for the 1985-86 financial year was published on Budget Day (19 March 1985) and is a development of the former Chief Secretary's Memorandum. It summarises the expenditure for which authority is sought and places it in the context of the Government's more general public expenditure plans. It also provides a guide to readers interested in the detailed information in individual Estimates, tells them where to find particular information and outlines Parliamentary Supply procedure. This year the Summary and Guide has been improved to become a clearer and more readable document and more in keeping with the style of other Treasury documents on public expenditure. It is presented in a new format which includes a public expenditure calendar and a diagram showing the relationship between Supply Estimates and the public expenditure planning total. An Index to the Supply Estimates is available separately.

References

Supply Estimates 1985-86 Summary and Guide Cmnd. 9450 (HMSO 1985) (Price £7.00 net) ISBN 0 10 194500 0

Supply Estimates 1985-86 Index HC 239-IND (HMSO 1985) (Price £3.55 net)

Patterns of recovery

According to analysis by the Central Statistical Office of the pattern of economic cycles in the United Kingdom, the economy has been in an upswing phase since the last cyclical trough, which occurred in the first half of 1981. (The previous downswing had lasted for two years, following a cyclical peak in the first half of 1979.) A short article in *Economic Progress Report No. 174* published by HM Treasury discusses the pattern of economic growth since the trough, and compares this with the recovery which led up to the 1979 peak. It takes account of the forecasts published in the Autumn Statement on 12 November 1984 (see *Statistical News* 68.43)

Reference

Economic Progress Report No. 174 January 1985 available free of charge, from Publications Division, Central Office of Information, Hercules Road, London, SE1 7DV

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental monitoring for radioactivity in Scotland: 1980 to 1983

This statistical bulletin (No. 4/1984) presents the results and principal conclusions of the monitoring of the environmental effects of radioactive disposals from nuclear sites in Scotland, over the period 1980 to 1983. This complements an earlier bulletin (No. 1/1984) on the radioactive disposals themselves. A summary of the procedures underlying the monitoring is also included.

Scottish Office statistical bulletins, price 50p, can be obtained from:

Scottish Office Library
Publication Sales
Room 2/65
New St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
EH1 3TG

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

Sector classification booklet

To complement the industrial classification of economic activities – the Standard Industrial Classification – which groups together economic units in accordance with their main activity, the Central Statistical Office published in December 1982 a sector classification which divides the economy into institutional sectors with reference to economic organisation as displayed by control and ownership. An updated version – *Sector Classification for the National Accounts*, No. 3 – was published in January 1985.

The framework of the classification is as follows:

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

and leads to the following combinations:

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

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

Copies are available from Branch 5, Central Statistical Office, Great George Street, London SW1P 3AQ (price £3.00 including postage). A cheque made payable to 'HM Treasury Votes Cash Account' should accompany each order.

OVERSEAS FINANCE AND TRADE

UK overseas assets and liabilities

An article in *Economic Progress Report No. 175* February 1985, published by HM Treasury, describes recent changes in the level and composition of UK external assets and summarises the recent evidence on trends in income from overseas investment produced by the Bank of England. Finally the benefits of overseas investment for the United Kingdom are considered.

Reference

Economic Progress Report is available, free of charge, from Publications Division, Central Office of Information, Hercules Road, London, SE1 7DU

Overseas trade classification

The *Guide to the classification for overseas trade statistics 1985* was published by HMSO for HM Customs and Excise on 11 March 1985, price £17.50 net, ISBN 0 11 260500 1.

INTERNATIONAL

Taxes and social security contributions: international comparisons

An article published in the February 1985 issue of *Economic Trends* gives comparison of taxation in twenty countries within the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) for the years 1972 to 1982. The tables are based mainly on national accounts returns supplied to OECD by member countries and show, for each country, total taxes and social security contributions as a percentage of gross national product; main categories of tax as percentages of gross national product and total taxation; and taxes on income and social security contributions paid by households as a percentage of total personal income. Also included are provisional figures for 1983 derived from *Revenue Statistics of OECD Member Countries 1965-1983*.

References

Economic Trends, No. 376, February 1985 (HMSO) (Price £9.95 net).
Revenue Statistics of OECD Member Countries 1965-1983 (OECD, Paris 1984) available from HMSO (Price £9.20 net).

PUBLICATIONS

Northern Ireland Annual Abstract of Statistics

The third edition of *Northern Ireland Annual Abstract of Statistics* was published in March. It was prepared by the Policy Planning and Research Unit, Department of Finance and Personnel in collaboration with other Northern Ireland Departments.

