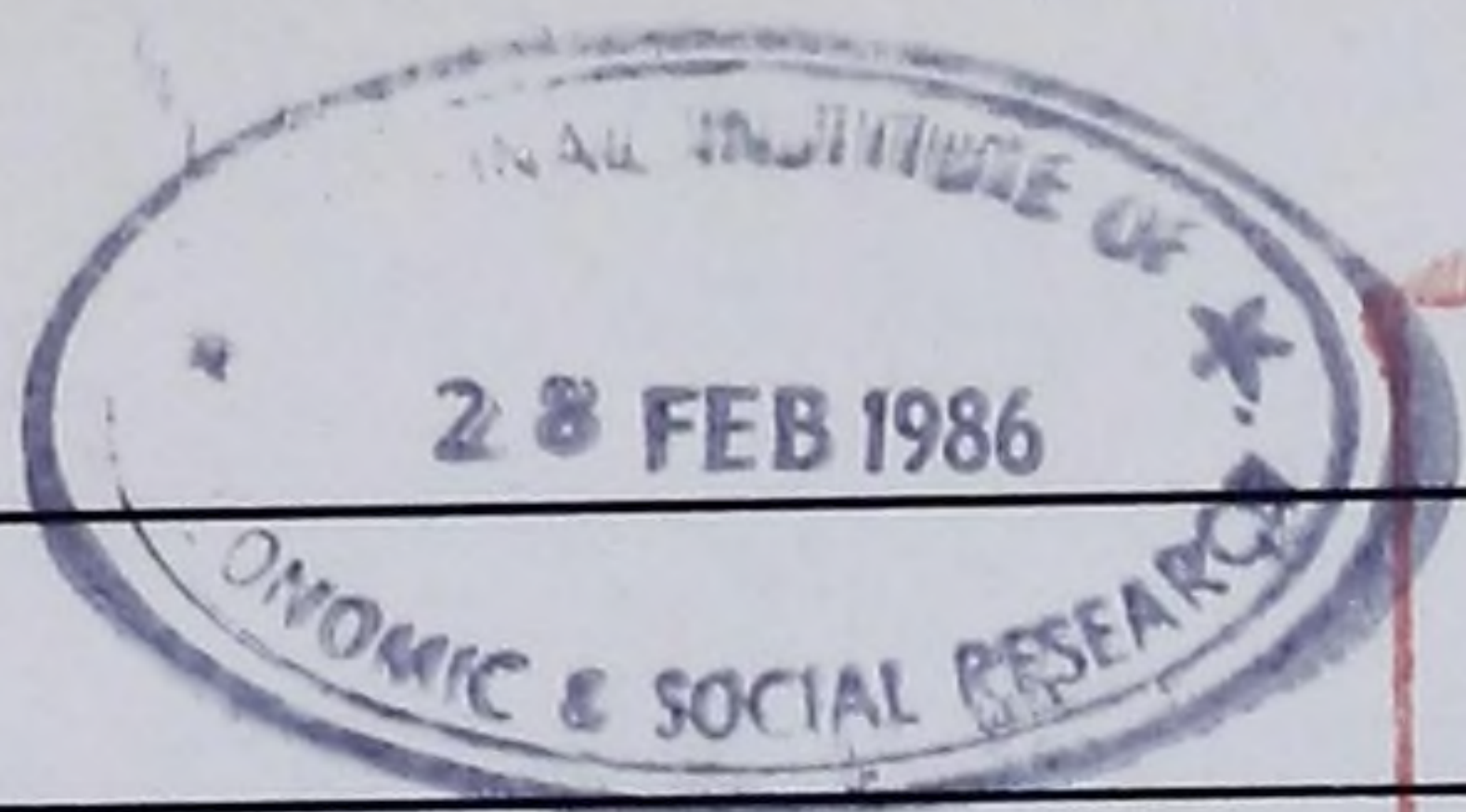


72

February 1986



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STATISTICAL NEWS

IN THIS ISSUE

Department of the Environment
Family Expenditure Survey
IPF 'customised' service
Statistics in the Seychelles
Microcomputer graphics
Statistics Users' Conference



A publication of the Government Statistical Service

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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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Developments in British
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**PLEASE PASS
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	<i>Page</i>
Statistical work in the Department of the Environment by David Wroe	72.4
The eighth in a series on the structure and functions of the Government Statistical Service	
Using the Family Expenditure Survey by Bruce Buckingham, Michael J Janes and Bernard Reeves	72.8
An account of the development, purpose and use of the Survey	
Family Expenditure Survey: a second study of differential response, comparing Census characteristics of FES respondents and non-respondents by Bob Redpath	72.13
An article by the Principal Social Survey Officer on the FES	
The Institute of Public Finance Ltd - providing 'customised' statistical research services by Phillip Ramsdale	72.17
A report on the development of services provided by the CIPFA information service	
Seychelles - an opportunity overseas by Tony Williams	72.20
The author's statistical experience overseas	
Using microcomputer graphics to project births in Scotland by David Salmond	72.24
An article describing the application of a microcomputer graphics programme	
The Statistics Users' Conference on financial statistics by John Alexander	72.26
A report	
Statistical 'stagiaires' in the EC by George Clarke	72.27
The HMSO bicentenary and the 1986 Annual Abstract of Statistics	72.29

REGULAR FEATURES

Recently available statistical series and publications

Page

72.30

New Surveys assessed by the Survey Control Unit

72.33

NOTES ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

Page

Population and vital statistics

Population Trends

72.35

Mortality statistics

72.35

International migration 1984

72.36

Index of place names

72.36

	<i>Page</i>		<i>Page</i>
Social statistics		Road accidents 1984	72.45
<i>General Household Survey 1983</i>	72.37	Statistics users' group formed for the transport industry	72.45
The effects of taxes and benefits on household income 1984	72.37	Humberside airport passenger survey	72.46
<i>Women and drinking</i>	72.37		
Ethnic origin and economic status	72.37	National accounts	
Pension scheme membership in 1983	72.38	Sector classification booklet	72.46
Prison statistics: Scotland	72.38		
Family planning in Scotland	72.38	Home finance	
Homelessness in Scotland	72.38	Chancellor's Autumn statement	72.46
Housing trends in Scotland	72.38	<i>Inland Revenue Statistics 1985</i>	72.47
		Companies' rates of return	72.47
Health		Investment intentions survey, 1986 and 1987	72.47
<i>Cancer statistics: registrations 1982</i>	72.38	Financial assets of insurance companies, 1984	72.47
<i>Health and Personal Social Services Statistics for England, 1985</i>	72.38		
<i>Mental Health Statistics: England</i>	72.39	Overseas finance and trade	
		Import penetration and export performance 1984	72.48
Education and the Arts			
<i>International statistical comparisons: Education</i>	72.39	Research and development	
Education and training of 16 to 18 year olds Scotland	72.40	Annual review of research and development 1985	72.48
Revised education projections	72.40		
The assisted places scheme	72.40	International	
First destination of university first degree graduates	72.40	International comparisons of profitability 1955-83	72.48
Autumn enrolments of students in vocational further education	72.40	ISI section on official statistics	72.48
<i>Visiting the National Maritime Museum</i>	72.40	International publications	72.49
Manpower and Earnings		Publications	
Sources and definitions of employment statistics	72.40	<i>Annual Abstract of Statistics 1986</i>	72.50
Employment in the public and private sectors 1979-85	72.40	<i>Northern Ireland Annual Abstract of Statistics 1985</i>	72.50
Temporary work	72.41	<i>Economic Trends Annual Supplement 1986</i>	72.50
Long duration vacancies	72.41	<i>Financial Statistics and Explanatory Handbook 1986</i>	72.51
Graduate wastage - a changing picture	72.41	<i>Monthly Digest of Statistics Annual Supplement 1986</i>	72.51
Unemployment comparisons	72.41	<i>Scottish Economic Bulletin</i>	72.51
		<i>Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin</i>	72.51
Agriculture and Food		<i>National Institute Economic Review</i>	72.52
National Food Survey	72.41	<i>Chips and Jobs: the acceptance of new technology at work</i>	72.53
UK fish landings 1984	72.42		
Provisional results of the Scottish June agricultural census for 1985	72.42	Conferences and meetings	
		Multivariate analysis course	72.53
Industrial statistics		Practical Bayesian statistics	72.53
Annual census of production 1983	72.42	Industry, quality and statistics	72.53
Business monitors	72.42	Seminar on statistical information: sources for business planning and marketing	72.54
Business analysis by turnover size in 1985	72.42		
Aerospace and electronics indices 1968 to 1984	72.43	Government Statistical Service	
UK stock of consumer durables	72.43	Review of regular surveys	72.54
		Appointments and changes	72.55
Distribution and other services		Maurice Wilde	72.55
Statistics of the service industries: recent developments	72.43		
Tourism statistics	72.44	Late items	72.55
Transport		ALPHABETICAL INDEX	72.56
Quarterly survey of freight market conditions review	72.45		

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Statistical work in the Department of the Environment

David Wroe, Director of Statistics, DOE

The Secretary of State for the Environment has a wide range of responsibilities – housing, town and country planning, protection of the environment, sport, sponsorship of the construction and water industries and of inland waterways, and general responsibility for the structure, functions and finance of local government. The Department was created in 1970 to cover the responsibilities of the former Ministries of Housing and Local Government, Public Building and Works, and Transport, though since 1976 there has been a separate Department dealing with transport.

The way in which our statistical work is organised to meet the needs arising from each of the Department's responsibilities varies considerably, depending in particular on the extent of the services required on each topic and the extent to which the demand arises from a single policy use.

There are six Divisions headed by Chief Statisticians. They deal primarily with the following subject areas:

SC	Frank Sando	Construction activity, large scale household surveys
SH	Harold Stott	Housing

SPPG	Roger Sellwood	Planning, Population and General issues
FLAS	John Kidgell	Local Authority Finance
FLGR	Dennis Roberts	Local Authority Grants and Revenue
EPSE	Peter MacCormack	Environmental Protection

The first three constitute the Directorate of Statistics, for which I have both professional and managerial responsibilities – 125 staff in all – plus some policy responsibilities. The Divisions of the Statistics Directorate are each located close to the policy colleagues in their subject areas, but SC and SH also have staff in Bristol where the main processing work is done. The other three Divisions, headed by Chief Statisticians, are parts of the appropriate policy Directorates. Managerial responsibilities for these three Divisions fall to the policy Under Secretaries concerned, while I have responsibility for the professional aspects of the statistical work and in particular for arranging, in collaboration with the Department's Personnel Directorate and the Statistician Group Management Unit in the Central



Left to right, standing: Peter MacCormack, Dennis Roberts, Roger Sellwood and John Kidgell; sitting: Harold Stott, David Wroe and Frank Sando.

Statistical Office (CSO), that the posts requiring specialist statisticians are filled suitably.

These Divisions – FLAS, FLGR and EPSE – all include both Economists and Statisticians. There are also Statisticians ‘bedded out’ in policy Divisions; one is involved currently in the review of local government finance, there is another helping with a study of the housing stock, a third is working on the use of information technology in the Department’s Regional Offices, and a fourth is employed in a division concerned with water quality. Another of the Department’s Statisticians is on loan to the Audit Commission where he has helped in introducing various information systems for use by the Commission’s auditors.

The sections which follow describe in a little more detail the main statistical work of the Divisions.

Construction

SC Division carries responsibility for the statistical work needed to support the Department’s role as sponsor to the construction industry. It also supplies the Central Statistical Office with information on construction for the national accounts and other macro-economic series. In 1985 there were some 170,000 firms on the Division’s register of builders’ addresses. Of these 150,000 had 7 or fewer staff. Information is collected from samples of these firms, in inquiries conducted under the Statistics of Trade Act. A monthly enquiry seeks information on new contracts received. Output is estimated each quarter – a sample inquiry seeks information on ‘new work’ and repair and maintenance work carried out, and on the number of persons employed. Additions are made for the missing output of some self-employed persons using the results of the Labour Force Survey.

A second quarterly enquiry based on a sample of new orders provides details of output of types of work eg housing, roads, factories, shops, offices etc, and makes it possible to produce output statistics on a regional basis.

Indices of tender prices based on bills of quantities supplied by quantity surveyors both within Government and in private practice are used to deflate series from current to constant prices.

SC Division is also responsible for the collation of information on building materials and components and their associated costs. Much of the information is collected on an agency basis by the Business Statistics Office.

Housing

A substantial part of the Statistics Directorate’s work is concerned with housing and both SC and SH Divisions are involved.

A basic requirement for policy purposes is information on the country’s housing stock and housebuilding. Numbers of dwellings derived from Census counts of household spaces are updated using returns – mainly from local authorities – on housebuilding, conversions, slum clearance, etc. There is particularly strong policy interest in the monitoring of house improvements and adaptations specifically related to energy conservation. Changes in key items such as tenure and household size are tracked from household surveys including the General Household Survey and trailers to the Labour Force Survey. Information on homelessness is collected from local authorities to monitor the working of the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977 and for policy advice to Ministers on housing provision. The information is also required by voluntary organisations.

The private housing market is monitored using information collected from building societies, banks and insurance companies. Information on housing land transactions reported to the Inland Revenue is also used.

Information is obtained from local authorities to monitor the rents that they charge. Details of housing benefits are also sought. For housing owned by private landlords and housing associations, sample information is collected on rents registered by Rent Officers or Rent Appeals panel. Data on housing costs etc are also obtained from the Family Expenditure Survey.

Another major focus of SH Division’s work is public sector capital expenditure and receipts on housing, including progress of low cost home ownership initiatives and sales of council houses. Other members are working with administrative and economist colleagues on the allocation of the Housing Investment Programme between regions. They also provide data for DOE regional offices to use in the second stage of allocation to individual authorities.

Projections of the numbers of households in future years help to give some indication of future housing requirements in different parts of the country, and are therefore of considerable interest to local planning authorities and housebuilders. The projections are prepared in collaboration with the Building Research Establishment which set up the computer model for the 1981 based projections published in early 1985. The model is now being developed to incorporate various further improvements.

This is the eighth in a series of articles on the structure and functions of the Government Statistical Service. The ninth in the series, on the Department of Employment, will appear in the May 1986 issue.

Town and Country Planning, Inner Cities policy, etc

The Department's development, planning and conservation policies are supported by quarterly statistics from the local authorities on planning applications and half yearly returns on unused planning permissions for private housing. These are the responsibilities of the SPPG Division. A new series of statistics on land use change is being introduced which will help in monitoring, for example, green belt policy and the use of land for housing. SPPG Division is also responsible for providing population and other data required by Inner Cities and other policy divisions in the Department, e.g. from small area statistics derived from the Census of Population or from sources such as the Department of Employment's unemployment statistics, and helps in the policy monitoring of enterprise zones. The Division works with Office of Population Censuses and Surveys in the preparation of sub-national projections of population.

Access is provided at the Department's regional offices and in London, to the register of under-used land in public ownership. SPPG has been heavily involved in the successful efforts to computerise the system so that users outside the Department can obtain information from the register more easily.

In much of SPPG's work there is an increasing use of graphical representations as well as tabular analysis. Extensive use is made of the Division's micro-computer system, partly in the preparation of management information for the Directorate and for survey control purposes. The Division, which has a Research Officer and a Cartographer among its staff, is also developing a range of techniques for statistical digital cartography, in conjunction with the department's planners and Cartographers. It has played a big part in the preparation of the department's evidence to the Committee of Enquiry into the Handling of Geographic Information and in departmental consideration of early proposals for the next Census of Population. The Division is managing for the Department some external research on population change in different types of areas. (An article on information management in the Department – on which SPPG Division has the co-ordinating responsibility for the Statistics Directorate – was published in the August 1984 issue of *Statistical News* pp 66.29 to 66.31.)

Local Government Finance

As explained above FLAS forms part of a policy Directorate – the Local Government Finance Policy Directorate. The basic work of the Division is to collect detailed annual expenditure and income out-turn figures from the 400 local authorities in England. The Division also collects budget information (i.e. forecasts) for revenue and capital expenditure; quarterly

figures of actual capital expenditure, wages and salaries; rates; and monthly estimates of borrowing.

On several statistical surveys the Division works closely with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, and a considerable amount of data is shared by the Department and the Institute. Aggregate statistics are fed into the CSO and Treasury for the National Accounts, Public Expenditure Survey and Public Sector Borrowing Requirements, but the Division's main role is supporting the Government's policies on local government finance. Developments in these policies over the past six years have led to a fundamental change in the Division's work, with increasing emphasis being put on completely accurate figures for individual authorities rather than just national aggregates.

The developments have probably been greatest on the revenue side – following the introduction in 1981 of the new block grant system for payment of rate support grant – referred to below – and then expenditure targets for each authority. Abolition of the GLC and metropolitan counties and rate capping have also required detailed analysis of the figures of individual authorities.

Developments have also been rapid on the capital side. In 1983-84 and 1984-85 local government significantly exceeded the government's cash limit and figures for individual authorities gained new significance as the Secretary of State asked authorities in July 1984 to restrain capital expenditure. New returns were introduced to improve the Government's knowledge of capital expenditure forecasts and commitments. Also during 1984 the Government announced plans to redesign the capital control system. FLAS is playing a major role in the resulting review.

Within the Local Government Finance Policy Directorate Statisticians are employed also in FLGR Division on the main Rate Support Grant Settlement. This is an annual cycle of negotiations with local authorities, followed by a major logistical exercise to collect all the data and perform the calculations in time for an announcement by Christmas. Delays in the announcement are unacceptable as local authorities need the information to determine their budgets for the forthcoming financial year.

In addition to being responsible for assembly and validation of data – mainly from other government departments – Statisticians are closely involved in the development of assessments of authorities' relative needs to spend. This is carried out in consultation with local authorities and relevant government departments. Proposals developed during the year are put to Ministers in the summer and those accepted are incorporated in the following settlement. For the 1986/87 settlement the main complication has been the need to make

appropriate financial arrangements for successor bodies following the abolition of the GLC and metropolitan county councils. This has entailed a major exercise, with FLAS, to determine the levels of expenditure that will be taken over by successor bodies, and to ensure that successor bodies receive appropriate needs assessments.

Environmental Protection

EPSE Division, which provides economic and statistical advice relating to pollution, conservation, sport and recreation, is part of the Central Directorate of Environmental Protection.

An annual *Digest of Environmental Protection and Water Statistics* prepared by EPSE brings together information from many different sources. Improving the environmental database is a continuing aim of the division—waste collection, waste disposal, noise and conservation are examples of subjects currently under investigation.

A good deal of the division's work relates to monitoring changes in environmental characteristics and attempting to relate these to emissions or discharges of pollutants. For example, the amount of lead in petrol is to be reduced by 1 January 1986, the effect of this reduction on the level of lead in human blood has to be monitored. Another monitoring area concerns landscape change where a large scale research project is in train, financed jointly by the Department of the Environment and the Countryside Commission. The aim is to estimate the magnitude of changes in landscape features, such as meadows, woodlands and hedges, over the last few decades. In the context of acid deposition, forecasts of pollutants are needed for a cost benefit research project in which a Statistician and an Economist in EPSE are involved.

International work on environmental statistics makes a major call on the Division's resources. A Statistician attends meetings of the OECD group on the state of the environment twice a year in Paris, and contributes to work on an OECD database on environmental statistics. The United Nations has two subsidiary bodies currently developing environmental classifications and indicators. The Environment Directorate of the European Commission is also developing an information strategy in the environmental field, and has begun work

on an information system which is to record the state of the European Environment in various ways. A Statistician in the division acts as the United Kingdom focal point for this work too and is the United Kingdom representative on the relevant EC working group.

Liaison with local authorities

Because of the Department's general responsibilities in respect of local government, DOE Statistics Directorate has a special responsibility for liaison between national and local government on statistical matters. The main forum, the Information and Development Liaison Group, handles matters other than those of local government finance. SPPG provides the Secretariat for this and for two important Sub Groups—the Information Technology (IT) and the Land Use, Development Control and Related Planning Statistics Group (LUDCARPS). One recent success of the IT Sub-Group has been to establish a pilot register of local authority research and surveys on the Cambridgeshire County Council computer. Statistical matters of local government finance are discussed within other sub-groups of the Consultative Council of Local Government Finance; these are organised by FLAS Division. These various groups provide an essential forum for considering many points that arise on central governments data requirements from local authorities and on local government data requirements from central government.

Conclusion

As the notes above show, members of the Government Statistical Service in the Department are engaged in a very wide variety of policy areas. The challenge for us, as for GSS members in other Departments, is to make sure that our contribution, including our publications, is as relevant, useful and efficiently provided as possible. This requires both close working with policy colleagues and a high degree of professionalism, not least in keeping up-to-date with changes in the information technology which are clearly going to continue to have a very big impact on our work.

Reference

Digest of Environmental Protection and Water Statistics No. 7 1984 (HMSO 1985) (Price £7.85 net)

Using the Family Expenditure Survey

Bruce Buckingham, Chief Statistician, Michael J. Janes, Statistician and Bernard Reeves, Senior Executive Officer, Department of Employment

Introduction

The origins of the Family Expenditure Survey (FES) go back to the turn of the century when the need for a measure of the effect of price changes on ordinary families was recognised. At first, *ad hoc* surveys were carried out at irregular intervals but following the recommendation of the Cost of Living Advisory Committee after the Household Expenditure Enquiry of 1953/54, the FES became a continuous survey from January 1957. For the first ten years it was based on a sample of about 5,000 households, but in 1967 the sample size was approximately doubled to some 11,000, of which currently around 7,000 households per year co-operate in the survey.

The survey is sponsored by the Department of Employment (DE) and cost in 1984 about £1.5 million. The sampling, fieldwork and coding are carried out by the Social Survey Division of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS), while DE carries out the computer processing, producing the analyses published in the Annual Report and other analyses made available on request, together with copies of the anonymised basic data tape for those users who wish to produce their own analyses. The conduct and cost of the survey, together with the content of the questionnaires and processing arrangements, are supervised by an interdepartmental Technical Group.

Four basic field documents are employed in the survey. The Household Schedule is used to obtain general information about the household and about certain types of regularly recurring expenditure (rent, rates, mortgages, licences, season tickets, insurance premiums, etc.). The Income Schedule records details of employment status, earnings and other sources of income (social security payments, investment income, etc.) of each 'spender' viz. members of the household aged 16 and over. Details of deductions, such as income tax, are also shown. Each spender maintains a detailed account of his expenditure during the record keeping period of fourteen consecutive days on the Diary Schedule. This is supplemented by a special sheet to record acquisitions by credit card.

A household is counted as responding only if every spender agrees to keep fourteen day records. If so, an incentive payment of £5 is paid to each spender.*

Development and purpose

Although the primary focus of the FES throughout its continuous existence since 1957 has remained the expenditure of households, its scale and scope has increased substantially over the years. In large part, the growth in the scale of the schedules used in the survey (which covered 190 numbered questions in 1985 compared with 88 numbered questions in 1962) reflects the attempt to simplify the tasks of interviewers and reporting households by seeking additional details which should be readily available and which provide checks on some of the complex subjects such as income. However, the scope of the survey has also widened, and between 1962 and 1985 the number of separately coded items on the Household and Income Schedules more than doubled (from 131 to 304). Many departments now have an interest in the survey, both in respect of particular details of income and expenditure and also in related information on subjects now covered in the survey.

The major purpose of the survey has always been to provide information on patterns of expenditure for the revision of the weights for the Retail Prices Index (RPI). However, the survey now provides information relevant to a wide range of policy issues affecting many departments. For example there are now a wide range of questions relevant to housing policy including details on housing benefit, length of residence and sources and periods of mortgage finance. There are questions on the ownership of durables, the types of fuel used in the home and on company cars. As well as questions on educational grants received, there are now questions on the types of educational courses attended. Over and above the considerable expansion in the level of detail on sources of income (especially self-employment income and social security and other benefits) there are now questions on the holdings of some financial assets, particularly National Savings. With the growth in the complexity in the way goods and services are paid for, there is now a separate schedule on credit card transactions.

Reappraisal of survey

Since 1957, there has been an increasing tendency for the survey to become more complex because of the range and nature of the subjects covered, particularly in recent years with new statutory arrangements such as housing benefit and sick pay, and with the wider

*A detailed technical explanation of the survey and its procedures can be found in the *Family Expenditure Survey Handbook* - see References.

use of credit instruments such as credit cards. Recently it was considered that the time was fast approaching when interview lengths must reach their limit if data quality and response were not to suffer. Currently the response rate is just under 70 per cent, somewhat below the level two to three years ago (72 per cent in 1981 and 71 per cent in 1982).

In recent years there has also been financial pressure to limit the cost of the survey, and the only way to try to meet new needs for information, especially in areas affected by statutory changes such as housing, has been to consider reducing other aspects of the survey in which the immediate policy interest is less than in the past. In addition the arrangements for processing the survey, which had remained basically unchanged since 1968, were to be revised to take advantage of recent developments in information technology (processing the survey is described later in this article). Although the content of the FES has been reviewed regularly in the past, it was decided that for all the above reasons now was an opportune time to carry out a fundamental reappraisal of the FES both to measure the extent to which particular questions in the survey were served the policy needs of one or more departments and to consider where, at the margin, changes might be made to simplify the survey or to make reductions in one area to accommodate more urgent needs elsewhere. This reappraisal was carried out by arranging meetings with the majority of departmental users of FES data and is still in progress. However, this article brings together some of the main conclusions.

One value of the reappraisal has been to emphasise again the diversity of the uses of the survey. Annex 1 summarises the main departmental interests in particular questions or groups of questions in the 1984 survey. The ways in which the main departments use FES data are described in Annex 2. Neither of these lists are exhaustive as other departments may make occasional or limited use of FES data. These details emphasise that, although the growth of the FES as a multi-purpose survey has increased its complexity and cost, the cost of serving these needs through separate departmental *ad hoc* or regular surveys would be considerable.

Although not complete yet, the reappraisal has enabled some questions and codes to be pruned from the schedules for 1986 where requirements have changed over time, some questions have been amended to improve the quality of information gathered and some new areas of interest have been identified.

Non-government users

In addition to official government use, there is naturally an extensive use of FES data by outside bodies such as universities and market research organisations. The

Annual Report, published by HMSO, provides a wide range of analyses and DE provides a range of unpublished analyses, making a charge for the latter where appropriate. Academic researchers can also carry out their own analyses using extracts from the magnetic tape records of FES data (suitably anonymised) lodged with the Data Archive of the Economic and Social Research Council at the University of Essex. Extracts so provided are subject to stringent undertakings on the use of the data for academic research purposes and can be provided in a format compatible with the researcher's own computing facilities. The extract can be limited to the sub-sets of data containing the variables required for a particular research project. A charge is made by the Archive for its services. Applications for extracts are approved by DE.

Processing the survey

Given the wide-ranging and changing uses of the survey, it is important to have a flexible processing system capable of producing *ad hoc* analyses quickly and efficiently. The current DE system installed in 1968 has now reached the end of its useful life, and DE is planning to introduce in respect of the 1986 survey a new computer system using the SIR database package on one of its ICL 2966 computers.

As well as producing coded and validated data-bases in two forms (one containing all the raw data and one containing some elementary processing to serve DE and some government users), the new system will be more efficient through the use of a better designed questionnaire, a reduction in the keying load (since code labels will not be keyed) and overall flexibility in adapting to change. When operational next year the new system will enable staff savings to be made by eliminating some clerical checking and editing procedures.

A data-base system will enable *ad hoc* retrievals to be produced more quickly than at present and without the substantial programming resources needed with the present system. Under the new arrangements other Government users will be able to acquire a copy of either of the two data-bases described above. They will also have the option of accessing the data-bases directly from terminals within DE or from their own terminals if their equipment conforms with DE's Kilostream network, although a charge for computer usage will be made. DE will also undertake analyses for other departments and for the general public as a computer bureau, subject to standard charges for the work involved.

The Central Statistical Office and the Department of Health and Social Security both analyse Family Expenditure Survey data on their own computer systems. This is mainly for their own purposes (as outlined

in Annex 2) but occasionally analyses are undertaken for other government departments.

Further information

An Information Pack containing copies of the FES questionnaire, coding information, etc., can be obtained for £12 (postage paid) from the Department of Employment, Statistics A6, Caxton House, Tothill

Street, London SW1H 9NF (Telephone: 01-213 3806/4038), to whom requests for unpublished analyses should also be addressed.

References

- Family Expenditure Survey Report 1983* (HMSO 1985) (Price £14.25)
ISBN 0 11 361245 1
Family Expenditure Survey Handbook (HMSO 1980) (Price £11.60)
ISBN 0 11 690744 4*

ANNEX 1

FES questions analysed by departmental interest - Household schedule (1984)

<i>Question numbers</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Interest and Use</i>
1-6	Household characteristics	DE, CSO, DHSS, DoE, DES
7-8	Full-time education	CSO, DHSS, DES
9-12	Units/spenders	DE, CSO, DES
13-15	Rooms/garages	DE
16-45	Rent, rates, mortgages, insurance	Most departments
46-47	Television and durables	DE
48-56	Gas and electricity	DE, D/En
57-63	Vehicles	DE, CSO, D/Tp
64-66	Season tickets, telephone, licences	DE, CSO, D/Tp
67-76	Loans, bank charges, standing orders	DE, CSO
77-80	NHS prescriptions, school milk, meals and transport	DE, CSO, DHSS, DES, D/Tp
81-87	Educational grants and fees: educational income and expenditure	DE, CSO, DHSS, DoE, DES
88-94	Accommodation and rateable values	DE, CSO, DHSS, DoE

Income schedule (1984)

1-9	Workers and jobs	DE, CSO, DoE, DHSS, DES
10-12, 23, 31-35	Wage/salary	Most departments
13-16, 22, 24, 85-87, 42-43	Income tax, NI contributions	Most departments
17-21	Hours worked	DE, CSO, DHSS, DoE
25-29, 41	Business expenses	DE, CSO
30	Luncheon vouchers, free meals	DE, CSO, DoE, DHSS, DES
36-40	Self-employment	Most departments
44-65	Benefits	DE, CSO, DHSS, DoE, DES
66-70	Private pensions	DE, CSO, DHSS, DoE
71-75	Trusts/covenants, national savings	DE, CSO, DHSS, DNS
76-80	Allowances	DE, CSO, DHSS
81-84	Free coal, OAP passes, odd jobs	DE, CSO, D/Tp, DHSS
88	Money sent abroad	DE, CSO, DHSS
89-90	Child income and expenditure	Most departments

Key to departments

- DE* Department of Employment
CSO Central Statistical Office
DHSS Department of Health and Social Security
DoE Department of Environment
DES Department of Education and Science
D/En Department of Energy
D/Tp Department of Transport
DNS Department for National Savings

ANNEX 2

Principal Departmental uses of FES data

Department of Employment

FES data are used by Statistics A6 to compile the tables for the annual FES Report and to fulfil requests for information from both government and non-government users. FES data are also used to answer Parliamentary Questions, Private Office cases and other enquiries.

Expenditure information from the FES is used for the annual updating of the weights for the component price indices relating to individual sections of household spending from which the Retail Prices Index (RPI) is compiled. The Index plays a vital role in the uprating of state pensions and welfare benefits and in general economic analysis and policy. The expenditure weights for the general RPI need to relate to people within given income limits, for which the FES is the only available source of information.

Central Statistical Office

Redistribution of income—FES data on income and expenditure are used as the basis for the analysis of the effects of taxes and benefits on household incomes, the results of which are published in an annual article in *Economic Trends*, (1983 data published December 1984 in issue No. 374, pages 91-126). In particular, estimates are made of the incidence of indirect taxes on different types of household for use by HM Treasury (see below). The CSO is also undertaking the major development work on an FES-based tax-benefit model for use primarily in HM Treasury and Inland Revenue (see below).

Distribution of income—FES income data are used, in conjunction with data from the Survey of Personal Incomes, to produce estimates of the distribution of total income (taxable and non-taxable) in the United Kingdom. These estimates are published in *Economic Trends*, (1981/2 data published July 1984 in issue No. 369, pages 97-106).

Consumers' expenditure—FES data on spending are a major source used in compiling national estimates of consumers' expenditure which are published regularly in *Economic Trends*, *Monthly Digest of Statistics* and *United Kingdom National Accounts* (CSO Blue Book). FES data are also used in the estimation of taxes on expenditure (especially VAT).

Regional accounts—FES expenditure information is one of the sources used to derive regional estimates of consumers' expenditure. It is also used in compiling some of the other estimates for the regional accounts e.g. rent.

Other uses—include the provision of expenditure data for *Social Trends* (for example in analyses of

spending on transport and leisure), *Annual Abstract of Statistics* and *Regional Trends*.

HM Treasury

The Treasury encourages departments to use FES data in policy analysis and makes extensive use of the results. It makes regular use of the CSO analysis of the effects of taxes and benefits on households (see above) in, for example, assessing the impact of tax changes on specimen households. It is also steering the development of an FES-based tax-benefit model that will enable the economic effects of policy measures to be analysed across households.

Inland Revenue

FES data on income and social security benefit payments are used to supplement other sources of data (i) in projection of amounts of total income and numbers of taxpayers, and (ii) to analyse the inter-relationship of the tax and social security systems.

Department of Education and Science

FES data on students living away from the family home—resources provided by the State, support provided by parents, and information on the student's family circumstances—are used to analyse the distributional impact of education expenditure on family units in relation to parental income.

Department of Energy

FES data are used mainly to provide the pattern of household expenditure on fuels. From time to time other energy-related information is obtained from the FES in response to *ad hoc* needs.

Department of the Environment

FES income and expenditure data are used to produce a standard set of analyses covering, for each housing tenure group, the distribution of incomes, rents, mortgage payments, rent/mortgage payments to income ratios, rates to income ratios, etc. Some of these analyses are published on a regular basis in *Housing and Construction Statistics*, for example, Households by income and tenure group, Households in each tenure group by income and number of earners, and Incomes by tenure and age of head of household.

Department of Health and Social Security

FES data are used extensively to provide information and analyses relating to social security policy, and to forecast expenditure on some social security benefits. Many such analyses are derived from FES-based simulation models, which generate detailed estimates of the effects of tax and benefit changes on family incomes, and on the numbers in the poverty and unemployment

traps. These models also show the effect of benefit upratings on the number of benefit-recipients and on total expenditure. In some cases, these models are used regularly not only for DHSS purposes, but also on behalf of other departments, particularly the Treasury and Inland Revenue. Data from FES are also used to provide information on the circumstances of low income families, to derive estimates of the take-up of various means-tested benefits, including housing benefits, and to answer a wide range of Parliamentary Questions and other enquiries.

Various analyses based on FES data have been published in *Hansard*, in *Social Security Statistics*, *Social Trends*, and most recently as one of the background papers to the Green Paper *Reform of Social Security* (Cmnd 9517 to 9, HMSO). Further information can be obtained from the DHSS, Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, S.E.1 6BY (Telephone: 01-407 5522 Ext. 7477).

Department of National Savings

FES data are used:

(1) To provide regular socio-economic and tax status information on the holders of National Savings products;

(2) To provide details of cross-holdings of National Savings products both between themselves and with other financial services covered by the survey to assist in marketing National Savings effectively.

Office of Manpower Economics

FES data on the cost of buying and running private cars are used to provide information on the minimum valuation of the benefit of a company car. Estimates are submitted to the Pay Review Bodies governing the salaries of HM Armed Forces and the medical and dental professions.

Department of Transport

FES data on the purchase and running costs of motor vehicles, and other aspects of travel, are used to estimate consumers' expenditure on transport. Also, data on pensioners' bus passes and other concessionary travel schemes contribute to knowledge of the take-up rates and effects of these benefits. FES data are also used, with other information, to monitor and forecast levels of car ownership and use, and in studies of the distributional effects of motoring taxes.

Other government departments use FES data to make comparisons with other sources e.g.

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, in relation to food expenditure reported in the National Food Survey.

Home Office, in relation to General Household Survey and other data on TV ownership in analysis of TV licence income.

HM Customs and Excise, in relation to future revenue yields on dutiable goods.

Note Publications mentioned in this annex are published by and available from HMSO.

The Family Expenditure Survey 1984

The Family Expenditure Survey, due to be published by HMSO in February 1986, provides a wealth of information about private households and how they spend their money. The Survey, which is based on a representative sample of private households in the United Kingdom, has been in continuous operation since 1957, and represents a unique and reliable source of household data, providing a perspective of the changes and developments in household circumstances and characteristics over the past two and a half decades. The survey provides an invaluable supply of economic and social data of interest to central government, local authorities, employers, trade unions and research workers in universities and independent research workers.

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Family Expenditure Survey: a second study of differential response, comparing Census characteristics of FES respondents and non-respondents

Bob Redpath, Principal Social Survey Officer, Social Survey Division, Office of Population Censuses and Surveys

Introduction

Since 1957 when the Family Expenditure Survey (FES) began, response levels have ranged within 66-74 per cent and these levels naturally give rise to concern among its users about non-response bias. This article* reports the findings of a study of the 1981 Census characteristics of respondents and non-respondents to the FES during the second quarter of 1981. The study is a sequel to the first study using 1971 Census data, whose findings were reported in Issue Number 31 of *Statistical News*¹.

The 1971 Census study showed that response increased as household size increased and this was related to the number of children in the household. Households with self-employed Heads of Household (HOH) had lower response rates than those where HOH's were employed. Most noticeably, there was a pronounced decline in response with the age of HOH (and the older the housewife).

A principal use of that 1971 study has been to explain in part the discrepancies between the FES and other data, such as the National Accounts; and reweighting the FES by age and household size has certainly helped narrow the discrepancies between grossed up FES data and National Income Blue Book². However, it remains true that none of the Census variables is a direct measure of income or expenditure, the two variables whose reliability is of direct concern to FES users.

1981 Census comparison methodology

The methods of matching the names and addresses of the FES respondents and non-respondents to Census data in 1971 were described in the earlier paper¹ and the same approach was followed in 1981. Ninety-four per cent (2414) of the 2572 eligible households in the second quarter FES sample were matched by name and by address, the same success rate as in 1971. One per cent (35) were matched by address but not by name and these were used in the analysis on the assumption that the householders would probably have similar characteristics to the FES respondents. The remaining five per cent could not be matched by address or name

either because the addresses were not traceable in Census records or because a Census record had not been returned.

There were several differences between the 1971 and 1981 comparisons. The 1981 comparison was based on a smaller sample, using only one quarter's FES sample compared with the 1971 analysis which made use of a full year's sample. But there was a fuller analysis of Census variables, particularly for individuals, in 1981. A number of variables were added to the analysis in this later study: number of rooms, density of occupation, length of residence, birthplace. And in 1981 all characteristics for individuals were analysed by sex; which was not done in 1971.

Differences in the distributions of census variables between respondents and non-respondents

The difference between respondent and non-respondent distributions was tested for statistical significance using the Chi-Square test for each of the seventeen Census variables tested in 1971. In 1971 the differences between respondent and non-respondent characteristics were significant in all but two cases (availability of inside WC and sharing of dwellings) and differences in those two were not significant in 1981 either. Three of the variables found to be significant in 1971 did not show significant Chi-Square results in 1981; namely number of household members in employment, numbers of persons usually resident in the household and household tenure; although it is possible that the smaller sample size in 1981 might be responsible for this, particularly in the case of the number of persons usually resident.