There are sections on population and vital statistics; households and individuals; social services and health; law and order; education; housing; environment and climate; transport and communications; tourism; labour; earnings and income; production output and energy; agriculture; forestry and fishing; regional accounts; public finance; and banking, insurance and other financial institutions.

Preceding each section there is a brief preamble introducing some of the tables.

Reference

Northern Ireland Annual Abstract of Statistics No. 3 1984 (HMSO Belfast) (Price £11.50 net) ISBN 0 337 23429 9 ISSN 0267-6044. Available from the HMSO Belfast book shop at the address shown on the back cover.

Social Trends 15: amendments

The 1985 edition of *Social Trends* was published by HMSO on 10 January 1985. The following errors have since been discovered:

Page 62, text

Second paragraph,

line 12 **delete** 'agriculture' and **insert** 'agriculture, forestry, and fishing'.

Page 80, text

First paragraph,

line 2 **delete** '1976' and **insert** 'August 1976'

lines 3 and 4 **delete** '1981' and **insert** 'February 1982'.

Page 115, Table 7.24

Row 1983, column 'Average number of persons per doctor (thousands)' **delete** '1.97' and **insert** '2.06'.

Page 165, Table 11.14

Column head 'Previous General Election June 1983' **delete in toto** and **insert** 'Previous¹ General Election June 1983'.

Any enquiries should be referred to:

Alison Holding

Central Statistical Office

Room 75A/1

Great George Street,

London

SW1P 3AQ

Telephone: 01-233 7637

Reference

Social Trends 15 (HMSO January 1985) (Price £19.95 net)

Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin

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

The financial structure of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)

This article, a companion to one on the International Monetary Fund published in the December 1983 *Bulletin*, describes the financial structure of the IBRD – or World Bank as it is commonly known. The role of the World Bank, and the question of a future general capital increase for it, have become topical subjects. The article explains the important role that the Bank's capital base plays in determining the scale of its operations.

Developments in international banking and capital markets in 1984

Boundaries between international capital and banking markets have become blurred in recent years as new borrowing instruments have been developed and as

banks have sought greater liquidity by acquiring marketable debt. Encouraged by supervisory authorities, banks have also continued to improve their capital ratios. During 1984, international capital flows were strongly influenced by developments in the US economy, while the debt problems of major borrowing countries had a somewhat less severe impact than in 1983 as the current account positions of developing countries improved. For creditworthy borrowers, competition and innovation contributed to even more favourable market conditions than in 1983.

Oil exporters' surpluses and their deployment

Two major 'shocks' to the price of oil in the past decade have had a dramatic impact on the current account position of the oil exporting countries and thus on their net foreign assets. This article examines the changing structure of the oil exporters' portfolio and shows that the initial adjustment to current account movements was primarily on changes in liquid assets holdings and borrowing. Subsequent adjustment has enabled these countries to diversify into longer-term investments with a wider geographical spread.

The housing finance market: recent growth in perspective

The housing finance market has grown rapidly in real terms in the last four years as competition between lenders has increased. Banks re-entered the mortgage market on a large scale and the building societies have increasingly sought to meet mortgage demand by greater variation of interest rates rather than rationing. The supply of housing has risen, but more slowly than available finance – private housebuilding has recovered modestly and over 600,000 dwellings have been transferred from the public to private sector. Nevertheless, house prices have not risen as fast as in the 1970s. Some mortgage lending must therefore have been used, directly or indirectly, for other purposes.

Other items

Also reprinted is a speech by the Governor reviewing progress and prospects on international financial matters and one by the Deputy Governor describing changes that have been taking place in the regulation and structure of financial institutions – internationally and in London.

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

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

Social security statistics – Northern Ireland

The second edition of *Northern Ireland Social Security Statistics* was published by HMSO Belfast for the Department of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland on 22 January 1985. There are sections covering each of the social security benefits. Tables showing trends over five years are included and detailed analyses are provided for the most recent year available.

A brief descriptive note of the main features of the relevant benefit, as they currently apply, appears as a prologue to each section. These notes do not purport to cover all the conditions for entitlement to benefit or payment of contributions, nor do they give a history of the various changes which have occurred over the years. If more information is required on a particular subject, a copy of the appropriate explanatory leaflet should be consulted, and a list of these is given in an Appendix.

Any enquiries, or requests for further information, regarding statistics about social security should be sent to:

Department of Health and Social Services
Statistics and Research 2 Branch
Castle Buildings
Stormont
Belfast

Telephone: Belfast (STD Code 0232) 63939
Ext. 2805

Reference

Northern Ireland Social Security Statistics 1984 (HMSO Belfast) (price £8.50 net)
ISBN 0337 07325 2. Available from HMSO Belfast Bookshop at the address shown on the back cover

National Institute Economic Review

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

Productivity, Machinery and skills in a sample of British and German manufacturing plants. This study by A. Daly, D. M. W. N. Hitchens and K. Wagner examines the role of machinery and workforce skills in explaining relative productivity in a sample of matched engineering plants in the two countries. In each of the matched product groups, productivity was higher in Germany. The average age of British machinery was similar to that found in German plants but it was less technically advanced and was subject to more frequent breakdowns which took longer to correct. The important role of a skilled workforce in reducing these problems was apparent.

The causes of British unemployment. This is a study of the estimates from a 3-equation model that explains both changes in the NAIRU (non-accelerating-inflation rate of unemployment) and deviations of unemployment from the NAIRU. The employment and price equations are based on imperfect competition, and

show how employment is affected by both real wages *and* real aggregate demand. The wage equation is eclectic. Using this whole model, the authors calculate how the natural rate of unemployment has been affected by changes in workers' search intensity, employment protection, mismatch, union power, taxes, relative import prices and incomes policy. The model has a 'natural' level of real demand, but in the short-run, low demand can reduce inflation, as recently, at the cost of higher unemployment.

Reference

National Institute Economic Review No. 111 February 1985, available from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, 2 Dean Trench Street, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HE (Price £8.50 plus 45p postage)

Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Data Archive Bulletin

The January 1985 issue of this Bulletin contains notes on the BBC Domesday project, ESRC/National Science Foundation Joint Working Party on data resource management, data on floppies, ABC: a statistical package for microcomputers, census news, forthcoming workshops and conferences.

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

A software bulletin is included; also a diary of forthcoming events, a section of book reviews and news of research organisations, data institutions and foreign archives.

Reference

ESRC Data Archive Bulletin No. 30 January 1985, available free, from ESRC Data Archive, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex CO4 3SQ

Skelmersdale New Town

Population and Social Survey 1984, Skelmersdale New Town was recently published. The Report presents the results of the twenty first and final survey to be carried out by the Skelmersdale Development Corporation which will be wound up later in 1985. The surveys have been carried out annually since 1963, the first being just before the start of new town development. Taken together they provide a useful and perhaps unique record of the demographic development of a new town. Consistency has been maintained in the presentation of demographic information to assist year by year comparison, but presentation of social information has varied from year to year to reflect current issues. The response rate had been tending to fall in recent years but has increased again this year to its highest level for five years.

In addition to the Population and Social Survey, the publication includes the eighth annual survey of school-leavers and the second Skelmersdale College Survey.

Both surveys were conducted with the co-operation of the schools and the College during March 1984.

Reference

Population and Social Survey 1984, Skelmersdale New Town is available from The Librarian, Skelmersdale Development Corporation, Pennylands, Skelmersdale, Lancashire WN8 8AR.

World Fertility Survey

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

Comparative studies

No. 32 *Comparability of Questionnaires: Forty-one WFS Countries* by Susheela Singh

Scientific reports series

No. 56 *Effects of Community Factors on Infant and Child Mortality in Rural Bangladesh* by Ahmed Al-Kabir

No. 57 *Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago: Socio-Economic Differentials in Cumulative Fertility* by Susheela Singh

No. 58 *Evaluation of the Lesotho Fertility Survey 1977* by Ian Timaeus and K. Balasubramanian

Summary of findings

No. 49 *The Nigeria Fertility Survey 1981-82*

Other publications

World Fertility Survey Major Findings and Implications
A report on the completion of the project

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

International publications

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

United Nations

Statistical yearbook 1984, price £45.00 net
Conference on Trade and Development

Handbook of international trade and development statistics: supplement 1984, price £50.00 net
Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

Population studies 85. *Concise report on the world population situation in 1983: conditions; trends, prospects, policies*, price £8.55 net

Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. Statistical Office

Population and vital statistics report: 1984 special supplement, price £19.00 net

Studies in methods: series F

No. 31 Handbook of household surveys (revised edition), price £27.50 net

No. 33 Improving concepts and methods for statistics and indicators on the situation of women, price £8.50 net

Economic Commission for Europe

Annual bulletin of coal statistics for Europe in 1983, price £10.45 net

Statistics in world trade in steel 1983, price £8.10 net

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

FAO statistics series 55, *FAO production yearbook, Vol. 37: 1983*, price £15.00 net

FAO statistics series 57, *FAO trade yearbook, Vol. 37: 1983*, price £18.00 net

Eurostat

Analysis of EC-Latin America trade: recent trends, price £3.40 net

EC raw materials balance sheets 1979-82, price £7.20 net

Gas prices 1978-84, price £6.60 net

Iron and steel yearbook 1984, price £11.80 net

Social indicators for the European Community: selected series, price £9.80 net

Structure and activity of industry: annual inquiry - main results 1980/1981, price £11.80 net