Significant differences in the values of census variables between respondents and non-respondents

Having compared the overall distributions of census variables, the next stage of the analysis was to examine those distributions to discover which values of the variables accounted for the differences. Differences between the proportions of respondents and non-respondents were tested by use of the Z test. Tables 1-13 show the results of this analysis and those which were significant at five per cent level, or better, have been marked with an asterisk.

*The Statistical tests undertaken for this article use formulae recommended for simple random samples, and have not made an allowance for complex sample design effect.

Tables 1-3 show that there seems to be a clear positive association between families, and specifically dependent children, on survey response. As in 1971, households comprising one family on its own are more likely to respond than other household types, and analysis by number of dependent children shows above average response in larger families. Having an older child (non-dependent) has the opposite effect. Response is highest amongst single parent families which may reflect the greater chance that the HOH would be at home in the evening when the interviewer called. In 1981, as in 1971, response was lowest for multi-car households (Table 4). This could be an indication of non-response among those with high income.

Tables 5-8 show variables from the Census either analysed for the first time, or cross-analysed by sex for the first time in 1981. The analysis of geographical mobility in 1981 showed that those who had moved house in the past 12 months were more likely to cooperate in the survey. Among male HOHs response rose directly with level of qualifications and was highest among men with degrees or equivalent. But response amongst women with degree level qualifications was lowest and was highest among those having qualifications below degree level. In 1971 there was no analysis of marital status of HOH by sex, but when such an analysis was done in 1981 it was clear that the significant difference between respondents and non-respondents was found among the females only, with poorer response among the widowed.

Table 1

	1971 response	1981 response	1981 sample
<i>Percentage</i>			
<i>Household type</i>			
No family	66*	71	559
One family, no others	72*	76*	1,723
More than one family	65*	67*	167
All households	70	74	2,449

Table 2

	1981 response	1981 sample
<i>Percentage</i>		
<i>Type of family of HOH</i>		
Married couple without children	73	666
Married couple and dependent children	78*	812
Married couple and non-dependent children	61*	198
Lone mother or father with dependent children	83*	140
Lone mother or father with non-dependent children	69	98
All family households	74	1,914

* Significant at 0.05 or better
+ 25 cases not answered
ø 45 cases were not answered

+ + 20 cases not answered
‡ 14 households did not answer

Table 3

	1971 response	1981 response	1981 sample
<i>Percentage</i>			
<i>Number of dependent children (under 15 in 1971; under 16 in 1981)</i>			
None	66*	71*	1,576
One	75*	75	337
Two	78*	81*	380
Three	78*	82*	122
Four or more	79*	82	34
All households	70	74	2,449

Table 4

	1971 response	1981 response	1981 sample
<i>Percentage</i>			
<i>Number of cars</i>			
None	69	73	860
One	72*	76*	1,160
Two (or more in 1971)	62*	73	342
Three or more	NA	60*	62
All households	70	74	2,424+

Table 5

	1981 response	1981 sample
<i>Percentage</i>		
<i>Length of residence at current address - HOH</i>		
Usual address one year ago		
At this address	73*	2,271
Elsewhere	81*	164
All households	74	2,435‡

Table 6

	1981 response	1981 sample
<i>Percentage</i>		
<i>Educational attainment of male HOH</i>		
Higher degree or other further education degree	85*	129
Below degree	83*	93
Unqualified	74*	1,602
All male HOHs	74	1,824ø

Table 7

	1981 response	1981 sample
<i>Percentage</i>		
<i>Educational attainment of female HOHs</i>		
Higher degree or other further education degree	57	28
Below degree	84*	24
Unqualified	71	495
All female HOHs	74	547++

Table 8

	1981 response	1981 sample
	Percentage	
<i>Marital condition of female HOH</i>		
Single	76	96
Married	85*	52
Widowed	67*	324
Divorced	78	98
All female HOHs	72	570

Tables 9 and 10 confirm one of the major findings of the 1971 analysis, that response declines with increasing age. The HOH age distribution is almost identical in the two years and each distribution shows an increase in response for the 66-70 age group before a decline in response for the very elderly. Analysis by age of housewife shows a slightly different pattern from 1971: response starts to increase at age 51, then drops at age 61-65, then rises.

Another main finding of the 1971 analysis, the under-representation of the self-employed, is repeated in the 1981 analysis (Table 11). There does not appear to be a difference in response between those self-employed who employ others and those who do not in 1981. Table 12 shows that households with Heads born either in Northern Ireland or in New Commonwealth countries or in Pakistan are under-represented.

Table 13 compares the 1971 and 1981 response rates by Social Class of HOH. There appears to have been a shift in response patterns over the decade. More Social Class I (Professional) HOH's and less Unskilled HOH's cooperated than in 1971.

Table 9

	1971 response	1981 response	1981 sample
	Percentage		
<i>Age of HOH</i>			
16-20	100*	100*	70
21-25	88*	83*	103
26-30	85*	84*	196
31-35	81*	84*	238
36-40	74*	78	246
41-45	73*	76	193
46-50	69	70	200
51-55	67	69	205
56-60	65*	70	255
61-65	62*	71	189
66-70	66*	75	208
71 and over	62*	65*	396
All HOHs	70	74	2,436†

‡ 27 cases not answered
* Significant at 0.05 or better

0 Note very small sample size
† 13 cases not answered

Table 10

	1971 response	1981 response	1981 sample
	Percentage		
<i>Age of housewife</i>			
16-20	88*	88*	33
21-25	85*	86*	145
26-30	84*	87*	221
31-35	77*	83*	257
36-40	75*	77	219
41-45	71	72	198
46-50	67	69	189
51-55	65*	70	198
56-60	63*	74	229
61-65	66*	68*	186
66-70	65*	77	184
71 and over	61*	66*	346
All housewives	70	74	2,405

Table 11

	1971 response	1981 response	1981 sample
	Percentage		
<i>Employment status - Employed HOH</i>			
Employees	71*	76*	2,015
Self-employed:			
not employing others	63*	65*	136
employing others	56*	65	72
All employed HOHs	70	74	2,223‡

Table 12

	1981 response	1981 sample
	Percentage	
<i>Birthplace of male HOH</i>		
Great Britain	76*	1,732
New Commonwealth & Pakistan	57*	68
Northern Ireland	51*	35
Other countries	70	40
All male HOHs	74	1,875

Table 13

	1971 response	1981 response	1981 sample
	Percentage		
<i>Social Class of head of household</i>			
I Professional	71	83	105
II Intermediate	67*	73	489
III Skilled: non-manual	73*	73	269
III Skilled: manual	72*	78*	655
IV Partly skilled	72*	77	341
V Unskilled	71	70	119
Not classified or not answered	65*	69	272
All employed HOHs	70	74	2,250

Comparisons between FES and GHS response

Having undertaken this analysis of response bias on the FES it is interesting to compare it with the other large continuous household survey which Social Survey Division interviewers conduct, namely the General Household Survey.

The higher response among families with dependent children is equally evident in both surveys. Similarly both surveys show poorer response rates among persons living alone and the elderly, particularly those aged over 70.

However the FES also showed significant associations between response rate and a number of economic variables. There was a significantly lower response rate on the FES and consequently a bias against households

with three or more cars, the self-employed and managers, and female HOHs with qualifications below degree level. (There was also a below average response rate among male heads of household born in Northern Ireland, New Commonwealth countries and Pakistan.) But the FES had a significantly higher response rate and a consequent bias towards those who had moved house in the past year and among highly qualified/professional male HOHs.

References

1. 'Family Expenditure Survey. A study of differential response based on a comparison of the 1971 sample with the Census' W.F.F. Kemsley, *Statistical News*, 31.16 November 1975
2. 'On the reliability of Income Data in the Family Expenditure Survey 1970-1977' A B Atkinson and J Micklewright, *Journal Royal Statistical Society A* (1983) 146. Part 1, pp. 33-61

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The Institute of Public Finance Ltd — providing 'customised' statistical research services

Phillip Ramsdale, Head of CIPFA Statistical Information Service

I hope it is taken as a mark of our accountability that the Statistical Information Service (SIS) of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) now publishes its own Annual Report. The total turnover of the service is relatively modest (£380,000 in 1985), but because so many people contribute towards the provision of our statistics, as well as many more refer to them, I am sure that it is right for us to make an annual statement of our progress to date and to set out our plans for development. The extensive nature of our 'data network' is rooted in the past, and the results of our surveys have been published for the last century. As the years unfolded, the scope of these surveys became more sophisticated, and the coverage extended into non-financial activities, so that now we produce over forty annual booklets of service statistics describing Local Government, Water, and latterly, Health Services. 'But don't confuse me with the facts, give me the information!', is the constant cry of users and it must be admitted that CIPFA has been guilty of presenting data in a repetitively indigestible tabular style rather like the Quill-pen-accounts-ledgers from which the original figures were born. Such tabulations still have their uses in that they provide a base record from which the arguments of political and management debate may be generated, but it is necessary to develop the potential benefits offered by the new data processing technology to take the opportunity to produce 'information' and not just data products. Indeed, on 1st January, 1986, I and my colleagues, comprising the SIS, have operated from our own trading base, known as the Institute of Public Finance (IPF) Ltd., to put this desire into practice.

There is a need for more research to be undertaken on the sorts of data we are used to processing. Circumstances often constrain statisticians producing data about the public sector from stating the inferences which can be drawn from their surveys. Instead, the thin line between the professional conclusion and the political ideal encourages us to set out all the facts rather than interpret these when just a few distinct points will aid rather than confuse decision making. Thus the demand for the research statistician to undertake work for individual clients and seek answers to their specific questions must grow as the mountain of facts accumulates and the 'golden currency of power', Information, becomes more elusive.

Thus, the development pattern we are following places priority upon this research role. We have assembled a database of facts on our computer, and rather than confine our activities to simple 'data brokerage' we will take more interest in the users' questions to provide tailor made reports, rather than just 'off-the-shelf' data products.

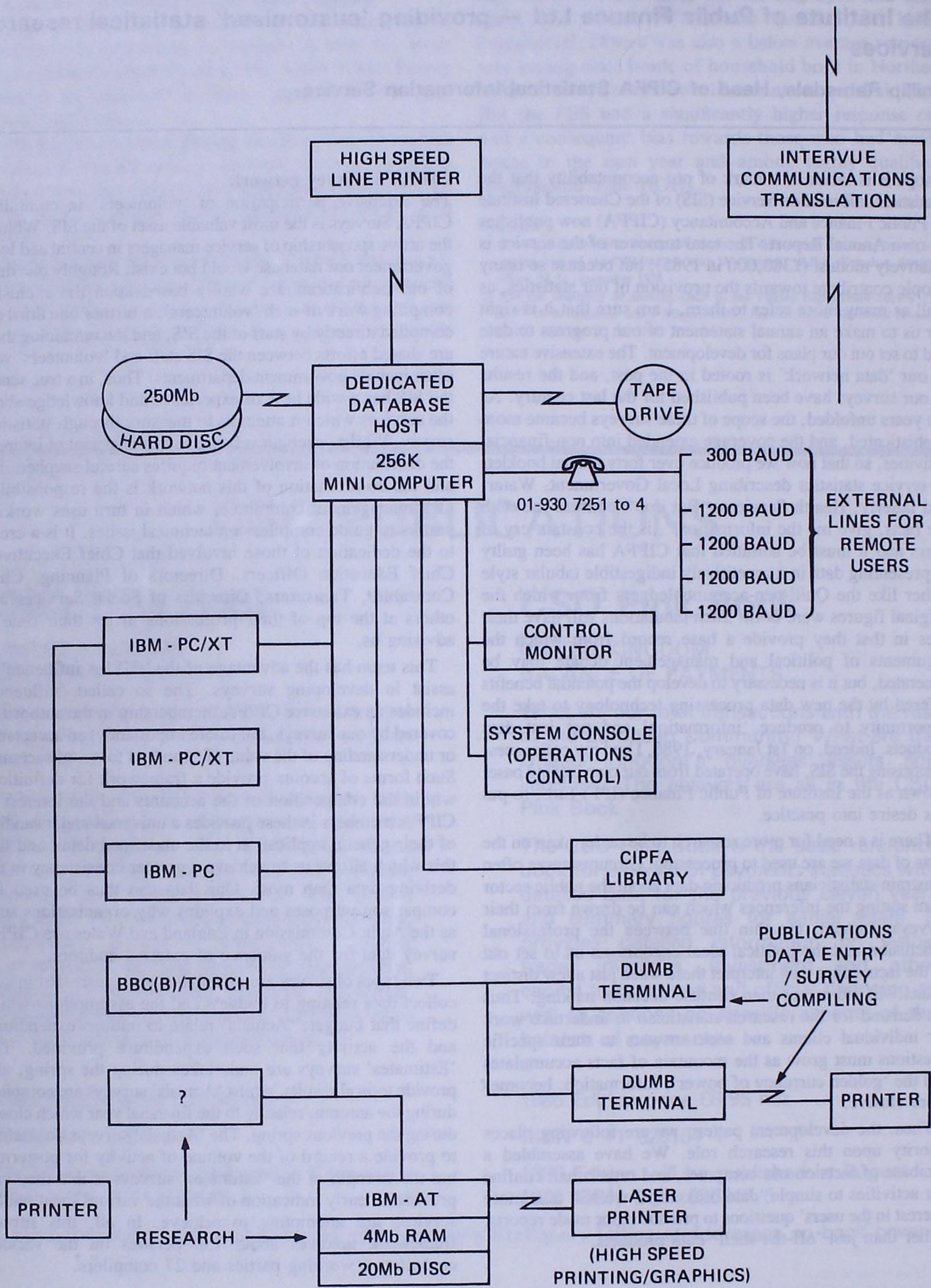
CIPFA'S Survey network

The extensive participation of 'volunteers' in compiling CIPFA Surveys is the most valuable asset of the SIS. Without the active sponsorship of service managers in central and local government our database would not exist. Roughly one third of our publications are wholly based upon the exclusive compiling work of such 'volunteers'; a further one third are compiled directly by staff of the SIS, and the remaining third are shared efforts between the SIS staff and 'volunteers' who often include government departments. Thus, in a true sense, the SIS has a wide base of experience and knowledge about the services which it attempts to measure through statistical survey. Whilst, strength is based in this dispersal of interest, the distribution of involvement requires careful shepherding, and the co-ordination of this network is the responsibility of a management committee, which in turn uses working parties to guide compilers on technical issues. It is a credit to the dedication of those involved that Chief Executives, Chief Education Officers, Directors of Planning, Chief Constables, Treasurers, Directors of Social Services and others at the top of their professions invest their time in advising us.

This team has the advantage of the 'CIPFA influence' to assist in developing surveys. The so called 'influence' includes an extensive CIPFA membership in the authorities covered by our surveys, but (more importantly) an acceptance or understanding of the value of 'standard forms of account'. Such forms of account provide a framework for definitions within the composition of the accounts and the interest of CIPFA members in these provides a universal understanding of their general application to the undefined detail and it is this which allows us to achieve a greater consistency in the deriving data than most. Our data can thus be used for comparison purposes and explains why organisations such as the Audit Commission in England and Wales use CIPFA survey data for the guidance of external auditors.

Two types of survey are undertaken each year: 'Estimates' collect data relating to budgets and the assumptions which define that budget; 'Actuals' relate to outturn expenditure and the activity that such expenditure provided. The 'Estimates' surveys are undertaken during the spring, and provide topical results, whilst 'Actuals' surveys are compiled during the autumn, relating to the financial year which closed during the previous spring. The 'Actuals' surveys do attempt to provide a record of the volume of activity for posterity, but the strength of the 'Estimates' surveys is that they can provide an early indication of what the various local public services are attempting to achieve. In all, this survey framework involves about 150 persons on the various consultative working parties and 27 compilers.

EXTERNAL USERS



Such strengths in the CIPFA survey framework, are also causes of weakness. A system so dependent on voluntary effort is always short of resources. Also, development and co-ordination is a delicate mixture of encouragement and diplomacy rather than ordered guidance. However, those of us involved in the process accept these limitations as a small price to pay for such an extensive survey network, and despite the new development on research activities within the IPF Ltd., the SIS survey network and publications will continue to remain as one of the premier activities of CIPFA.

Computer database service

The collection of so much survey data made the creation of a computerised databank inevitable, and its early development has been described in previous articles (c.f. *Statistical News* No, 38, August 1977 and No, 63, November 1983). Over the past two years this 'database' has become the central processing tool for our surveys, also allowing others to access the same data by using the compiling machine as a proper dial-up data bureau. However, the trauma of initiating this database is worth mentioning:

1 Loading data from the different compilers in the multiplicity of formats they employed on their own machines was an interesting learning experience!

2 Re-writing and developing the statistical database management software has become 'a process of continuous review'. There always seems to be some enhancement which it would be nice to add.

3 The suppliers of the host machine, were less than helpful in the assistance they were prepared to give in overcoming data communication problems. In the end it was necessary to develop our own hardware/software communications solutions.

4 Now, the holding has a user manual containing over 200 pages of public authority groupings, and an explanation of the analytical software. However, the 'Database' is not capable, of providing advanced statistical analysis. For such purposes the power of the microcomputer is employed, the existing capabilities of which are generally grossly under-estimated. Instead, the database machine is used much more extensively for packaging data on floppy disc. At present the configuration is as shown in the diagram.

This database configuration is a tool to assist the survey compiling and publication process. However, it's real power is now beginning to emerge as a springboard to more effective research.

Research services

Providing information generally means supplying answers that demand more questions from the user. Therefore, survey results and archived statistics alone are unable to completely satisfy, and the dialogue which results from the further exploration of the user's questions leads to 'research services'. This means finding out what users require before attempting to answer their questions, and this usually means providing a service which extends beyond simple statistical analysis. The research activities we undertake include:

a Analysis of existing data and reporting according to specific briefs commissioned by clients. Such briefs include, the preparation of marketing reports for interests dealing commercially with the local authorities we survey. Users of such services include banks and suppliers of equipment.

b Contract surveys where the timing, design, analysis, and reporting of the survey is tailored to suit the client. This type of approach may suit Government Committees of Inquiry.

c Simulation/statistical modelling, where the user has an interest in the alternatives which might arise if the circumstances described by the available data were changed. The types of user can vary between interested parties in salary negotiations to market researchers.

d Data packaging is a way of organising data in a form for convenient access by users, to conform with their existing systems! This approach is increasingly in demand as users have invested much effort in implementing their own computer systems.

e Service planning is a new activity to be developed where analytical services are extended beyond a statistical report and remedies can be designed in a joint exercise with the clients. Planning for change requires good analysis and evaluation of options. Therefore this type of service ought to provide a useful alternative to organisations with limited resources.

The approach of the above range of services, is 'personal' to the user, which is a concept to which statisticians working in the public sector are not always able to subscribe. Indeed, although the IPF will produce research publications in a series of occasional papers, the main objective will be to provide a service to individual clients, and not to broadcast general results. In this way, I hope we can provide a direct and useful service.

A publications and computer based information products brochure can be obtained with further details about CIPFA, its Statistical Information Service and the Institute of Public Finance Ltd., from Phillip Ramsdale, IPF Ltd., 3 Robert Street, London WC2N 6BH. Telephone 01-930-3456.

Seychelles – an opportunity overseas

Tony Williams, Statistician, Overseas Development Administration, currently on loan to the Home Office

No doubt many of my colleagues when glancing through the Government Statistical Service (GSS) Directory or reading the Statistician Group Bulletin will have wondered what is entailed in the overseas posts filled by GSS colleagues. I hope that over a year after my return from Seychelles where I spent five years as Chief Statistician I can provide an objective review of one such opportunity overseas.

Introduction

After consecutive tours of duty in Oman and Botswana few posts could have deflected me from my intention to return to the United Kingdom in 1979, at least for a few years. The post of Chief Statistician to the Government of the Republic of Seychelles was one such post and I succeeded Tim Jones in July of that year for the start of a memorable five years, comprising an initial tour of two years with two extensions until the post was successfully 'localised' in October 1984.

The Republic of Seychelles

An independent republic since 1976, Seychelles comprises over 100, mainly coralline, islands spread over 1,000 kilometres of the Indian Ocean but with a land area of only 453 square kilometres. Most of the population of nearly 65,000 live in the granitic islands in the north of the group, about 1,000 miles from the coast of Kenya which prompted the Seychelles Tourist Board's slogan: 'Unique by a thousand miles'. The islands are not only unique by virtue of their geographical isolation but also because of their unique flora and fauna and spectacular scenery combining mountains, blue skies, white beaches and coral mosaics in a transparent sea framed by coconut palms, casuarina trees and splashes of colourful bougainvillia.

Tourism developed after the construction of an international airport in the early 1970s and in 1984 about 63,400 tourists visited the islands. Whilst continuing to encourage tourism with the aim of 100,000 tourists per annum by the end of this decade, the latest National Development Plan stressed the need to increase production both in agriculture and industry to reduce dependence upon tourism and imports, and to increase exports.

The export of fresh and frozen fish has flourished in recent years whilst the more traditional trade in copra and cinnamon bark has fallen well below its former level. Imports, both in support of tourism and to provide for local needs, far exceed visible exports. This deficit has been made up by earnings from tourism and



President France Albert Rene of the Republic of Seychelles (top centre) together with his Principal Secretary for Finance and Industry, Mr Guy Morel (top left) and the author (far right).

through loans and grants to the government to finance development projects from a relatively large number of both bilateral donors and multilateral organisations.

The latest estimates indicated a GDP of around £100 million. Whilst there is little apparent poverty in Seychelles a GNP per capita in excess of US \$2,000 gives a misleading impression of comparative wealth. This is due to the high costs inherent in remote island economies and the high value of the Rupee which was revalued to relieve imported inflation.

Organisation of statistical service

The statistical service in Seychelles is centralised in Statistics Division, which is part of the Department of Finance and Industry in the President's office. The Division is responsible for all areas of statistical work except for banking, balance of payments and Government financial statistics which are the responsibility of the Central Bank. The major subject areas of the Division are tourism, external trade, retail prices, employment, national accounts and a continuous programme of household and other surveys.

The Statistics Cadre comprised the Chief Statistician, three Statisticians and nearly thirty staff, including a few support staff who were outstationed in the Department of Health and the Labour Division. Overseas Development Administration supported the posts of Chief Statistician and Survey Statistician from the mid 1970s, at first under Technical Co-operation arrangements but latterly through the Overseas Service Aid Scheme with the host government repaying the local salary equivalents for the posts. One of the other Statistician posts was filled for five years by a national

accountant provided by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, and the United Nations provided a volunteer demographer for three years in support of a United Nations Fund for Population Activities maternal and child health and family planning project.

This wealth of professional staff might appear to suggest over-kill when compared with the ratio of government statisticians per head of population in the United Kingdom. However this is mis-leading as a wide range of activities has to be undertaken by statistical offices in even small independent countries. Also, this was a period when the activities of the office were being developed and expatriate staff were required to implement systems, train staff and fill posts while local counterparts were receiving further training overseas. During my time in Seychelles the professional complement was filled for only one year. This was a period when much was achieved, most notably improved timeliness of the data, whilst at other times the Statisticians struggled to cope with their work loads. It was often necessary to reallocate responsibilities between the professional staff and to move support staff between the different areas of work to reflect changes in priorities and work loads.

Objectives

When I took up my post I found an established office with two major development projects in progress: to computerise the external trade statistics (using a bureau in Hong Kong with data input by means of satellite telephone links, there being no suitable facilities in Seychelles at that time) and to develop the national accounts. Two major household surveys of expenditure and agriculture had recently been completed and their manual analysis was well advanced. My immediate tasks were to assume overall control of the office with direct responsibility for the computerisation project and for trade and tourism statistics with the help of a newly graduated Seychellois statistician. The most immediate problems to be solved were junior staff shortages and the imminent departure of one of the most experienced Seychellois officers for further training, and of Philip Turnbull of the GSS at the end of his tour as Survey Statistician.

At my first meeting to discuss the future work of the Division with my new boss, the Principal Secretary for Finance, he impressed upon me the need to improve awareness (within the government) of what the Division did, to make information more readily available and understood, and to develop local staff by means of an in-service training programme to be supplemented by overseas training for those considered suitable for professional training.

Staff development

When I took up my post in Seychelles I found that

there had been a high turnover of staff in the office and the prevailing feeling was that to get on one had to get out of statistics. The staff in Statistics Division could point to staff in other Divisions who had left school at the same time as themselves with similar qualifications who were paid more and promoted more quickly, to the detriment of morale and motivation in Statistics Division. I was told that to succeed in the Division one must have a degree or sufficiently good school leaving qualifications to be considered for further training overseas. Few members of staff satisfied these criteria despite being valued and productive officers.

This was not a problem that could be solved by the Division in isolation. Clearly some scheme of service was required, reinforced by training opportunities, to identify the type of work for each grade which should be tied to the qualifications and expertise required for direct entry into the Statistics Cadre at each grade; and to establish criteria for advancement between grades on the basis of added qualifications and experience subject to satisfactory job performance. In this way posts within the Cadre could be compared with other Divisions and equitable salary scales could be determined.

Early discussions with the Principal Secretary for Administration revealed that this problem had been identified and the introduction of schemes of service was being considered throughout Government. My proposals seemed to act as a catalyst and soon comparable schemes were extended to all Cadres. Thus a progressive path of advancement became possible for all staff equal to that in any other Division. Motivation was improved for the non-professional staff whilst those capable of acquiring professional qualifications could see the potential for promotion up to Chief Statistician (as was achieved by my successor in the post). The damaging consequences of a high turnover of staff and the exodus of the most able to seek quicker advancement elsewhere was avoided. Following a number of new appointments during the first year of my tour, staff development was facilitated by a long period with few resignations or transfers of staff. The success in achieving such stability was particularly marked in view of the subsequent development of quasi-government companies largely staffed by former Government employees.

Most members of the staff had completed secondary education and a few had passed Cambridge 'O' levels. Sixth form education was available in Seychelles and some 'A' level students were able to obtain scholarships – e.g. through the British Council – for university training overseas. However this was not the route taken by my successor as Chief Statistician nor others in the pipeline. Those who left school after

gaining good 'O' levels were encouraged to work in the Division for varying periods before spending two tough years at the Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre in Tanzania. Two Seychellois students have so far passed through the EASTC with distinction and continued their studies at Southampton University where they both obtained post-Graduate Diplomas and MSCs.

A basic in-service training course was started which aimed initially to increase the awareness of the non-professional staff about what they were doing and how it fitted together with the work of other sections, and how their work was used. This was followed by basic mathematics and statistics to improve the abilities of staff who had left school without 'O' levels. Those with 'O' levels attended a more advanced course in statistics (also given to trainee accountants) taught by Philip Crook (MOD) who took up the post of Survey Statistician late in 1979.

The training course was developed progressively and now includes applied statistics and economics in addition to mathematics and statistical methods with all teaching being given by the Division. The course was voluntary and, following various experiments, during working hours. Those who successfully completed each stage of the course were awarded certificates and salary increments. All who attended the first full two-year course which ended in 1985 were successful, thus advancing their careers and enhancing the quality of staff in the office.

Data processing

The two ODA-funded Chief Statisticians before me had set up the office with manual processing procedures which are still serving the office well, pending computerisation which is now progressing. It took me four years to acquire a plain paper photocopier for the Division which avoided the need to beg or buy time on notoriously unreliable machines controlled by other Divisions. The computers took even longer to acquire due to financial constraints. The lack of computing facilities was not so much a handicap in terms of the timeliness of data—with some exceptions, most notably trade statistics—as in the extent of analysis that was possible. For instance, summary tourism statistics produced manually from immigration records each week were available within about three days of the end of the week, but these were restricted to fairly simple tables with cross-tabulations only possible from sample surveys of departing tourists.

The Government acquired ICL System 10 machines for accounting purposes shortly after my arrival in Seychelles, but these were of limited use for statistical applications. Meanwhile the bureau system for trade statistics operated admirably despite its unlikely chain of communications—data collection from Customs

Division, input by Seychelles Telephones staff, transmission via satellite link to Hong Kong for processing whilst the monthly print-outs were sent back by air freight to cut costs.

Dissemination of data

Early contact with the economists and other planners showed that much of their work, not surprisingly, was linked to the evaluation of projects and preparation of submissions to potential donor countries and agencies. Often back-of-the-envelope calculations were made with little reference to available statistics and when challenged the defence was usually that the statistics were not in a form that met their needs, they were too out-of-date, or sometimes the planners didn't know that they existed.

The first step was to develop improved working relationships through regular contact with the planners. Also, the Division's publications were reviewed to improve their relevance, timeliness and to make them more readily available. The annual *Trade Report* and *Statistical Abstract* were useful sources of data but were slow to appear. In the case of the *Trade Report* this was mainly due to the slowness of the manual processing system for trade data which also delayed the *Abstract*. The *Abstract* was also affected in its early years by the sensitivity of the national income estimates. The timeliness of trade data was greatly improved by computerisation whilst improved understanding and increasing confidence by the Government in the methodology (which was developed following the UN System) overcame delays in the acceptance of the national accounts. Since 1982 the annual publications have been available by the middle of the following year.

A further annual publication was introduced as an advance summary of the *Statistical Abstract*. Called *Seychelles in Figures*, it was a pocket-sized folded printed card which was produced very cheaply (I make no claim for the originality of this idea which I have also borrowed for use in Oman and Botswana). This publication improved both understanding of the scope of the work of the Division and the digestibility of its output and became very popular with around 2,000 being distributed each year. Ministers and others took 'pocket fulls' with them on their trips abroad and the publication was extensively used within Seychelles—for all sorts of training courses throughout Government and in schools, by teachers, nurses, health educators, etc. 'Seychelles in Figures' was also reproduced as an annex to the 'National Development Plan' and was given to visiting missions and consultants. As a public relations exercise it was a great success by increasing understanding of the work of the Division and, as with all of our publications, it provided a boost to the morale and pride of the staff in their work.

The annual publications were supplemented by Statistical Bulletins. At first I revived and extended an old printed quarterly Bulletin but later found this to be too time consuming and expensive to produce. It constantly had to be updated during the long drawn-out printing stages as new data became available and, as with the *Statistical Abstract* and *Seychelles in Figures*, the whole was delayed by the slowest data to appear (normally trade statistics in the days before computerisation). The quarterly Bulletin was replaced by a series of subject specific Bulletins which were photocopied rather than printed and appeared shortly after new data became available – thus there are weekly, monthly and quarterly tourism bulletins, monthly RPI bulletins, quarterly trade and twice-yearly employment bulletins. These publications were cheap to produce and therefore reduced the cost of disseminating data whilst also improving their timeliness.

Seychelles in Figures and the Statistical Bulletins improved the relevance and timeliness of data availability and comprehension of the statistics whilst also improving the image of the office. This was reflected in the relative ease with which requests for data could be handled, whilst increased confidence was apparent in the work of the Division from increased requests for data and statistical – as well as non-statistical – advice and assistance.

Some of the hungriest users of our data were the periodic IMF and World Bank teams who took all that we had to offer and came back for more, requesting special analyses and recommending improvements and developments to the available data. Such visits provided a valuable indication of the Division's performance by international standards and prevented complacency from setting in. Other major regular users of our data, in addition to the economists, were the Monetary Authority (later the Central Bank), partly to provide regular data to the IMF, the Tourist Board (and its forerunners) and visiting consultants who provided a regular stream of requests.

Budgeting

Financial management of Statistics Division was a significant feature of my responsibilities in Seychelles. Tight financial control was necessary due to a reduction in the number of tourists visiting the islands in the early 1980s which led to cuts in Government revenue and expenditure. The Statistics budget (about £100,000 in 1984) remained relatively unscathed but the scope for increasing expenditure on staff increases, annual increments in pay and additional stationery and office equipment was limited. As Accounting Officer for the Division I was personally responsible for re-imbursing any over-expenditure which therefore didn't occur.

Non-statistical activities

The GSS statistician who ventures overseas to a

developing country is likely to be called upon to assist the host government with many and varied non-statistical tasks: if you are considered to be useful in a particular area of work you will be called upon to assist.

In Seychelles I was a member of various working groups, including ones set up to recommend the levels of customs tariffs and of maximum retail mark-ups. During my final year in Seychelles I was a member of the Secretariat to a National Development Plan Committee set up and chaired by the President to review the nation's goals and strategy in all areas of economic and administrative activity. Also I acted as a non-executive Director to the quasi-government company responsible for providing computer support to government and other government owned companies. For a few months whilst a new manager was being recruited (during a period when computer support was being extended to include micros) the executive/non-executive distinction became somewhat blurred.

Perhaps most surprising to my GSS colleagues is that after being identified as an amateur sub-aqua instructor and enthusiast I was called upon to assist the Tourist Board in drafting a Code of Practice for diving operators and sat on interview boards to identify suitable recruits for training in this area of the tourism industry.

General observations on working in overseas statistical offices

My assignments overseas, both as a Senior Assistant and Statistician, have involved me in wider areas of statistical, as well as non-statistical, work and given me more responsibility than I would have experienced if I had remained in the home civil service. Also I have been closely involved in the planning and decision-making processes of the host governments and seen new and improved data immediately used in the planning and monitoring machinery.

All of the GSS colleagues with whom I have worked overseas have become involved and committed to their work and extended their working hours into those normally reserved for recreational activities (or in the United Kingdom for commuting), due to a compelling interest and wish to see the job done. This is further enhanced due to frequent social contact with the people with whom you are working due to the nature of the comparatively small communities.

I found the post of Chief Statistician in Seychelles particularly gratifying. Although the office was quite small the post involved me in staff (professional and non-professional), financial and work management, frequent contact with administrators and policy makers and responsibility for all non-monetary data collection, processing and interpretation.

Using microcomputer graphics to project births in Scotland

David Salmond, Statistician, General Register Office (Scotland)

Introduction

This short article describes how data can be input graphically to a simple cohort birth projection model in order to assess the effect of varying the age distribution of the mother on projection of births. The model used is fully described by Werner¹. A simplification used in this paper is that only total births are examined (and not the breakdown by legitimacy or by number of previous children).

The technique could be applicable in many other topic areas where a projection is needed which can be based on assumptions input graphically. Possible examples are:

- 1 Graphical input of any cohort model in order to project period rates. The example in this paper refers to birth cohorts, but the method could apply to, for example, cohort mortality rates or cohort marriage and divorce rates.
- 2 Graphical input of birth assumptions in order to project child populations for education, social work or health purposes.
- 3 Graphical input of housing completions and demolitions to project changes to housing stock.
- 4 Graphical input of macroeconomic variables in order to project the performance of related econometric variables.

The technique is based on the graphical facilities of the Apple Mackintosh Microcomputer, using the program MACBIRTH developed in Vital Statistics Branch, General Register Office (Scotland).

Overview of technique

The program MACBIRTH plots on the screen the single age cohort birth rates for the following cohorts of mothers:

1940 complete up to age 44
1950 complete up to age 34
1955 complete up to age 29
1960 complete up to age 24

The program allows the 1960 cohort to be completed, and the 1970 cohort to be entered, by plotting on the screen. These input values are then used to calculate the following:

cohort rates up to the 1984 cohort, by age group
TPFR from 1985 to 1999, by age group
total births from 1985 to 1999, by age group

Description of technique

The input and calculation steps A to H are described below:

- A Single year of age birth rates are read, from 1940 cohort (ages 15 to 44) to 1969 (age 15 only) using Table S1.2 in the Annual Report of the Registrar General for Scotland.²
- B These rates for cohorts 1940, 1950, 1955 and 1960 are plotted on the screen. The cohort 1960 is plotted as a thicker line to distinguish it from the others.
- C Using the mouse device, the remainder of the 1960 cohort is plotted on the screen by clicking at any point on the screen. A straight line is drawn between successive points. MACBIRTH uses these points to calculate birth rates at the single ages 25, 26, 27, 28, 44 and then replots these rates on top of those input. After the last input point, the rate is assumed to fall linearly to 0 and then to remain at 0.
- D Using the input 1960 cohort birth rates at C and the latest available actual rates (year 1984), the unknown rates in cohorts 1941 (age 44) 1942 (ages 43, 44) 1959 (ages 26 to 44) are calculated by assuming a linear change.
- E The birth rates for the 1970 cohort (ages 15-44) are input using the mouse as in C.
- F The rates for cohort 1961 (age 24), 1960 (ages 23, 24), 1959 (ages 22, 23, 24) 1969 (ages 16, 17 24) are calculated using the same method as in D.
- G Assuming a linear change from the 1960 cohort to 1970 cohort (ages 25 to 44), cohort rates 1961 to 1969 (ages 25 to 44) are calculated.
- H Cohort rates from 1971 cohort to 1984 cohort are assumed to be equal to those of the 1970 cohort at all ages.

Output

There are at present 3 sets of data output to the screen in MACBIRTH, described in steps I, J and K below.

Step I

For cohorts 1940 to 1984, cohort rates are output in 5 year age of mother groups 15-20-25-30-35-40-44, together with total cohort rate and average age at reproduction of the cohort. The 1960 and 1970 rates summarise the information input graphically at steps C and E; rates for other cohorts are the results of the calculations D F G and H based on C and E.

Step J

For year of reproduction 1984 to 1999, total period fertility rates are calculated in 5 year age groups as in step I. The TPFRR for all ages and the average age is given.

Step K

Using 1983 based population projections for females 15-44 for 1984 to 1999, the period rates in J are converted to birth projections in 5 year age groups, 1984-99. Total births and average age at reproduction are shown.

Development

This article describes the potential use of graphical input to modelling of births. There are many possible developments:

Input developments possible

- a The facility to accept or reject input cohort values on the basis of average age or total cohort rates. At present this is done only by rerunning the program.

OR

- b The facility to adjust an input age distribution to a predetermined cohort rate/average age, and then redraw the adjusted distribution.
- c The facility to complete other cohorts eg. 1955, 1965 (very fine tuning).

Calculation developments possible

- d Enhancement of the linear assumptions in calculating rates.

Output developments possible

- e Options of graphical/tabular and screen/printer output.
- f Methods of specifying output type within the program.

Some of these developments are currently being considered in Population Division 1 of OPCS and an enhanced version of the technique, using similar hardware, is being tested there.

References

- 1 'Family size and age at childbirth, trends and projections', by B Werner. OPCS *Population Trends* 33 Autumn 1983 (HMSO 1983) (Price £4.50 net).
- 2 *Annual Report of the Registrar General Scotland No 130 1984* (HMSO Edinburgh) (Price £12.50 net).

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Statistics Users' Conference on Financial Statistics

John Alexander, Statistician, Central Statistical Office

Over 250 people attended the Statistics Users' Conference at the Royal Society on 13 November 1985 making it the best attended in this series of annual conferences. It was the sixteenth conference in the series and the second on the theme of financial statistics. It was organised by the Statistics Users' Council in conjunction with the Bank of England.

Changes in the financial system in recent years and changes impending, associated with deregulation and developing market technology, made financial statistics a timely conference subject. Abolition of exchange controls in 1979, restructuring of the monetary sector in 1981, increasing competition between different types of financial institution, more active control by companies of their financial interests and more emphasis on monetary policy are some of the large changes which have affected the financial system since the end of the 1970s.

The impending changes will put provision of financial statistics under greater strain. New legislation for regulating financial institutions and increasing liberalisation of financial markets is likely to increase the pace of financial activity. New heavily capitalised security dealing firms are emerging, as is greater reliance on 'securitised' lending, in which money goes from lender to borrower without passing through an intermediary. Erosion of distinctions between types of financial institution, much greater volume of international transactions and round-the-clock, round-the-world trading seem likely to follow.