Council of Europe

Immigrant populations and demographic development in the member states of the Council of Europe: statistical annexes, price £2.85 net

Population Studies

No. 10 Availability of information on morbidity: statistics regularly compiled in Council of Europe member states: differential morbidity, by Marie-Helene Bouvier-Colle, price £3.25 net

No. 12 Part 1: analysis of general trends and possible future developments by Rinus Penninx, price £2.20 net

No. 13 Part 2: country report by Rinus Penninx, price £2.85 net

No. 14 reproductive performance over the last decade in the Council of Europe member states by S. M. Wijewickrema, price £2.45 net

OECD

Costs and margins in banking: statistical supplement 1978-82, by J. R. S. Revell, price £12.50 net

Development co-operation: efforts and policies of the members of the Development Assistance Committee: 1984 review by K. M. Poats, price £14.50 net

Employment growth and structural change, price £9.50 net

Labour force statistics 1962-1982, price £15.00 net

Meat balances in OECD countries 1977-1983, price £7.50 net

Department of Economics and Statistics

Balances of payments of OECD countries 1963-1982, price £11.00 net

National accounts 1970-1982, Vol. 2: details tables, price £29.50 net

World Health Organisation

World health statistics 1984, price £16.00 net

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

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Twenty-third Session of United Nations Statistical Commission

The twenty-third session of the United Nations Statistical Commission was held in New York from 25 February to 6 March 1985. The objectives of this Commission were described in an article by Deo Ramprakash in *Statistical News* 62.1. The United Kingdom delegation to this session comprised Sir John Boreham and Mr D. Ramprakash from the Central Statistical Office and Mr R. M. Allen from the Overseas Development Administration.

The members of the Statistical Commission are Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Finland, France, Ghana, India, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Spain, Togo, Ukrainian SSR, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, USA and United Kingdom. The Chairman of the twenty-third session was Mr T. P. Linehan of Ireland and the Rapporteur was Mr E. Oti Boateng of Ghana. There were observers from 35 international organisations.

The Statistical Commission reviewed progress and the proposed work programmes and priorities of the UN Statistical Office (UNSO) for the biennium 1986-87 and, in less detail, for the whole period 1984-1989. Particular attention was paid to economic classifications at the world level; to the current revision of the UN System of National Accounts (SNA); to the International Comparisons Project; to the 1990 round of Population and Housing Censuses; and to technical assistance in statistics to the least developing countries.

The United Kingdom was particularly concerned that the UN Standard International Trade Classification (Revision 3) should not be radically different from its predecessor, SITC (Rev 2), and that Rev 3 should be adopted at the twenty-third session; these objectives

were achieved. The United Kingdom also particularly welcomed:

- a. the decision by UNSO to continue to review the burden which questionnaires from international organisations imposed on national statistical offices
- b. the choice by China of the SNA in preference to the Material Product System used in all other non-market economies
- c. recognition of perhaps the obvious fact that technical assistance in statistics to developing countries was worthwhile only if it led to genuine economic and social improvements and
- d. the acceptance that further steps should be taken by UNSO to improve its budgeting and accounting procedures.

The gathering of so many top-level statisticians from national and international organisations always provides an excellent opportunity for in-depth discussions of two or three special issues that are of common concern to them. Thus, in addition to the business of reviewing the work projects of UNSO, the following special issues were debated:

- Meeting user needs for, and improving the dissemination of, international statistics; and publication policy for statistics
- Social indicators

In due course, the UN will issue its report on the twenty-third session.

Further information on this Conference is obtainable from the address given in the following item.

Tenth Conference of Commonwealth Statisticians

The Tenth Conference of Commonwealth Statisticians will be held at Nuffield College Oxford from 31 July to 9 August 1985; the previous occasions when the United Kingdom hosted this Conference were in September 1956 and September 1920, which were respectively the Fourth and First Conferences.

The agenda of the Tenth Conference will comprise six broad topics, on each of which there has been an organiser responsible for inviting papers from selected authors and then himself writing an issues paper based on them; this stage is now nearly complete. Papers volunteered by national statistical offices in Commonwealth countries have also been welcomed. The topics and their organisers are:

- 1 The Statisticians' Market; organiser Mr W. P. McLennon (Australia)
- 2 Statistics for Development: Frameworks versus Social and Economic Indicators and Basic Statistics; organiser Mr L. Pujadas (Trinidad and Tobago)
- 3 The Labour Market; organiser Mr K. C. Seal (India)

4 New Technology and Statistics; organiser Mr M. Wilk (Canada)

5 Integrated Data Collection; organiser Mr W. Scott (United Nations Research Institute for Social Development)

6 Technical Cooperation; organiser Mr P. Singh (Commonwealth Secretariat).

Attendance to the Conference is restricted almost entirely to those for whom it is intended, viz heads of statistical offices in Commonwealth countries. Copies of papers and a report on the Conference will be generally available in due course.

Further information on this Conference as well as on the twenty-third session of the United Nations Statistical Commission is obtainable from Mr D. Ramprakash, Room 73/1, Central Statistical Office, Great George Street SW1P 3AQ, Telephone: 01-233 8523.

Royal Statistical Society

The following meetings have been sponsored by the Society:

On 18 June 1985 at 5pm at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Manson Theatre, Keppel Street, London WC1

Chris Leach (University of Newcastle upon Tyne) will present a paper entitled, 'Cluster Analysis of Repertory Grids'.

A repertory grid is a particular example of a cases by variables data matrix frequently used by clinical psychologists to elicit information from individual clients. Examples of repertory grids will be presented and a recently developed method of cluster analysis based on Hartigan's joiner-scaler algorithm will be discussed and compared with other approaches.

On 24 June 1985 at 5pm at the City University, Room CM 507, St Johns Street, London EC1

Professor Michael Greenacre (University of South Africa) will present a paper entitled, 'The use of correspondence analysis in social surveys and market research'.

There are two reasons why correspondence analysis is particularly suitable for the analysis of data emanating from social surveys and market research:

- i it is applicable to qualitative data, including preferences and ratings;
- ii it readily handles large data sets.

In this talk the general principles of correspondence analysis will be given, as will as its advantages and disadvantages in this context. The paper will be illustrated with actual examples of analyses of survey and marketing data which demonstrate the potential of this technique.

Further details are available from the Royal Statistical Society, 25 Enford Street, London W1H 2BH Telephone: 01-723 5882

An open forum on 'Statistics and Pattern Recognition', co-sponsored by the International Association for Pattern Recognition will be held at Edinburgh University on 15/16 July 1985 at 10am.

The meeting will cover the whole area of interaction between statistics and pattern recognition, including statistical pattern recognition, discrimination and classification, image analysis and remote sensing.

Details are available from Mr P. R. Fisk, Department of Statistics, University of Edinburgh, James Clerk Maxwell Building, The Kings Buildings, Mayfield Road, Edinburgh, EH9 3JZ.

Survey Methods Centre

A one-day Seminar will be held at the National Children's Bureau, 8 Wakley Street, London EC1V 7QE on Thursday 6 June 1985. The subject is 'Talking about Research', and will be chaired by Sir John Boreham, Head of the Government Statistical Service.

Papers will be presented on 'capturing the audience's attention, describing quantitative findings, presenting qualitative material and revitalising the overhead projector'. The Chairman will end the meeting with a Summary and closing discussion.

GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL SERVICE

Review of regular surveys

As part of the system for reviewing all regular statistical surveys to businesses and local authorities every five years, a report of a completed category A review is summarised below. The procedure for reviewing surveys was set out in *Statistical News*, May 1983 (61.33).

The cereals on farms and cereal yields surveys

The review accepted that the information collected in the two surveys was essential to support both government and European Community agricultural policy. However the review identified several ways in which form-filling could be made less burdensome to respondents, in which cost to government could be reduced and in which value of the data could be improved. The review recommends that the present monthly cereals on farms survey and annual cereal yields survey be replaced by three new surveys of production, stocks and grain fed to livestock. Each of these surveys will have a short and simple questionnaire which will enable the running of the surveys to be carried out centrally and eliminate Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) Divisional Office involvement. The production survey

will be carried out only four times per year. The quality of results on grain fed to livestock will be improved, as the new separate survey will be able to be targetted at a representative sample of livestock farmers as opposed to the present method of collecting these data solely from cereals growers. Simplification of the complex monthly form currently used should also improve response to the production and stocks surveys.

The report recommends that pilot work on the new survey of grain fed to livestock is carried out during 1985 and that the new system of surveys be introduced for the 1985 harvest. A copy of the report has been placed in the MAFF library.

Further information on the review can be obtained from:

Mr A. J. Barnett
Statistical Division II
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2HH
Telephone: 01-233 5456

Set out below is a list of recently completed category B reviews of surveys to businesses and local authorities. 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.