George Blunden, now Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, reviewed these prospects when he opened the conference. He raised the question of how the statistical system should respond and queried whether the present approach, which is largely based on analysis of transactions of institutional groups, would suffice in conditions in which the institutional framework was becoming less evident. This foreshadowed a point made several times at the conference, that statistical emphasis should move away from institutions towards financial markets. How far this can be taken will need to be worked out. It may be a reflection of differences in statistical needs between participants in financial markets, who are particularly concerned with prices and interest rates, and government, which is especially concerned with macro-economic analysis and interaction between financial and productive activity. Whatever the outcome, it is clear, as Mr Blunden said, that flexibility and ingenuity will be needed if the statistical

system is to keep up with financial developments ahead.

Papers in the first session of the conference reviewed the current scene. A paper by the Central Statistical Office described the aims and intentions of official financial statistics, drawing attention to their mainly macro-economic concern. A paper by the Department of Trade and Industry described recent improvements in data collection from insurance companies and pension funds. A paper by Her Majesty's Treasury described Treasury use of financial statistics, particularly in modelling and forecasting. The views of Treasury economists are particularly relevant since official financial statistics are provided mainly in order to serve the needs of government and the Treasury is the principal user of financial statistics.

Adaptation and change in financial statistics came into focus in the second session, in which three papers were devoted to the effects of financial innovation and structural change.

A paper by the Bank of England traced the impact of economic and regulatory changes on banking activity since the late 1960s and described the accompanying statistical response. All the papers were introduced by discussants rather than the authors. Discussing the Bank's paper, Professor Mervyn Lewis (Nottingham University) highlighted the theme of the conference by pointing out that recent upheavals in the banking system came after more than a century of stability and could turn out to be as fundamental as the introduction of joint stock banking in the mid-nineteenth century. He asked whether, if intermediation was shifting from institutions to markets, the statistical system would be able to record it. He also proposed that options should be brought into bank balance sheets which could, he thought, be interpreted more usefully as a record of options rather than realisations.

A paper by Giles Keating (London Business School) suggested improvements for presenting and extending financial statistics. A paper by Alec Grayson (Statistical Unit of the Committee of London and Scottish Bankers) described banks' statistical concerns, which at least partly correspond to official needs.

The third session considered financial statistics of industrial and commercial companies. A paper by the Central Statistical Office reviewed the problems presented by the disparate and incomplete sources for this sector. A paper by Geoff Meeks (Department of Applied Economics, Cambridge University) argued the case for disaggregated statistics of the company sector,

drawn largely from company reports, which could be used to investigate the prospects of separate industries and individual companies. The final paper came from Jonathan Miller (Society of Investment Analysts), which went further in describing the sort of statistics needed by people in the market place. For them, the national accounts are an interesting background, but their main concern is with industry and company analysis to obtain competitive edge in market dealing.

The conference ended with an open forum discussion chaired by Jack Hibbert, Head of the Government Statistical Service. He reminded the conference that the service exists to serve government. Although many of the proposals went beyond what the government would perceive as its own needs, there is a large area of common interest to government and to the city and other users. There are also many non-official sources of financial statistics which help to fill out official statistics and which may benefit from following up some of the conference proposals.

The many improvements suggested at the conference included proposals for more data on interest rates, total credit, more information on maturity, financial

markets and contingent liabilities. A recurrent theme was the need for more explanation and clearer presentation, particularly as regards linking between series and tables. Suggestions to this end included more information on revisions, demonstration of the link between financial accounts and statistics of money supply, more information on breaks in series, and more information on the components included in series. Another conspicuous theme was the need for reconciliation between the figures for financial flows and the figures for levels of outstanding assets and liabilities. This is already being tackled by the Central Statistical Office with help from other departments and the Bank of England. In this area government and the private sector have a substantial common interest.

Other accounts of the conference have appeared in the *Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin*, December 1985 and in *The Professional Statistician*, January 1986. Copies of the conference papers and the transcript of the proceedings (price £25) may be obtained from the Secretary of the Statistics Users' Council: Ian Maclean, Lancaster House, More Lane, Esher, Surrey KT10 8AP (Telephone: Esher (0372) 63121).



Statistical 'stagiaires' in the EC*

George Clarke, Adviser to the Director General, SOEC

The recognition of the importance of first-hand knowledge by national statisticians of the workings of the Community statistical system led the United Kingdom to send to Luxembourg in 1972 one of its young statisticians to spend a few months in Eurostat.

The positive results from this initial experience led to other visits and since then nearly a score of young UK members of the GSS have worked in Eurostat for periods of around five to six months.

Careful planning and preparation have been necessary on both sides to ensure that the maximum mutual benefits are derived from these visits ('stages'). From the United Kingdom point of view there is the problem of finding, among the volunteers, those who can be released from their UK duties and whose careers will profit most from work in Eurostat. At the Luxembourg end, there are the problems of selecting suitable objectives and preparing a work programme which can be carried out in a relatively short time period. By virtue

of preliminary visits and discussions of the tasks to be performed, useful work can begin immediately on arrival in Luxembourg. The good services of the British Embassy in Luxembourg have been very valuable in the problem of finding suitable accommodation.

The normal profile of the United Kingdom visitor is that of an assistant statistician (or senior assistant statistician) in his or her mid or late twenties, who has already had a few years professional experience in the Central Statistical Office or one of the statistical services in a Government Department. The ideal time for release to Luxembourg is when one period of service on a particular task is drawing to a close so that, after spending the spring and early summer months in Luxembourg, the 'stagiaire' returns to take on new duties in the United Kingdom.

The visit begins with the short induction course in Brussels given to in-service trainees (stagiaires), giving a general introduction to the work of the Commission.

*The text was extracted from *Eurostat News No 3 1985* with kind permission from the author.

During the rest of the period contact with other stagiaires is maintained, with visits to Community institutions (the Parliament in Strasbourg, and the Institutions in Berlin). But most of the time is spent working at the desk, or the terminal, in Luxembourg, with occasional participation in one of the working group meetings in the Jean Monnet Building and, when this can be arranged, visits to one or more of the national statistical offices.

The United Kingdom statistician stagiaire differs from other stagiaires in that the costs are borne by the United Kingdom Government, the stagiaire is a professional government statistician and the project is selected in advance in agreement between both administrations.

Eurostat has had substantial benefits from this scheme – a string of concrete and timely contributions to our work programme, normally in the form of reports and conclusions to be presented to working groups to be incorporated into publications or otherwise to be followed up in Eurostat's work programme.

From the United Kingdom point of view there appears to have been good returns from this investment – a broadening of experience at an early stage in career development, an opportunity both to contribute to the knowledge of someone working in a national statistical office and to profit from the expertise of others in assisting in the advancement of Eurostat projects. These projects are of course heavily dependent on the resources of the national statistical services. Seen in the context of the need to integrate as much as possible the work of Eurostat and the national services, this scheme has its valuable, if modest, role to play.

Peter Fullerton, Senior Assistant Statistician, Welsh Office, who attended a course in 1985 said in his report: 'The Commission's 'stagiaire' scheme affords excellent opportunities for contacts between young

people from Community countries and beyond. Although there are only 11 'stagiaires', from a total of over 200, in Luxembourg, a lively and varied multinational group developed and friendships are sure to outlast the duration of our 'stage'. Frequent educational excursions and social events also allow the 'Luxembourgers' to mix with the main 'stagiaire' community in Brussels. Hence the 'stage' has widened our knowledge and understanding of the different ways of life in other countries but the strongest impression is left by what there is in common'.

Preliminary organisation

The 'stagiaire' training course begins in mid-February each year and about four places are made available to United Kingdom assistant and senior assistant statisticians.

Each Summer the Director of the Government Statistical Service (GSS), Jack Hibbert, sends a letter to all the Directors of Statistics in the GSS inviting employees to take part in the 'stagiaire' scheme. The detail is also publicised in the Government Statistical Bulletin so that staff outside Statistical Divisions are made aware of the scheme.

Nominees are selected by the Director of the GSS and a Statistical Director from the Economic Community (usually George Clarke). A meeting is held with each selected candidate at which a specific project is arranged and discussed.

Details of the scheme can be obtained from Miss K. Marsh, International Section, Telephone: 233 7088.

The Management and Personnel Office organise a similar scheme for graduates - in the United Kingdom Civil Service - aiming for the administrative grades. The courses start in mid-February and mid-September and up to ten students attend each course.

Her Majesty's Stationery Office bicentenary and the Annual Abstract of Statistics 1986



HMSO

1786-1986

What was then His Majesty's Stationery Office came into being on 5 April 1786, as a new department within the Treasury. Prior to that, the supply of such items as quills and the red (originally pink) tape used for binding bundles of papers had been in the hands of individuals who did not much mind using their position of influence for personal gain – at considerable cost to the government.

Two hundred years on, HMSO is one of the largest print-buyers, printers and suppliers of office equipment in the United Kingdom – and one of the most prolific publishers in the world – supplying goods and services worth almost £300 million annually. The fifteen men, two women, two horses and a cart on the 18th century payroll would hardly make a significant contribution towards present-day transportation requirements.

The Central Statistical Office's collaboration with HMSO in the production of the *Annual Abstract of Statistics* began with the eighty-fourth edition in 1947. To mark over a hundred years of Annual Abstracts and their bicentenary, HMSO have produced a facsimile of the 1886 Abstract to accompany the 122nd edition published in January 1986.

For the second year running all the CSO monthly and quarterly periodicals published by HMSO will be cheaper in 1986. Others including the *Annual Abstract of Statistics* will be held to 1985 prices. This has been achieved by using more efficient means of distribution and production. There will be no reduction in the quality, size or coverage of the various publications.

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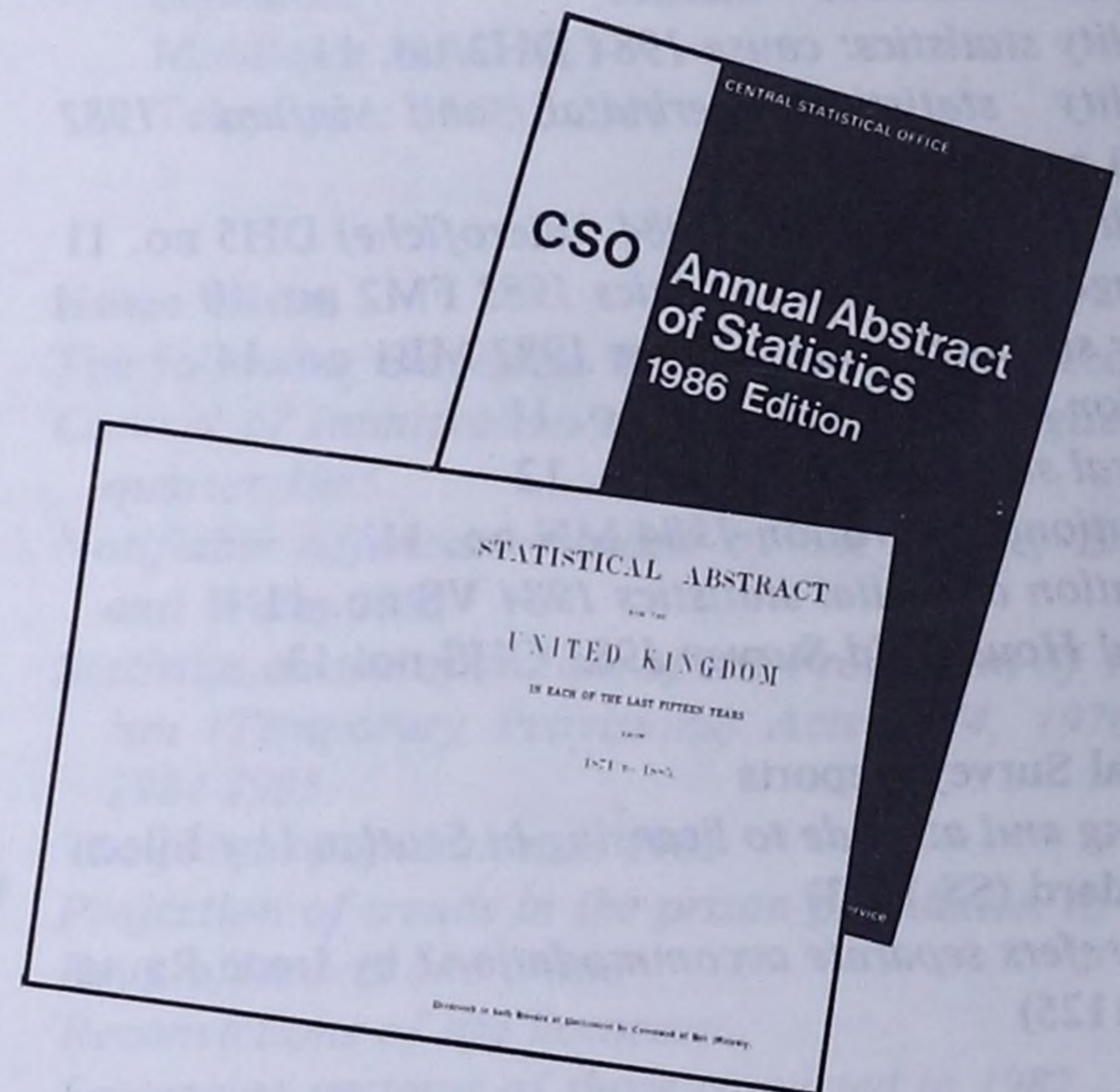
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The following publications containing social statistics have recently, or will soon become available during the January to March quarter of 1986. Unless otherwise specified, copies may be purchased from Her Majesty's Stationery Office. A list of release dates of economic series is published monthly in *Economic Trends*.

Office of Population Censuses and Surveys

Population Trends 43 Spring 1986

Census 1981

Index of place names, England & Wales Vol. 1 A-L and Vol. 2 M-Z (HMSO 1985) (Price £35 per set)

OPCS Monitors (available free from OPCS Information Branch, St. Catherines House, 10 Kingsway, WC2B 6JP)

Hospital In-patient Enquiry: day case statistics 1983 MB4 85/3

Conceptions in England and Wales, 1969-1983 FM1 85/8

Hospital In-patient Enquiry: trends 1979-83 MB4 85/2

Fatal accidents occurring during sporting and leisure activities, 1983 DH4 85/5

Labour Force Survey 1984: country of birth, ethnic origin, year of entry and nationality LFS 85/1 and PP1 85/3

Labour Force Survey 1984 LFS 85/2

Annual Reference Volumes

Mortality statistics: cause 1984 DH3 no. 11

Mortality statistics: perinatal and infant 1982 DH3 no. 14

Mortality statistics: area 1984 (microfiche) DH5 no. 11

Marriage and divorce statistics 1983 FM2 no. 10

Cancer statistics: registrations 1982 MB1 no. 14

Abortion statistics 1984 AB no. 11

Electoral statistics 1985 EL no. 12

International migration 1984 MN no. 11

Population and vital statistics 1984 VS no. 11

General Household Survey 1983 GHS no. 13

Social Survey Reports

Drinking and attitude to licensing in Scotland by Eileen Goddard (SS 1223)

Who prefers separate accommodation? by Irene Rauta (SS 1125)

Department of Transport

Road Accidents Great Britain 1984 (Annual) (HMSO price £6.90)

Ports Statistics 1984 (Annual) (Price £21.00)

Available from:

British Ports Association

Commonwealth House

1-19 New Oxford Street

London WC1A 1DZ

The following are published by the Department of Transport:

United Kingdom Shipping Industry; International Revenue and expenditure 1984 (85) 33 (Statistical Bulletin price £5.00)

Quarterly Survey of Freight Market Conditions 1985, Review of the Quarterly Survey (85) 36 (Statistical Bulletin price £2.00)

Estimators for the National Road Traffic Series (85) 39 (Statistical Bulletin price on application)

New Motor Vehicle Registrations, Great Britain (85) 37, (85) 38, (86) 1, (86) 4 (Statistical Bulletins price on application)

National Road Maintenance Condition Survey - Deflection Measurements 1984 (Statistical Bulletin price £0.90)

Monitoring of 38 tonne Goods Vehicles (86) 5 (Statistical Bulletin price on application)

International Road Haulage Survey Report 1984 (86) 6 (Statistical Bulletin price £10.00)

Methods for calculating National, Regional and County Traffic (Vehicle Kilometres) (86) 7 (Statistical Bulletin price £3.00)

The following statistical bulletins are issued on a regular basis:

Quarterly: *Traffic in Great Britain third quarter 1985 (85) 40*

Road goods vehicles on roll-on roll-off ferries to mainland

Europe third quarter 1985 (85) 41

Road Accidents and Casualties in Great Britain third quarter 1985 (86) 2

Transport Statistics third quarter 1985 (86) 3

Department of Transport publications and statistical bulletins are available from:

Publications Sales Unit

Building 1

Victoria Road

South Ruislip

Middlesex HA4 0NZ

Department of Education and Science

Statistical Bulletins:

- 12/85 Student awards in England and Wales 1983-84*
- 13/85 Education Statistics for the United Kingdom 1985*
- 14/85 Educational Expenditure 1979-80 to 1983-84*
- 1/86 First Known Destination of First Degree Graduates 1979-1984*
- 2/86 Employment of Newly Trained Teachers*
- 3/86 Teachers in Service and teachers vacancies 1984-89*
- 4/86 School Leavers Statistical Bulletin, 1983/84*

Statistical Bulletins are available from:

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

The following volumes of Education Statistics are produced by the Department of Education and Science annually:

- Schools (England)* Price £12.00
- School Leavers, CSE and GCE (England)* Price £12.00
- Further Education (England)* Price £12.00
- Teachers in Service (England and Wales)* Price £12.00
- Finance and Awards (England and Wales)* Price £12.00
- Digest of Statistics (England)* Price £2.00

The above publications are available from:

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

Scottish Education Department

Statistical Bulletins on the following subjects:

- Revised Higher Education Projections for Scotland*
- The Assisted Places Scheme*
- First Destination of University First Degree Graduates*
- Autumn Enrolments of Students in Vocational Further Education*

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

Staff of Scottish Social Work Departments, 1984

Copies of the above bulletins may be purchased (price 75p post paid) from:

The Library
Official Publication Sales
Scottish Office
Room 2/65, New St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH11 37G
Telephone: 031-556 8400 Ext 5901

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 for 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-upon-Tyne NE98 1YX
Telephone: Tyneside (091) 2797373

The following Statistical Bulletins are available:

No 6/85 Mental illness hospitals and units in England: Results from the Mental Health Enquiry 1984, (Price £1.00 net)

No 7/85 Mental handicap hospitals and units in England: Results from the Mental Health Enquiry 1984, (Price £1.00 net)

Twelve booklets, under the general title 'Mental Health Statistics for England', representing the first set in a series giving 1983 statistics, were published in November 1985. Details of titles and prices are given on page 72.39.

Statistical Bulletins and Booklets are available from:

Department of Health and Social Security
Information Division
Canons Park
Government Buildings
Honeypot Lane
Stanmore
Middlesex HA7 1AY
Telephone: 01-952 2311

Home Office

The following Statistical Bulletins are announced:

Control of Immigration statistics United Kingdom 4th quarter 1985

Notifiable offences recorded by the Police, England and Wales 1985

Statistics on the operation of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Acts 1974, 1976, and 1984-1985

The prison population in 1985

Projection of trends in the prison population to 1994

Drug offenders and crime

Reconvictions of life licencees

Sentencing patterns of those convicted in 1982

Statistical Bulletins are available from:

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

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: patterns of family expenditure in 1984; membership of trade unions; and large industrial stoppages.

Employment Gazette is published monthly by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, price £3.25 per issue. Annual subscription inclusive of postage is £35.00.