I Surveys to businesses

Manpower expansion review

Mr P. Hanlon
Manpower Services Commission
Training Division
Northern Regional Office
Broadacre House
Market Street
Newcastle-upon-Tyne
NE1 6HH

Stage bus fares index

Mrs P. Dowdeswell
Department of Transport
Romney House
43 Marsham Street
London
SW1 3PY

Monthly return of building society mortgage and dwelling price statistics

Mr S. F. Flack
Department of the Environment
Kingsgate House
Victoria Street
London
SW1E 6SJ

Public corporation sources and uses of funds
Quarterly returns of public corporations borrowing and lending

Employment by public corporations

Mr A. E. Cundy

Central Statistical Office

Branch 5

Government Offices

Great George Street

London SW1P 3AQ

Insurance companies: Quarterly transactions in financial assets

Insurance companies: Balance sheets

Miss J. K. Marson

Department of Trade and Industry

Statistics Division 2

Sanctuary Buildings

Great Smith Street

London SW1P 3DB

Annual inquiry into UK insurance companies transactions with their overseas subsidiaries

Annual inquiry into UK insurance companies direct investment transactions with their overseas direct investors

Triennial inquiry into assets and liabilities of UK insurance companies due to and from overseas direct investors

Triennial inquiry into assets and liabilities of overseas subsidiaries of UK insurance companies

Mr W. N. C. Hall

Department of Trade and Industry

Statistics Division 2

Sanctuary Buildings

Great Smith Street

London SW1P 3DB

II Surveys to local authorities

Return of experiments: Cruelty to animals Act 1876

Mr C. F. Woolf

Home Office

50 Queen Anne's Gate

London

SW1H 9AT

Lengths of public highway

Dr A. D. Butler

Department of Transport

Room A6.24

Romney House

43 Marsham Street

London

SW1 3PY

Department of Trade and Industry code of practice on the confidentiality of information collected in statistical inquiries

Following the publication of the White Paper *The Government Statistical Service Code of Practice on the Handling of Data Obtained from Statistical Inquiries* (Cmnd. 9270), the Department of Trade and Industry has taken the opportunity to make some minor changes to its internal guidelines covering the confidentiality of data collected in statistical inquiries. These involve a small addition to the range of information which may be used for non-statistical purposes, and a clarification of the treatment of information collected in GSS voluntary statistical inquiries. An article giving the revised code of practice was published by the Department in *British business* on 22 March 1985. Further details may be obtained from:

Mr R. Williams

Room 1.281

Business Statistics Office

Cardiff Road

NEWPORT

Gwent

NP9 1XG

Telephone: 0633 56111 Ext 2563

References

The Government Statistical Service. Code of Practice on the Handling of Data obtained from Statistical Inquiries. Cmnd. 9270 (HMSO) June 1984 (price £1.30 net) *British business*, 22 March 1985 (HMSO) (price £1.25 net)

Review of Customs and Excise Statistical Office

HM Customs and Excise have published a report on the review of the Statistical Office. The review was prompted by developments in technology and shortcomings in the current system for producing the overseas trade statistics. All aspects of the system were examined from collection of data from importers and exporters, through to delivery of information to users.