Welsh Office

Health and Personal Social Services Statistics for Wales
No. 12 1985

Residential Accommodation for the Elderly, Younger Physically Handicapped and Blind: Year Ended 31/3/85

Statistics of Education in Wales No. 10 1985

The above publications are available from:

Publications Unit

Economic and Statistical Services Division

Welsh Office

Cathays Park

Cardiff CF1 3NQ

Telephone: 0222-82 5054

Department of the Environment

Local Government Financial Statistics England and Wales 1982/83

Housing and Construction Statistics 1974-1984 Great Britain

Housing and Construction Statistics, June quarter 1985 Part 2 No. 22 and September quarter 1985 Part 1 No. 23

Local Housing Statistics Issue 75, figures for second quarter 1985

Commercial and Industrial Floorspace Statistics, England 1981-1984 No. 13

Digest of Environmental Protection and Water Statistics No. 7 1984

The following information is issued in press notices 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*

Further information is available from:

DOE, SPPG4, Room P1/001

2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB

A new edition – completely revised

– First for 17 years –

'UNITED KINGDOM NATIONAL ACCOUNTS – SOURCES AND METHODS'

Now available at £14.95 (ISBN 0 11 620199 1)

Sources and Methods is the definitive description of GDP and the national accounts. It is the essential reference book for users of official estimates of GDP, consumers' expenditure, capital formation and all other estimates within the national accounting system published annually in the CSO Blue Book, *United Kingdom National Accounts*.

CSO publications are published by HMSO and are obtainable from Government bookshops and through good booksellers.

New surveys notified to the Survey Control Unit

September to November 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 3AQ.

New surveys notified September to November 1985

Title	Department	Those approached	Approximate number approached	Location	Frequency
Business surveys					
Service sector case studies	DEM	Service firms	225	E	AH
Young Workers Scheme, second interview survey 1985	DEM	Employers	800	GB	AH
Employers recruitment practices and the long-term unemployed	DEM	Employers	800	NK	AH
Environmental education and training in industry	DOE	Employers	458	EW	AH
Evaluation of the office and service industries scheme (OSIS)	DTI	OSIS recipients	90	GB	AH
Small business loan guarantee scheme – fourth telephone survey	DTI	Small firms	100	UK	AH
ERDF assistance for small firms located in steel, shipbuilding and textile closure areas – investment projects scheme	DTI	Manufacturers	60	E	AH
Review of software products scheme: non-participant companies	DTI	Computing service industry	170	UK	AH
Survey of in-company management training	DTI	Employers	12000	GB	AH
Industrial heat recovery consultancy scheme: assessment	DTI	Manufacturers	400	GB	AH
Evaluation of BOTB's trade fair and outward mission support schemes	DTI	Exporters	NK	UK	AH
Credit benchmark inquiry 1986	DTI	Credit grantors	20000	GB	AH
Companies registration office user's survey	DTI	Search facilities users	143	EW	AH
Fairs and promotions questionnaire – overseas trade fairs	DTI	Exporters	NK	UK	C
Fairs and promotions questionnaire – outward missions	DTI	Exporters	NK	UK	C
Survey of vehicles in restricted tax classes – special type goods vehicles	DTP	Transport	2000	GB	AH
South circular – goods vehicle drivers at Nine Elms	DTP	Goods vehicles drivers	1000	SE	AH
Electronics industry in Scotland	IDS/SDA	Electronics companies	400	S	AH
Electronics industry in Scotland – follow-up interviews	IDS/SDA	Electronics companies	40	S	AH
Cutworm damage survey	MAFF	Farmers	600	E	A
Cereals stocks survey	MAFF	Farmers	1500	EW	M
Cereals production survey	MAFF	Farmers	6000	EW	Q
Joint CBI/MSA survey of skill shortages 1985	MSC	Manufacturers	2500	UK	AH
Construction professions review – architects	OFT	Architects	725	UK	AH
Construction professions review – engineers	OFT	Engineers	1061	UK	AH
Patent agents review	OFT	UK resident patent applicants	900	UK	AH
Patent agents review: earnings and professional practice survey	OFT	UK registered patent agents	1260	UK	AH
Market study of the London minicab trade	TRRL	Minicab operators and owners	1100	SE	AH
Agricultural training board – Welsh dairy farmers – local collaborative project	WO	Farmers	NK	W	AH
Evaluation of aid under S4 development of tourism act 1969: aid in Wales	WO	Aid applicants	60	W	AH
Local authority surveys					
Adult education survey	DES	Education authorities	NK	E	Y2
Survey of school building improvement need	DES	Education authorities	100	E	AH
Current state of road safety education – secondary head teachers	TRRL	Head teachers	1620	UK	AH
Housing statistics – assistance given under the housing defects act 1984	WO	District councils	37	W	A
Other surveys					
The incidence and effects of neighbourhood noise	BRE	Adults	4000	GB	AH
BRE interbuild exhibition research	BRE/COI	Visitors	300	WM	AH
Training loans research	DEM/COI	Adults	75	GB	AH
Energy efficiency year booklet recall survey	DEN	Adults	1000	GB	AH
'Monergy' TV commercial communication check	DEN/COI	Energy consumers	20	E	AH
Cardiff energy action city: public awareness survey	DEN/EEO	Energy consumers	500	W	AH
Energy saver show 1985 mark 2 research	DEN/COI	Visitors	195	EM	AH
Survey of microelectronics in schools	DES	Teachers	100	E	AH
Survey of supplementary pensioners	DHSS	Pensioners	1300	GB	AH
Survey of fathers knowledge and perceptions of antenatal care	DHSS	Parents	600	E	AH

<i>Title</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Those approached</i>	<i>Approximate number approached</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
Other surveys continued)					
Survey of mothers knowledge, experience and perceptions of antenatal care	DHSS	Parents	1200	E	AH
Survey of men and women with no experience of antenatal care	DHSS	Adults	1200	E	AH
Examination and treatment of patients under the general dental services	DHSS/ NGOV	Patients	500	EW	AH
AIDS creative development research stages 1 and 2	DHSS/COI	Adults	60	UK	AH
Teenage anti-smoking campaign evaluation – pre and post survey 1985/86	DHSS/COI	Teenagers	6400	E	AH
Heroin qualitative dipstick	DHSS/COI	Adults	100	E	AH
Drugs abuse campaign evaluation	DHSS/COI	Teenagers and parents	800	ES	AH
Monitoring the right to buy	DOE	Owner occupiers and tenants	2200	E	AH
Bonamy estate: survey of tenants	DOE	Tenants	790	SE	AH
National garden festival 1986 – visitor survey	DOE	Visitors	4230	WM	AH
Recycling advisory unit questionnaire	DTI		75	UK	AH
Metrology education and training available in the United Kingdom	DTI	Education and training establishments	700	UK	AH
Pedestrian safety campaign – communication check	DTP/COI		56	E	AH
A40 north of Oxford improvement scheme	DTP	Drivers	23400	SE	AH
Northern relief route – A449 studies	DTP	Drivers	75000	WM	AH
1985 drink and drive campaign evaluation research	DTP/COI	Drivers	800	GB	AH
1985 drink and drive campaign communication check	DTP/COI	Drivers	50	E	AH
General and business aviation noise disturbance study	DTP	Residents	720	SE	AH
Fire prevention campaign evaluation	HOME/COI	Adults	2860	GB	AH
TV licence evasion: 'net' hall-test	HOME/COI	Householders	200	E	AH
Crime prevention: Magpie leaflets communication check 1985	HOME/COI		56	E	AH
Fire safety: TV filler for children: communication check	HOME/COI	Mothers and children	80	E	AH
Monetary evaluation of changes in work related risks-pilot stage	HSE	Adults	200	GB	AH
Attitudes to nutrition labelling	MAFF	Adults	820	GB	AH
Territorial Army qualitative research	MOD/COI	Men	135	ES	AH
Junior leaders recruitment – advertising communication check	MOD/COI	Youths	60	GB	AH
Navy officer communication check 1985	MOD/COI	Youths	70	E	AH
Territorial army monitor stage 2	MOD/COI	Men	1000	GB	AH
Community programme sponsors survey	MSC	Employers	500	GB	AH
Attitudes towards and experience of employment, unemployment and training	MSC/NGOV	Adults	1400	ES	AH
YTS name research	MSC/COI	Adults	242	E	AH
YTS monitor stage 1X	MSC/COI	Adults	4000	GB	AH
Selling of life insurance	OFT	Adults	4800	GB	AH
Census question wording test (1991 census)	OPCS		1000	EW	AH
Consequences of differences in bus service levels – follow-up survey	TRRL	Bus users	125	SE	AH
Experimental safety vehicles – safety steering wheels	TRRL	Drivers	50	SE	AH
Nottingham urban cycle route 'before study'	TRRL	Adults	8000	EM	AH
Studies of short and long term nuisance from traffic	TRRL	Residents	500	E	AH
'Airliner' passenger survey 1985	TRRL	Travellers	1500	SE	AH
Road traffic law review	TRRL	Adults	2265	GB	AH
Long term effects of road accident injuries – follow-up	TRRL	Patients	400	UK	AH
Trial of magnetically encoded travel passes in Eastbourne	TRRL	Pensioners	50	SE	AH

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Locations

<i>E</i>	<i>England</i>
<i>EM</i>	<i>East Midlands</i>
<i>ES</i>	<i>England and Scotland</i>
<i>EW</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
<i>GB</i>	<i>Great Britain</i>
<i>S</i>	<i>Scotland</i>
<i>SE</i>	<i>South East</i>
<i>UK</i>	<i>United Kingdom</i>
<i>W</i>	<i>Wales</i>
<i>WM</i>	<i>West Midlands</i>

Frequency

<i>A</i>	<i>Annual</i>
<i>AH</i>	<i>Ad Hoc</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>Continuous</i>
<i>M</i>	<i>Monthly</i>
<i>Q</i>	<i>Quarterly</i>
<i>Y2</i>	<i>Two Yearly</i>

General

<i>CBI</i>	<i>Confederation of British Industry</i>
<i>BOTB</i>	<i>British Overseas Trade Board</i>
<i>ERDF</i>	<i>European Regional Development Fund</i>
<i>NK</i>	<i>Not known</i>
<i>YTS</i>	<i>Youth Training Scheme</i>

Departments

<i>BRE</i>	<i>Building Research Establishment</i>	<i>HSE</i>	<i>Health and Safety Executive</i>
<i>COI</i>	<i>Central Office of Information</i>	<i>IDS</i>	<i>Industry Department for Scotland</i>
<i>DEM</i>	<i>Department of Employment</i>	<i>MAFF</i>	<i>Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food</i>
<i>DEN</i>	<i>Department of Energy</i>	<i>MOD</i>	<i>Ministry of Defence</i>
<i>DES</i>	<i>Department of Education and Science</i>	<i>MSC</i>	<i>Manpower Services Commission</i>
<i>DHSS</i>	<i>Department of Health and Social Security</i>	<i>NGOV</i>	<i>Non Government</i>
<i>DOE</i>	<i>Department of the Environment</i>	<i>OFT</i>	<i>Office of Fair Trading</i>
<i>DTI</i>	<i>Department of Trade and Industry</i>	<i>OPCS</i>	<i>Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys</i>
<i>DTP</i>	<i>Department of Transport</i>	<i>SDA</i>	<i>Scottish Development Agency</i>
<i>EEO</i>	<i>Energy Efficiency Office</i>	<i>TRRL</i>	<i>Transport and Road Research Laboratory</i>
<i>HOME</i>	<i>Home Office</i>	<i>WO</i>	<i>Welsh Office</i>

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

Population Trends

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

A review of 1984

This gives an overview of the latest information on and changes in the population size, composition and distribution, and on mortality, marriage and divorce, fertility, and migration for England and Wales. Some of the more striking demographic changes are described below:

The largest addition to the population in a single year for a decade – an increase of 110 thousand giving a total of 49.8 million;

A continued drop in the number of British citizens emigrating; 103 thousand compared with 187 thousand in 1982 and 122 thousand in 1983;

Metropolitan area continued to lose population to the rest of the country;

The lowest crude death rate since 1967: 11.4 deaths per thousand population;

The perinatal mortality rate continued its long-term decline to reach a new low of 10.1 per thousand births;

The infant mortality rate at 9.5 deaths per thousand live births is now 40 per cent less than it was ten years ago;

Deaths of drivers in motor vehicle accidents continued to fall (by 3 per cent) but deaths to passengers increased by 5 per cent;

The number of divorced people in the population rose by 7 per cent reaching a total of 1.8 million;

The median ages at marriage for bachelors and spinsters – at 24.7 and 22.6 respectively – were the highest for 40 years;

The number of births occurring outside marriage increased by 11 per cent and accounted for 17 per cent of all births;

The teenage fertility rate increased by nearly 3 per cent, reversing the trend since 1971;

The number of legal abortions to residents of England and Wales increased by 7 per cent, while those to non-residents fell by 3 per cent.

Projection of mortality rates for the elderly

Michael Alderson and Fred Ashwood of OPCS Medical Statistics Division consider past and future mortality

rates for three of the main causes of death affecting persons aged 60-84 in England and Wales. In projecting mortality trends for particular causes of death it is desirable to consider past trends and the factors that have influenced them as well as the assumptions of the effect that future changes in the way of life and health-care will have on mortality. This is an alternative approach to the direct projection of past trends for all-cause mortality, or the adjustments of such projections after consideration of mortality rates existing in other countries.

Ward population trends, 1971 to 1981

Wards are relatively small areas for which inter-censal population changes are readily available; they give a detailed country-wide insight into patterns and trends. This article by John Craig of OPCS Population Statistics Division, shows that although the total population of England and Wales changed only slightly in the decade 1971-81 there were appreciable shifts at the ward level and that analysing these, adds considerably to our knowledge at local authority level.

Area mortality comparisons and institutional deaths

Deaths among residents of long-stay institutions in an area contribute disproportionately to mortality levels of that area. Until 1982 an adjustment was made for this factor in order to achieve comparability of areas for mortality data. This article by Lak Bulusu of OPCS Medical Statistics Division, examines the effectiveness of the method of adjustment for institutions in use up to 1982 against a more suitable method using 1981 Census-based populations and deaths registered in 1981. It shows that the old method was inappropriate and that a simple standardised mortality ratio, which adjusts for age and sex only, is adequate for most areas.

Reference

Population Trends 42 Winter 1985 (HMSO 1985) (Price £5 net)

Mortality statistics

Causes of death and death rates in 1984 analysed by sex and age-group in England and Wales were published in December. The total number of deaths in England and Wales was 566,881, a decrease of 2.2 per cent from the 1983 total of 579,608.

Nearly one half of all deaths in 1984 were from diseases of the circulatory system, 278,849 (49.2 per cent). Of these ischaemic heart disease accounted for 157,506 (27.8 per cent) followed by cerebrovascular

disease 71,470 (12.6 per cent). Neoplasms accounted for a further 140,101 (24.7 per cent) of which 35,739 deaths were caused by malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus and lung. The third largest group of causes of death was diseases of the respiratory system accounting for 56,828 (10.0 per cent) of which deaths from pneumonia and influenza, 25,033 were main constituents.

Major changes in coding practice took place from the beginning of 1984. The death certificate now in use was introduced in 1927 and since that date the underlying cause has been predominantly allocated according to the certifier's preference. However, in certain circumstances rules are applied to select a cause other than that indicated by the layout of the certificate. These rules have been brought up to date on four occasions by the World Health Organisation (WHO). They provide for coding of entries in Part II of the certificate in certain circumstances. The guidance notes for OPCS coders were revised for deaths registered on or after 1 January 1984, clarifying the occasions when the underlying cause is selected from Part II of the certificate. The application of the WHO rule has led to some changes in the pattern of causes coded and tabulated. The 1984 deaths were dual coded for cause of death and this volume contains a tabulation showing the numbers of deaths that would have been allocated to specific causes in 1983 for the deaths in 1984.

The review of the Registrar General on deaths by usual area of residence in England and Wales was also published in December. The volume includes death rates by sex and age-group and standardised mortality ratios by cause for England, Wales, standard regions, Greater London, metropolitan and non-metropolitan counties and regional health authorities. The table on deaths by cause, sex and age-group is presented on thirteen microfiche and gives detailed statistics for each local authority and for each health area.

Standardised mortality ratios (SMRs) show the number of deaths registered in each area as a percentage of those which could have been expected in that area if its population had experienced the sex/age mortality rates for England and Wales as a whole. SMRs allow comparisons to be made between areas.

Also published in December was the fifth report by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys on the statistics produced from stillbirth records and from the linkage of infant death records to the corresponding birth records. The volume looks at infant and perinatal deaths which occurred in 1982.

Only a limited amount of information about the parents of the deceased infant is available from death registration but information from birth registration, some of which is confidential, includes age of parents, number of legitimate children, social class of parent

(legitimate births only), country of birth of parents, institution of birth and whether the baby was a singleton or not. Since 1975 infant death records have been linked to the corresponding birth records to obtain these social and biological statistics. This report presents statistics on these aspects together with cause of death and region of residence.

Deaths of infants have been separated into five groups, which are not mutually exclusive: stillbirths, perinatal deaths (stillbirths and deaths occurring in the first week of life), neonatal deaths (occurring in the first 28 days of life), postneonatal deaths (occurring at ages over 28 days and under one year) and infant deaths (occurring in the first year of life).

References

- Mortality statistics: cause 1984* DH2 no. 11 (HMSO 1985) (Price £8.60 net)
Mortality statistics: area 1984 (microfiche) DH5 no. 11 (HMSO 1985) (Price £6.50, exclusive of VAT)
Mortality statistics: perinatal and infant (social and biological factors) 1982 DH3 no. 13 (HMSO 1985) (Price £5.80 net)

International migration 1984

Detailed figures on international migration during 1984 for the United Kingdom and for England and Wales were published in December. The volume includes information for the period 1975 to 1984, detailed data for 1984, and Home Office statistics for the period 1981 to 1984.

Reference

- International migration 1984* MN no. 11 (HMSO 1985) (Price £5.20 net)

Index of place names

OPCS have recently produced, in two volumes, the 1981 Census index of place names for England and Wales. This volume is the thirteenth in the series and is based on 1981 Census records updated to take account of changes to statutory boundaries and/or names up to, and including, 1st January 1985. An index of place names was first produced in the series of census publications in 1831 and most recently in 1977 as a separate volume in the series of 1971 Census publications.

The volume includes some 62,000 entries, including the names of some 30,000 villages, hamlets and localities without legally defined boundaries. Also included are entries relating to some 2,200 Urban Areas. These areas were defined for the first time after the 1981 Census and represent the 'bricks and mortar' definition of a built up area. Urban agglomerations have been divided into smaller, more recognisable areas termed sub-divisions.

Each entry in the index contains the place name; description; name of county and county district (where applicable); registration district and sub-district number (where applicable); 1 km national grid reference and

the population enumerated in the area. But no census population count is shown for a locality, hamlet or village as without a legally defined boundary it is difficult, if not impossible, to produce one.

Reference

Census 1981, Index of place names, England and Wales. Vol. 1 A-L and Vol. 2 M-Z. (HMSO 1985) (Price £35 per set)

SOCIAL STATISTICS

General Household Survey 1983

The report of the General Household Survey (GHS) for 1983 was published in December. The GHS is an inter-departmental survey sponsored by the Central Statistical Office and carried out by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys. It is a continuous survey based on a sample of the general population resident in private (non-institutional) households in Great Britain and has been running since 1971.

The 1983 report is divided into ten chapters: an introduction describing the scope and development of the survey; methodology; population; marriage and fertility; contraception; sterilisation and fertility; housing; employment; education; health; leisure.

An OPCS Monitor, reference GHS 85/1, giving preliminary results from the 1984 GHS was issued on 30 July 1985, and a Monitor presenting some information collected in the General Household Survey about cigarette smoking from 1972 to 1984 was published on 17 September 1985.