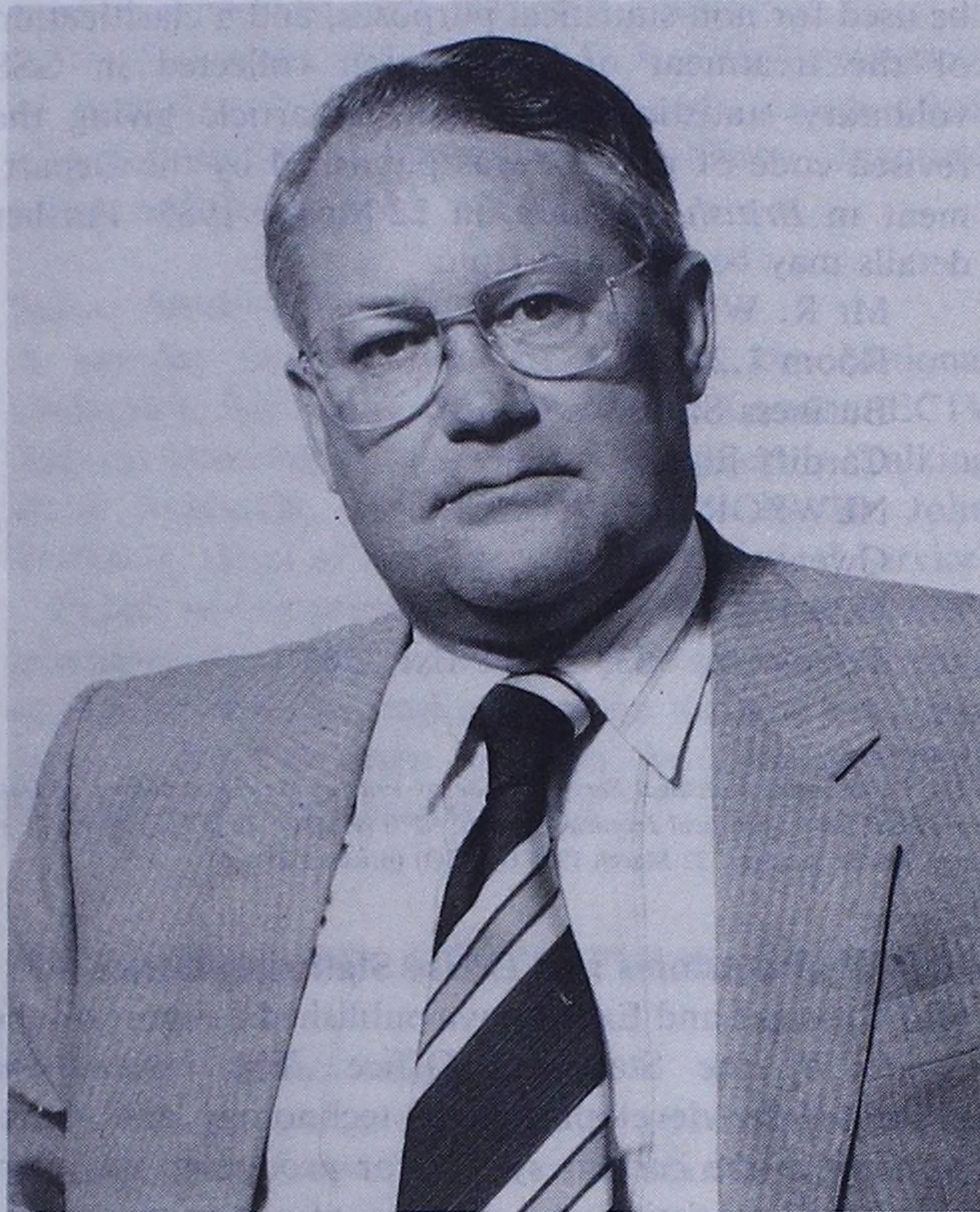
The report contains recommendations for increasing efficiency and providing a better service. A major theme is that data should be handled electronically throughout its processing by exploiting developments in computing and telecommunication technology. This would cut out much manual effort, limit the scope for error and reduce the volume of paper. A new computer system with sophisticated data editing arrangements is proposed. The system would provide variable outputs through an interrogation facility and incorporate procedures for special analyses which are required for other government departments. Processing would be speeded up and the delivery timetable for the monthly statistics would be cut by up to two weeks.

The report highlights a growing demand from the private sector for statistics from different sources to be packaged to meet particular needs. It also draws

attention to the pressure from users for delivery of data by floppy disc or on-line transmission. A recommendation to appoint a marketing agent to meet this developing situation is under discussion with the Central Statistical Office and other departments.

Copies of the report (price £2.50) are available from HM Customs and Excise, Bill of Entry, Portcullis House, 27 Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 6AL.

Appointments and changes



John Erritt, 54, joined the Central Statistical Office as an Assistant Director (Grade 3) in March 1985 from the Ministry of Defence. He first joined the Central Statistical Office in 1955 as an Assistant Statistician and worked there on the early Family Expenditure Surveys and the Redistribution of Income. In 1960 he moved on promotion to Statistician to the Board of Trade to work on the statistics and forecasts of capital expenditure and stocks of the distributive and service trades. From 1964 to 1967 he was seconded to the Treasury where he worked on UK balance of payments forecasts. He then returned to the Board of Trade to work on economic reporting and forecasting and on regional statistics before moving to the Inland Revenue in 1968 as a Chief

Statistician covering statistics and budget support for personal and corporate taxation. In 1973 he transferred to the Central Statistical Office to take charge of the Statistician Group Management Unit. A further move in 1975 took him to the Departments of Industry, Trade and Prices and Consumer Protection to look after financial statistics relating to industrial and commercial companies, insurance companies, pension funds and consumer credit. In 1979 he moved to the Ministry of Defence to work on statistics and manpower planning for the Armed Forces. In 1981 he was promoted to Assistant Under Secretary of State (Statistics) and was head of the Defence Statistics Organisation.

Mr K. G. Forecast, Assistant Director, (Grade 3), Central Statistical Office, on special assignment to Northern Ireland Department of Finance and Personnel from 1 March 1985.

Mr A. Ganguly, Statistician, Department of Trade and Industry, was promoted to Grade 6 from 1 November 1984.

Mr J. N. Lithgow, Grade 5 (Chief Statistician), Ministry of Defence on temporary promotion to Grade 4 from 1 March 1985.

Mr D. L. H. Roberts, Grade 5 (Chief Statistician), Ministry of Defence, was transferred to the Department of the Environment from 11 February 1985.

LATE ITEMS

Trade union membership 1983

An article in *Employment Gazette* January 1985 gives details of the aggregate membership of trade unions in the United Kingdom in 1983 and compares the figures with previous years. The statistics cover the membership of all organisations known to the Department of Employment and include home and overseas membership of those trade unions which have their head offices situated in the United Kingdom.

Reference

Employment Gazette January 1985 (HMSO) (Price £2.95 net)

Local government statistics

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy have recently published *Local Government Comparative Statistics 1985*, price £19, available from CIPFA, 3 Robert Street, London WC2

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 accounts. Articles and notes dealing particularly with Scottish statistics are indexed under 'Scotland' as well as the topic, e.g. 'Scotland, population postcodes' and similarly for Wales and Northern Ireland.

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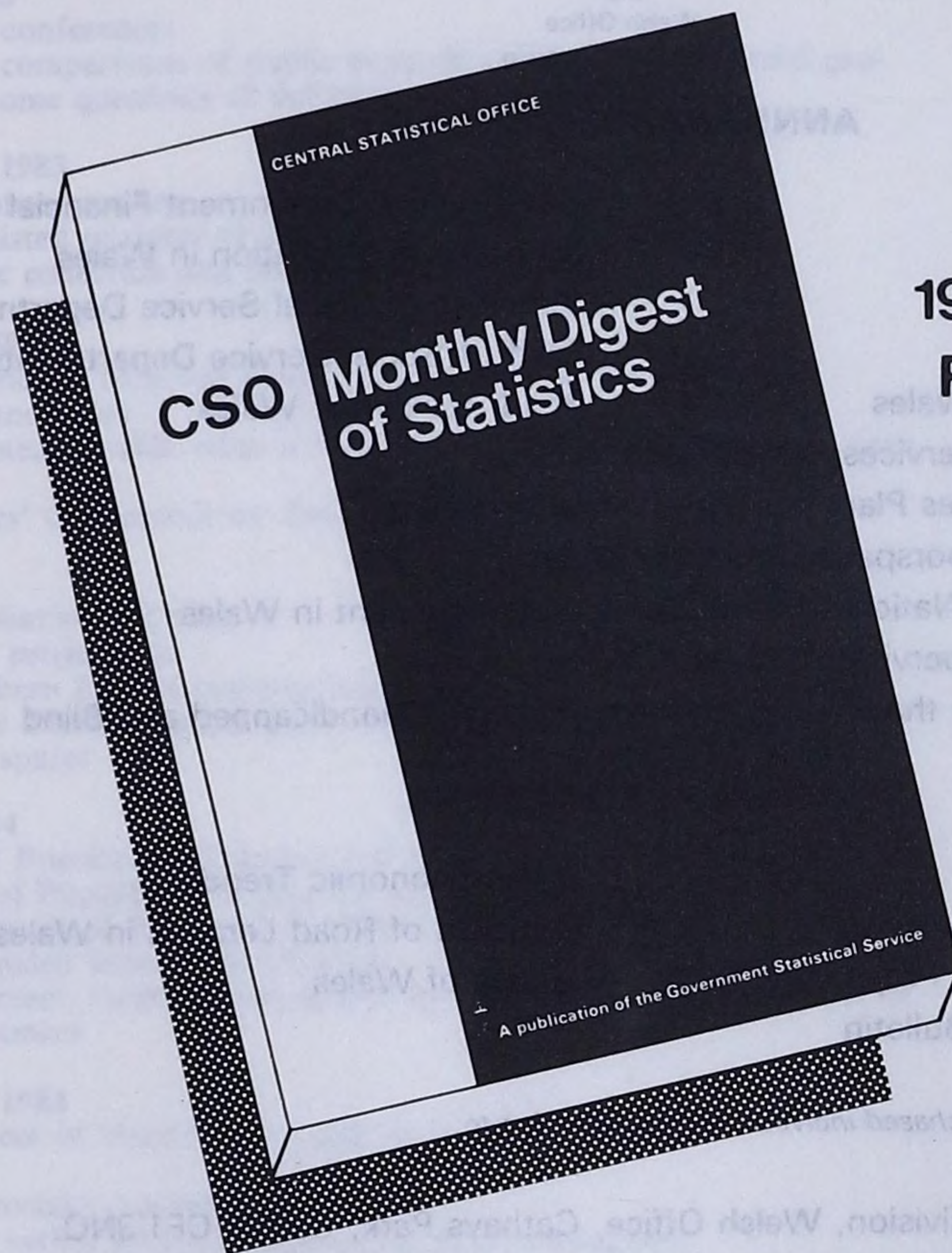
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