References

General Household Survey 1983 GHS no. 13 (HMSO 1985) (Price £13.70 net)
General Household Survey: preliminary results for 1984. OPCS Monitor GHS 85/1 (OPCS 1985) and *General Household Survey: cigarette smoking, 1972-1984*. OPCS Monitor GHS 85/2 (OPCS 1985) (both available free from OPCS Information Branch, see page 72.30 for address)

The effects of taxes and benefits on household income 1984

The latest analysis of the redistributive effects of government revenue raising and expenditure was published in the December 1985 issue of *Economic Trends*. Based mainly on data from the Family Expenditure Survey 1984, the analysis shows how the spread of household incomes is reduced by government intervention through the tax-benefit system. This article is a shortened version of that which is usually published in *Economic Trends* at this time of year and a fuller analysis is planned for publication in Summer 1986. However, for regular users of the data all the usual detailed tables are contained in Appendix 2 of the article.

Further information can be obtained from:

Jenny Church
Branch 8
Central Statistical Office
Great George Street
London SW1P 3AQ
Telephone: 01-233 8078/8300

Reference

Economic Trends No. 386 December 1985 (HMSO) (Price £9.95 net)

Women and drinking

The results of a survey undertaken by the Social Survey Division of OPCS on behalf of DHSS were published in December in a report by Elizabeth Breeze.

The survey studied a sample of women to establish their patterns of drinking behaviour and their beliefs about alcohol. The specific aims of the survey were to see which combinations of characteristics are most closely associated with heavier drinking and discriminate between drinkers of different consumption levels; to see how drinking practices differ according to quantity of alcohol consumed in a week; to obtain a picture of consumption practices under circumstances where women might be particularly vulnerable to problems and to learn what women see as the dangers of drinking.

The report includes chapters on the demographic characteristics of the sample; characteristics of women by their consumption level; drinking patterns by consumption level; choice of beverage and venue; personal circumstances and feelings by consumption level; experience during the last three months of long-term and short-term problems associated with alcohol; drinking more than usual; relative strengths of beverages; drinking alone; drinking and pregnancy; opinions on drinking patterns and dependence; ideas on problems arising from drinking too much and circumstances in which women should abstain or in which alcohol is good.

Reference

Women and drinking by Elizabeth Breeze (SS1185) (HMSO 1985) (Price £14.10 net)

Ethnic origin and economic status

An article in *Employment Gazette* December 1985 by Ann Barber, Employment Market Research Unit used survey data from the 1984 Labour Force Survey to examine the economic position of different ethnic groups in Britain in the eighties. The article identifies similarities and differences between them, and makes comparisons with the white population.

Reference

Employment Gazette, December 1985 (HMSO) (Price £2.95 net)

Pension scheme membership in 1983

In 1983 the General Household Survey asked special questions about occupational pension scheme membership. The Government Actuary's Department has produced an article in December 1985 *Employment Gazette* from data supplied in response to a questionnaire sent to the employers of GHS respondents who had agreed to this and from the GHS data itself. Data from the Labour Force Survey was also used.

Reference

Employment Gazette, December 1985 (HMSO) (Price £2.95 net)

Prison statistics

Prisons in Scotland Report for 1984 was published in December 1985. It reviews the main events and developments in the Scottish Prison Service in 1984 and the relevant statistics are detailed in the various Chapters and Appendices.

More detailed statistics relating to the penal population, etc can be found in Statistical Bulletin 5/1985 now available. The bulletin has comment and tables covering: average daily population in custody; receptions – general, on remand, adult direct sentence, under 21 direct sentence; defaulters.

References

Prisons in Scotland Report for 1984 Cmnd. 9670 (HMSO 1985) (Price £4.50 net)
Statistical Bulletin 5/1985 *Prison statistics Scotland 1984* price 75p available from Scottish Office Library, Official Publication Sales, Room 2/65, New St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3TG Telephone: 031-556 8400 Ext. 5901

Family planning in Scotland

The results of a survey carried out by the Social Survey Division of OPCS on behalf of the Scottish Home and Health Department were published in November in a report by Margaret Bone.

The objectives of the survey were to delineate women's current needs and uses of family planning services in Scotland, and to indicate the ways in which they have been changing.

Introductory chapters explain the purpose, background, design and method of the study. Further chapters present the survey's findings; potential demand for contraception and the family planning services; the contraceptive methods used; use, views and knowledge of the family planning services; recent trends in contraceptive use; sterilisation; planned and unplanned births; pre-marital experience; attitudes towards abortion, decisions about sterilisation and professional advice; summary and conclusions.

Reference

Family planning in Scotland in 1982, by Margaret Bone (SS1177) (HMSO 1985) (Price £10.50 net)

Homelessness in Scotland

Statistical Bulletin (HSIU No. 17) issued by the Scottish Development Department in September 1985 gives statistical information on the operation of the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977 over the period between 1 April 1979 and 31 March 1984.

Comment and tables cover statutory action under the Act; classification of, and action taken for, applicant households; applicants in priority need; reason for loss of last known accommodation; type of short stay accommodation secured; processing time; and district summary.

This Bulletin, price 50p can be obtained from:

Scottish Office Library

Publication Sales

Room 2/65

New St Andrews House

Edinburgh EH1 3TG

Telephone: 031-556 8400 Ext. 5901

Housing trends in Scotland

Bulletin HSIU No. 18 summarises quarterly housing trends in Scotland, as reported to the Scottish Development Department by the various housing authorities, for the second quarter of 1985. Topics covered include new house building, dwellings demolished or closed, improvements of existing houses, public sector house sales and sales by housing associations.

Statistical Bulletins, price 50p, can be obtained from the address given above.

HEALTH

Cancer statistics: registrations

The latest OPCS report on cancer registration statistics, which describes cancer cases first diagnosed in 1982 (particulars of which had been registered by 30 June 1985), was published in December.

The volume contains tables of registration numbers, rates and ratios by site of cancer, sex and age for England and Wales and for regional health authority of residence, and gives registration ratios by sex and site for metropolitan counties, and urban and rural aggregates.

Reference

Cancer statistics: registrations 1982 MB1 no. 14 (HMSO 1985) (Price £8 net)

Health and personal social services for England 1985

This is the twelfth in a series of publications designed to present the salient statistics for health and related personal social services. The tables usually show figures for the latest year available and the previous ten and twenty year points (or the earliest year available). For

more recent comparisons figures are given for each of the last five years and occasionally more detailed analyses for a recent year are included. In general, England figures have been given although where it has been impractical to give England figures for a sufficient number of years figures for England and Wales have been retained for earlier years in some tables in order to illustrate the trend.

There are 13 chapters—population and vital statistics, finance, manpower, NHS hospital administrative statistics, family practitioner committee services, community health services, personal social services, maternity and child health and social services, psychiatric services, preventative medicine, morbidity, abortions notified under the abortion act 1967 and miscellaneous health statistics. There are also three appendices giving general notes, list of publications and regional health authority areas.

Reference

Health and Personal Social Services Statistics for England, 1985 edition (HMSO 1985) (Price £7.75 net) ISBN 0 11 321029 9

Mental Health Statistics: England

The two annual publications on mental health statistics, *In-patient statistics from the mental health enquiry for England* and *The facilities and services of mental illness and mental handicap hospitals in England*, formerly published by HMSO, have been discontinued. Statistical bulletins, each covering a specific topic in the mental health field will largely supersede these publications, but reference tables giving more detailed information will in future be published by the Department of Health and Social Security as a set of booklets, under the general title 'Mental Health Statistics for England'. The following booklets, representing the first set in the series and giving 1983 statistics, were published in November 1985:

Booklet No.	Title	Price
1	Mental Illness hospitals and units in England: Trends in admissions, discharges and residents	£1.10
2	Mental Handicap hospitals and units in England: Trends in admissions, discharges and residents	£0.90
3	Mental Illness hospitals and units in England: Resident patients	£0.80
4	Mental Handicap hospitals and units in England: Resident patients	£0.80
5	Mental Illness hospitals and units in England: Duration of stay of patients	£1.00

6	Mental Handicap hospitals and units in England: Duration of stay of patients	£0.70
7	Mental Illness hospitals and units in England: Regional data	£0.70
8	Mental Handicap hospitals and units in England: Regional data	£0.40
9	Mental Illness hospitals and units in England: Facilities and services	£0.80
10	Mental handicap hospitals and units in England: Facilities and services	£0.80
11	Mental Illness and Mental Handicap hospitals and units: Legal status	£0.80
12	Mental Illness hospitals and units: Diagnostic data	£1.20

For availability see page 72.31.

EDUCATION AND THE ARTS

International Statistical Comparisons in Education

International comparisons in education always present difficulty, because of organisational and definitional differences between countries. The differences between the education systems of the countries being compared need to be understood. To aid such comparisons, the Department of Education and Science has produced a booklet containing summary descriptions of the education systems in France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Japan and the United States of America. The summary descriptions are based on material from a variety of sources and have been approved by experts from the countries concerned.

Each summary description contains a general outline of the education system and covers pre-primary education, compulsory education, post compulsory education, transition from school to work, higher education, teacher training, adult education, administration and finance. Illustrative charts are also included.

The booklet is available, free, from the following address:

Department of Education and Science
 Statistics Branch
 Room 1/28
 Elizabeth House
 York Road
 London SE1 7PH
 Telephone: 01-934 9038

Other enquiries concerning the booklet should be directed to: 01-934 9108/9110

International statistical comparisons of the education and training of 16 to 18 year olds

The Department of Education and Science (DES) has recently published a free Statistical Bulletin No. 10/85 – *International Statistical Comparisons of the Education and Training of 16 to 18 year olds*. This bulletin outlines with suitable caveats what DES considers can reliably be said about comparisons of participation in education and training in the United Kingdom, France, the United States, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany. The Bulletin is available from the address above.

Education statistics: Scotland

Revised higher education projections for Scotland

This bulletin gives revised projections of the numbers of young Scottish entrants to full-time higher education to the end of the century. The projections are based on a number of assumptions about staying-on rates at school and participation in higher education. Two projections – a high and low variant – are employed to show how alternative sets of assumptions produce different results.

The assisted places scheme

This bulletin gives information on the number of children participating in the assisted places scheme during the session 1981/82 to 1984/85, the amounts of fee remission and other assistance obtained and the total cost of the scheme.

First destination of University first degree graduates

A statistical bulletin, published with the agreement of the Department of Education and Science and the University Grants Committee, which records first destination of first degree graduates from Scottish universities in the years 1978, 1983 and 1984. The bulletin concentrates on Scottish domiciled graduates from Scottish universities, particularly those remaining in Scotland. Information given includes the numbers who, between their graduation and the following December, were known to have gained permanent employment, undertaken further academic study or research or are believed unemployed.

Autumn enrolments of students in vocational further education

Information on the enrolment of students to vocational further education (excluding students on courses of pre-service teacher training) in Autumn 1984 is contained in this statistical bulletin which provides a comparison with figures for the years 1980 to 1983.

See page 72.31 for details of Statistical Bulletins.

Visiting the National Maritime Museum

The results of a survey carried out by the Social Survey Division of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys on behalf of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, were published in December in a report by Malcolm Smyth and Barbara Ayton.

The main purpose of the survey of visitors to the Museum was to provide information that would be of use to staff responsible for the design and organisation of the Museum. The data was collected by means of interviews with members of the public who visited the Museum between 13 August and 22 September 1984.

The report includes chapters on the Museum's public; the background to visits to the Museum; visitors' reactions to the Museum and services and travel.

Reference

Visiting the National Maritime Museum by Malcolm Smyth and Barbara Ayton (SS1226) (HMSO 1985) (Price £7.60 net)

MANPOWER AND EARNINGS

Sources and definitions of employment statistics

A report documenting the main government sources of statistics on employment in Great Britain, and outlining the definitions used in each, has been produced by the Department of Employment's Statistics Division.

An introduction outlines the different types of data sources – household surveys, surveys of employers, and administrative sources – and briefly summarises the main areas where differences in coverage and definition can arise between sources. Part A describes each of the twenty-nine sources covered, outlining the methodology, definitions and availability of data. In Part B the main aspects of definition and coverage are considered in turn and in more detail so that sources can be easily compared.

Copies of the report can be obtained at a cost of £5 net (to non-exchequer bodies) on request from: Statistics C3, Department of Employment, Level 3, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NF.

Employment in the public and private sectors 1979-85

December *Economic Trends* contains 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 from 1980 to 1985. Changes in the employed labour force between 1979/85 and 1984/85 are analysed in the article, and detailed figures of employment in the main categories of the public sector, including estimates of the effects of the various privatisation measures since 1979, are shown.

Reference

'Employment in the public and private sectors 1979 to 1985' by I G Richardson, *Economic Trends* No. 386, December 1985 (HMSO) (Price £9.95 net)

Temporary work

The November 1985 edition of the Manpower Services Commission's Labour Market Quarterly Report contains a special feature on temporary employment, using information from the 1984 Labour Force Survey, and a recent survey conducted by the Institute of Manpower Studies.

The feature examines the statistical evidence from the view that employers may be making increased use of temporary and fixed term contract employment as part of a trend towards more flexible manning strategies and work organisation. In April 1984, according to the findings of the Labour Force Survey, there were about 1½ million people in Great Britain who were either in temporary, seasonal or casual jobs or on fixed term contracts; together they accounted for 6.5 per cent of total employment. Over half of the temporary jobs are part-time (compared with over one fifth of all jobs), and three quarters of these are taken by women.

The feature provides information on the incidence, occupational and industrial distribution of temporary employment as well as reasons for workers taking temporary jobs which are given in the following tables:

- a Incidence of temporary working by sex, Great Britain, 1983 and 1984
- b Temporary working as a proportion of total employment by occupation, Great Britain, 1984
- c Industrial distribution of temporary workers, Great Britain, 1984
- d Reasons for taking a temporary job, Great Britain, 1984.

The feature also looks at the reasons, apart from more flexible manning strategies, why temporary employment is increasing, including the structural shift towards industries and occupations where temporary working is more prevalent.

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

Enquiries about the Report, which is free, should be sent to:

Alan Robinson
Labour Market Economics and Statistics Branch
Training Division
Manpower Services Commission
Head Office
Moorfoot
Sheffield S1 4PQ
Telephone: 0742 704194 (GTN 2023 4194)

Long duration vacancies

The number of vacancies notified to Jobcentres in 1984/85 totalled some 2.4 million. Approximately one in ten of these remain unfilled for more than two

months, although this proportion varies between different occupational groups and regions. An article in *Employment Gazette*, October 1985 reports on the results of a survey of these long duration vacancies, undertaken in March of this year, indicating both the areas in which they are most prevalent and the reasons why they have remained unfilled even during a period of high unemployment.

Reference

Employment Gazette, October 1985 (HMSO) (Price £2.95 net)

Graduate wastage – a changing picture?

Relatively little is known about levels and patterns of graduate losses in industry and commerce but many employers suffer serious losses among their graduate recruits. An article in *Employment Gazette*, December 1985, by Dr David Parsons of the Institute of Manpower Studies attempts to throw some light on the situation by looking at some recent trends.

Reference

Employment Gazette, December 1985 (HMSO) (Price £2.95 net)

Unemployment comparisons

Employment Gazette, October 1985, contains an article discussing different definitions of unemployment concentrating on comparisons of the number of unemployed obtained from the monthly count of benefit claimants with an estimate of the unemployed obtained from the 1984 Labour Force Survey.

Reference

Employment Gazette, October 1985 (HMSO) (Price £2.95 net)

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

National Food Survey

Results for the third quarter of 1985 have now been published. These, together with detailed monthly, quarterly and other unpublished data are available on a subscription basis. For details contact:

National Food Survey Branch
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Room 419
Whitehall Place (West Block)
London SW1A 2HH
Telephone: 01-233 5088

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food published a 'Food Facts' Notice on 10 September 1985 giving estimates of the United Kingdom's self sufficiency in food. The data are at both current and constant (1980) prices for each year from 1974 to 1984. They show that in 1984 food produced in the United Kingdom represented an estimated 62 per cent of all

food consumed, compared with 46 per cent ten years ago. For food that can be produced in this country the proportion has increased from 58 per cent to 81 per cent. Any enquiries may be made on telephone: 01-233 8156.

Fish landings in the United Kingdom 1984

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's annual publication *Sea Fisheries Statistical Tables* (SFST) for 1984 will be available from Her Majesty's Stationery Office. It contains detailed information on landings of the main fish species, broken down by major ports and area of capture, as well as the number of vessels, by size, in the United Kingdom fishing fleet. A section is also included on the United Kingdom's international trade in fish and fish products.

The following summary, highlights some of the main results of the United Kingdom fishing industry's effort in 1984 compared with 1983:

The total *value* of fish landed by United Kingdom vessels in 1984 in the United Kingdom was £298m, an increase of 66 per cent on 1983 landings (£280m). Within this total, demersal landings increased by 5 per cent to £212m, pelagic landings by 7 per cent to £29m and shellfish landings by 12 per cent to £57m. The value of landings in Scotland (£194m) increased by 14 per cent whilst those in England and Wales (£96m) and Northern Ireland (£8m) both showed falls, although in general there were increases in average prices paid at the quayside.

This overall increase in the value of landings came about despite a decline of 2 per cent in the total quantity landed—from 748,000 tonnes in 1983 to 734,000 tonnes in 1984. Pelagic landings (266,000 tonnes) increased by 7 per cent but demersal landings (395,000 tonnes) fell by 8 per cent. Shellfish landings (73,000 tonnes) remained about the same. The volume of landings of all fish by United Kingdom vessels in Scotland (543,000 tonnes) showed an increase of 9 per cent but landings in England and Wales fell by 58,000 tonnes (25 per cent) and Northern Ireland landings remained at 19,000 tonnes.

Landings by foreign vessels in the United Kingdom were 58,000 tonnes compared with 76,000 tonnes in 1983 which was mainly attributable to the drop in mackerel landings by 13,000 tonnes (50 per cent).

For further information either refer to the SFST or contact the Fisheries Statistics Unit: 01-216 6663.

Reference

Sea Fisheries Statistical Tables 1984 (HMSO) (price forthcoming)

Provisional results of the Scottish June agricultural census for 1985

The provisional results of the June 1985 Scottish Agricultural Census were published as a Scottish Office

Press Notice on 2 August 1985. (Press Notice No. 998/85.)

For further details please contact:

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for
Scotland

Economics and Statistics Unit

Chesser House, 500 Georgie Road

Edinburgh EH11 3AW

Telephone: 031-443 4020

INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS

Annual census of production 1983

An article in *British business*, 6 December 1985, presents a summary of the final results of the 1983 census of production based on the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Revised 1980.

There are two tables, the first includes separate estimates for each (two-digit) class of the classification, and the second shows regional results for eight industrial sectors defined in terms of these classes. More detailed information is available in the form of 111 separate industry reports, each of which in general covers one (three-digit) group of the new classification. In addition the census summary volume (PA 1002) includes a table showing a limited range of information for each (four-digit) activity heading. All separate business monitors have been published and the summary volume is expected to be published early in 1986.

Information on the PA series of Business Monitors and on the censuses generally can be obtained from the Business Statistics Office, Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent, NPT 1XG, Telephone: 0633-56111, Ext. 2455.

Reference

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

Business Monitors

The following Business Monitors have recently been published by HMSO for the Business Statistics Office, Department of Trade and Industry:

PA 1007 1984 Minerals, price £6.80 net

PA 500 1983 Construction Industry. Report on the Census of Production, price £6.00 net

Business analysis by turnover size in 1985

An article in *British business*, 22 November 1985, gives an analysis by turnover size in 1985 produced from the Business Statistics Office's VAT-based register which provides information for the greater part of the economy about the size structure of industry consistently in terms of one economically meaningful unit—the legal unit (which equates to the individual company in the corporate sector and to the sole partnership for unincorporated businesses). The counts of businesses

are at mid-1985 but the turnover bands relate generally to 1983.

A more detailed size analysis of UK businesses is due to appear in spring 1986 in an enlarged Business Monitor *PA 1003*. This will include tables showing far greater industry detail and breakdown by form of organisation (company/partnership/sole proprietorship etc). Further details may be obtained from the Business Statistics Office (0633 56111 ext 2991).

Reference

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

Aerospace and electronics indices 1968 to 1984

The annual averages for the aerospace and radio, radar and electronic capital goods industries are given in a table in *British business*, 13 December 1985. An explanation of the method of compilation of the indices was given in *British business*, 2 December 1983.

The 1975 = 100 cost indices are being continued until the middle of 1988 at the request of the aerospace and electronics industries to allow long-running contracts incorporating the existing indices to be concluded.

A simplified set of cost indices with 1980 = 100 is prepared on a monthly basis and is available as a Business Monitor (MM19) on subscription, price £15.75 per annum, from HMSO.

Reference

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

Stock of consumer durables in the United Kingdom

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

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

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

The latest extension of the exercise, to end-1984, has now been completed. A short paper summarising the results is available, updating the text affected by

changes in methodology and some of the tables given in the *Economic Trends* article, of which offprints are also available. A small charge, of £1.50 each including postage is made for these items.

Enquiries to:

Publications Unit
Room 72/3
Central Statistical Office
Great George Street
London
SW1P 3AQ
Telephone: 01-233 7497

References

Economic Trends No. 293, March 1978 (HMSO)

Studies in Official Statistics Number 35; *Personal sector balance sheets and current developments in Inland Revenue estimates of personal wealth 1978* (HMSO)

DISTRIBUTION AND OTHER SERVICES

Statistics of the service industries: recent developments

The Business Statistics Office (BSO) currently conducts a benchmark inquiry every two years addressed to business services and certain personal and miscellaneous services. The latest inquiry was conducted in respect of 1983, with results published in *British business* on 16 August 1985.

Ministers have recently approved proposals to extend and strengthen the service trades inquiry to give more comprehensive coverage of this increasingly important area. This will fill a significant gap in existing statistics and enable the Department of Trade and Industry to carry out its role in relation to the service industries in a more informed way. It will also enable the Central Statistical Office to improve the measurement of the contribution of service industries to the economy for the national accounts.

Preparations are now in hand to implement the proposals with the inquiry in respect of 1985. There are three main elements of the scheme:

- i Business services. The inquiry will be strengthened so that reliable annual estimates can be compiled at the individual VAT trade code level, for example, computer services and advertising agents. Previously the inquiry has only covered firms engaged in business services biennially with a thin sample, so that reliable estimates could be produced only at the aggregate level.
- ii Professional and scientific services. The inquiry is being extended to cover for the first time most professional and scientific services other than legal, health and educational services. For example, it will cover accounting services and

consultant engineers. This will enable reliable annual estimates of activity in the individual trades to be produced.

iii Personal and miscellaneous services. The inquiry will continue on a biennial basis in this area, with the coverage essentially unchanged other than the re-instatement of five VAT trade codes dropped from the 1983 inquiry, including hairdressers and funeral directors. The sample sizes in this area will however remain at a level which can only support the compilation of reliable estimates only for certain groupings of trades.

In total the revised scheme involves mailing an additional 11,000 or so forms a year on average.

The inquiry will continue to collect information regularly on total turnover and capital expenditure, with larger firms being asked to provide a broad asset breakdown of their acquisitions and disposals of capital goods. Some other topics will be included periodically. For example, information on total current purchases of goods and services will be included in the 1985 inquiry; stocks and employment data might also be sought from time to time. The inquiry will also provide a means of collecting more detailed information on a particular trade, if required. The 1985 inquiry will ask for a broad breakdown of turnover from the computer services industry and information on the overseas earnings of accountants. The results of the 1985 inquiry will be published in mid-1987.

As previously the inquiry will be run on a sample basis from the BSO register of businesses which is based on information derived from the administration of VAT. All large businesses and a progressively reducing fraction of smaller ones will be selected. There will be a turnover cut-off below which no independent business will be approached. For the 1985 inquiry this cut-off will be £30,000. The small businesses which are approached will receive a simpler form and steps will be taken to ensure that the smallest businesses are not selected in successive years.

Fifty-five professional associations and representative bodies were consulted about the extension to the inquiry. Approximately half of these responded and in general the extension was seen as a useful source of statistics, although naturally there was concern about the increase in form-filling burden on their members. Comments made by the associations on the questions and the accompanying notes have enabled the design of the inquiry forms to be improved.

It is possible that the inquiry will be extended further in the 1986 or subsequent inquiries. Consideration is currently being given to the need for improved statistics on the services trades and professions not included in the 1985 inquiry.

Tourism statistics

Responsibility for tourism statistics was transferred from the Department of Trade and Industry to the Department of Employment (DE) following the reallocation of government functions announced at the beginning of September 1985.

A number of extensions are being made to existing surveys as part of a programme to improve the availability of statistics relating to tourism on which work had begun before the transfer of responsibility in September.

The 1985 survey of the turnover and capital expenditure of businesses in the catering and allied trades will also cover details of accommodation provided. This will fill a gap in the existing information on tourist facilities by covering business where accommodation may be a relatively minor part of the total business, although such accommodation may be significant in particular areas.

The 1986 International Passenger Survey will collect additional information on the main components of the expenditure of a sub-sample of visitors to the United Kingdom covered in the survey. The survey always collects information on the total expenditure of visitors to the United Kingdom, but in 1986 (for the first time since 1979) a one in ten sample of visitors will be asked to allocate their expenditure between accommodation, meals out, clothing and footwear, food and other groceries (for self-caterers), other goods, travel, entertainment and services. Such information will help in measuring the effect of visitors' expenditure both directly and indirectly on employment in the United Kingdom.

Work is also taking place within DE to estimate the employment in some activities related to tourism which are not identified at the 4-digit activity heading of the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification. Using information from the Census of Employment for 1981 and 1984, the following categories are being examined: travel agents (7700.1), bureaux de change (part of 8310), self-drive car hire (8480.1), tourist offices (9690.1), theatres, concert halls, etc (9741.2) and stately homes (part of 9770). Other surveys such as the Family Expenditure Survey are being examined to ensure that information relevant to tourism is available in as comprehensive and convenient a form as possible.

Details on overseas travel and tourism and on employment in tourism-related industries are now appearing regularly in *Employment Gazette*, although the former will also still appear in *British business*.

Further details are available from:

Mrs C M Lakin
Statistics A
Department of Employment
Room 450

Sanctuary Buildings,
16-20 Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3DB

Department of Transport
Room A204
Romney House
43 Marsham Street
London, SW1 3PY
Telephone: 01-212 3893

TRANSPORT

Review of the Quarterly Survey of Freight Market Conditions (QSMC)

The QSMC is a Department of Transport inquiry conducted by the Directorate of Statistics on behalf of the Directorate General for Transport of the European Commission. The survey is addressed to road haulage firms to obtain their views on the state of trade in the international market. It is a voluntary survey covering members of the Road Haulage Association's international group. The response rate varies between 50 and 55 per cent.

The review was carried out in accordance with formal Survey Control procedures for examining inquiries to businesses and local authorities at five-yearly intervals. It describes the uses of the survey by the Department and other organisations, its costs, the burden on respondents, and alternative ways of meeting the European Commission's requirements. Ways of simplifying the survey were considered with a view to improving response. The main conclusion was that the survey should be continued as long as the European Commission has a real need for it. However, the Department should continue to examine alternative ways of meeting the Commission's requirements, consulting the Road Haulage Association and the Freight Transport Association when appropriate.

Many transport authorities of other member states who all conduct similar surveys, consider that they are very useful and that the QSMC represents a positive contribution to a European Community project. A supplementary questionnaire showed that the survey results are of some interest to the industry in Britain. The Government line on the overall project was debated in the House of Commons Standing Committee and has the backing of Parliament.

The Department's cost of running the survey is small (about £5,500 per annum), and is covered fully by the European Commission from the Community Budget. The total cost to industry is under £1,000. The form filling burden is small but might be reduced further.

Details of the review are available in full in Department of Transport Bulletin (85)36—*Quarterly Survey of Freight Market Conditions*, price £2, from Publications Sales Unit, Building 1, Victoria Road, South Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 0NZ.

Any inquiries regarding this report or the review should be directed to:

Road accidents

Road Accidents Great Britain 1984 was published by HMSO in December 1985 for the Department of Transport, Scottish Development Department and the Welsh Office; price £6.90 net. The review topics covered in detail were—road safety publicity; compulsory seat belt wearing; drinking and driving; coach speed survey 1983; cost of accidents; lighting and accidents; and pedestrian, two wheeled motor vehicle, pedal cycle, motorway, and 'hit and miss' accidents.

The main part of the book consists of time series tables and tables relating to 1984. One table 'Population, vehicle population and accidents: 1909 to 1926' is reintroduced after being rested in the 1983 edition and two tables in 1983 are being rested this year 'Pedestrian casualties in single vehicle accidents: by vehicle type, main function type and use of pedestrian crossing' and 'Sex and age of casualties: by road user and severity.'

Statistical Bulletins giving quarterly information on road accidents and casualties are available, enquiries on these to Department of Transport at address on page 72.30.

Statistics Users' Group formed for the Transport industry

The Director-General of the Chartered Institute of Transport, John Cameron, and the Director of Statistics at the Department of Transport, Eric Thompson, were the leading speakers at a seminar in December called to set up a Statistics Users' Group for the transport industry. Thirty invited delegates from all parts of the transport industry—air, rail, road and sea—including academics and representatives of several institutes, associations and operating companies, met to discuss the aims and objectives of the Group and to elect a Steering Committee.

The aims of the Group are to promote the interests of users of statistics by:

- a Identifying problems in the provision of statistics and discussing solutions with the responsible authorities
- b Providing a forum for the exchange of views on collection, provision, use and understanding of transport statistics
- c Encouraging the use of statistics through publicity and education.

The formation of the Group is the direct result of discussions at the 1983 Statistics Users' Conference (see *Statistical News*, 64.10) which was on Transport Statistics, and the launching seminar was jointly organised by the Statistics Users' Council and the Chartered Institute of Transport.

The effect on transport statistics of deregulation and the abolition of the metropolitan counties will be the subject of the first meeting planned by the newly formed Transport Statistics Users' Group.

The Secretary of the Steering Committee is Mrs Sue Garstone, Associated British Ports, 150 Holborn, London EC1N 2LR, Telephone: 01-430 1177, and the Chairman is Mr Stan Maiden, British Airports Authority.

Membership of the Group is open to anyone interested in the use of transport statistics. Apply to the Secretary for details. For further information contact Martyn Wallwork Telephone 01-686 5041 Ext. 400.

Humberside airport passenger survey

A three week survey of passengers departing from Humberside airport was carried out in the early summer of 1985. It was based on similar surveys conducted by the Civil Aviation Authority at all major United Kingdom airports.

The purpose of the survey was to find out about the use of the airport and about the passengers flying from it, their origins, destinations, whether on business or leisure, previous air travel and their views on the quality of service.

The publication presents the main results in maps, graphs, tables, facts and figures and two appendices. A short account of the airport is given with some information on the survey and some pointers on how the information can be used.

Further information can be obtained from the Research Services section, at the address below.

Copies of the report (Price £2 including postage and packing) can be obtained from:

The Planning Department
Humberside County Council
Manor Road
Beverley HU17 7BX

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. 4 – was published in January 1986.

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 pension 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, Room 71C/1, 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.

HOME FINANCE

The Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn Statement
The Chancellor of the Exchequer presented his Autumn Statement to the House of Commons on 12 November 1985. For the first time expenditure plans for three years rather than one year were given and a departmental breakdown of estimated outturn for the current financial year included. Departmental figures were shown both including and excluding the local authority relevant current and nationalised industry external finance elements which were also separately identified.

The Statement included the short-term forecast which the Treasury is required to publish by the Industry Act, proposed changes in National Insurance Contributions from April 1986 and 'ready reckoners' of the direct revenue effects of illustrative changes in major taxes.

Reference

House of Commons Paper 22, *Autumn Statement 1985* (HMSO November 1985) (Price £4.20 net) ISBN 010 202286 0

Inland Revenue Statistics 1985

The 1985 edition of *Inland Revenue Statistics* contains statistics on direct taxation, personal and company incomes, capital gains, wealth and property valuations. There are extensive notes on each subject.

There is a new section showing investment under the Business Expansion Scheme which contains figures not previously published.

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

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

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

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

Reference

Inland Revenue Statistics 1985 (HMSO December 1985) (Price £10.50 net)

Companies' rates of return

British business 18 October 1985 contains the latest annual article on the estimates of rates of return before interest and tax derived from national accounts statistics as published in the CSO Blue Book.

Rates of return calculated from companies' own current cost accounting were included in the latest (sixteenth) issue of Business Monitor *MA3*, which give the results of the Department of Trade and Industry's company accounts analysis. More disaggregated rates of return derived from the accounts of large companies were published in the *Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin* September 1985. The differences between rates of return calculated from company accounts and from national accounts are discussed in an *Economic Trends* article, August 1984.

References

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

United Kingdom National Accounts 1985 Edition, the CSO Blue Book (HMSO) September 1985 (Price £12.95 net)

Business Monitor MA3 Company Finance (HMSO) (Price £8.50 net)

Investment intentions survey, 1986 and 1987

An article in *British business*, 13 December 1985 gives details from the latest survey of investment intentions carried out by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). There are indications that there will be a rise of around one per cent in the volume of investment by the manufacturing, construction and selected service industries in 1986 and a small increase over the 1986 level during 1987.

The results are based on the latest of a series of regular surveys directed to a panel of mainly larger companies in manufacturing and in the construction, distribution and selected service industries. A full description of the surveys is given in *Investment intentions, authorisations and expenditure*, Government Economic Service Occasional Paper, 12 (HMSO 1976) (Price £1.06 net). A shorter account by Miss M. O'Connor, DTI, was published in *Statistical News*, May 1978, 41.15. Inquiries with regard to The Survey can be made to the DTI, Telephone: 0633-842951 or 0633-56111, Ext. 2215.

Reference

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

Financial assets of insurance companies, year ended 1984

An article in *British business*, 13 December 1985, gave figures of the total market value of financial assets held by insurance companies. Long-term funds were £114.5 billion, £20.9 billion was held in respect of business other than long-term and £7.3 billion represented net value of direct investment in other companies. The components added up to a grand total of assets of £142.7 billion. Information on direct investment in other companies and liabilities of insurance companies had not been collected in previous years, a complete balance sheet can now be compiled for insurance companies as at end 1984.

Tables show end-year long-term and general funds for each of the years from 1979 to 1984 and net investments during the years 1980 to 1984.

Full details of transactions and the holdings of assets and liabilities are given in Business Monitor *MQ5* available quarterly on subscription from HMSO.

Further details of the 1984 inquiry can be obtained from:

Department of Trade and Industry
Room 330, Sanctuary Buildings
20 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB
Telephone: 01-215 3162/5843

Reference as above

OVERSEAS FINANCE AND TRADE

Import penetration and export performance for the calendar year 1984

An article in *British business*, 29 November 1985, states that in the calendar year 1984 imported manufactured products are estimated to have accounted for nearly a third of United Kingdom demand. Whilst United Kingdom manufacturing sales for the same period to overseas markets are estimated at over twenty-eight per cent and almost two per cent up on calendar year 1983.

There is a sectoral analysis (text and table) of:

SIC Division 2 products: ores, metals, chemicals, and non-fuel minerals

SIC Division 3 products: metal goods, vehicles and engineering

SIC Division 4 products: other manufacturing industries.

The four ratios shown in the table are also published at activity heading level in Business Monitor *MQ12*. This is a quarterly publication and is available on subscription from HMSO.

Inquiries about, but not requests for the article should be made to:

Department of Trade and Industry
Statistics 1c
Room 1922
Millbank Tower
London SW1P 4QU
Telephone: 01-211 3720

Reference

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

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Annual review of research and development

Recently published is the factual material assembled for the third *Annual Review of Government Funded R&D* carried out during 1985.

The objectives of the annual review of R&D are to bring together the various elements of Government R&D expenditures in order that the overall balance can be examined, overlaps and duplications identified and omissions recognised. The Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development (ACARD) was invited to give its independent advice, and the Review's findings with ACARD's comments are a contribution to Public Expenditure Survey (PES) discussions.

The Review presents outturn expenditure figures for Government Departments' R&D programmes for the years 1981/82-1984/85, and planned expenditure for the years of the 1985 PES, 1985/86-1987/88, analysed by main areas of activity and by the sectors carrying

out the work. Each main programme is classified by the primary purpose for carrying it out (eg advancement of science, supporting policy making, etc) and is accompanied by a brief statement of its objectives. There is a commentary section which explains the background to the Review and gives a commentary on the main trends apparent in each of the principal primary purpose groupings.

Reference

Annual Review of Government Funded R&D 1985 (HMSO) December 1985 (Price £9.50 net) ISBN 0 11 630828 1

INTERNATIONAL

International comparisons of profitability 1955-83

An article in *British business*, 1 November 1985, gives comparisons for 1983 and updates the comparisons for 1955-82 given in the 28 September 1984 issue. It is based mainly on calculations by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) derived from national account statistics in the standardised form in which they are submitted to OECD and the United Nations. In addition to the countries covered in this article, the OECD gives some gross figures for Italy, Luxembourg and New Zealand and net figures for a limited range of years for Australia. Charts show net rates of return to fixed capital for certain countries for non-financial corporations, and for manufacturing industry. Definitions of terms used are given at the end of the article.

Reference

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

ISI section on official statistics

The International Statistical Institute (ISI) has established a new Section named: International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS).

The objectives of the Association shall be to promote the understanding and advancement of official statistics and related subjects, and to foster the development of effective and efficient official statistical services through international contacts among individuals and organizations including users of official statistics as well as research institutes.

IAOS is an international association which is thus open to all those who are interested in official statistics in the broadest sense: the membership is not to be restricted to official statisticians but in particular academic statisticians and others using official statistics are also encouraged to join IAOS.

The ISI Bureau has appointed a Provisional Executive Committee charged with the task of making IAOS

operational. The Committee is composed of:
Chairperson V. Nyitrai (Hungary), M. Beyene (Ethiopia), J. L. Bodin (France), T. N. Güner (Turkey), T. Nakamura (Japan), J. L. Norwood (USA), L. Klaassen (Netherlands), E. Lunenberg (ISI-ex officio).

The annual membership dues for 1986 and 1987 are fixed at 35 Swiss francs. Those enlisted as members and having paid the 1986 dues before June 1, 1986, will be designated as IAOS Founder Members. UNESCO coupons may be used for dues payments.

Further information and application forms may be obtained from the ISI Permanent Office, 428 Prinses Beatrixlaan, PO Box 950, 2270 AZ Voorburg, The Netherlands.

International publications

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

United Nations, Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination of Information Systems (ACCIS)

Directory of UN databases and information systems 1985, price £35.00 net

United Nations, Conference of European Statisticians
Statistical standards and studies, 37 *International comparison of GDP in Europe 1980, results of the European comparison programme*, price £16.50 net

United Nations, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. Statistical Office

1983 energy statistics yearbook, price £45.00 net

1983 international trade statistics yearbook. (In two volumes: Vol. 1, trade by country. Vol. 2, trade by commodity, commodity matrix tables), price £80.00 net

Population studies, 87, *studies to enhance the evaluation of family planning programmes*, price £25.00 net

Statistical yearbook 1982, 33rd issue, price £70.00 net

Studies in methods: series F, 36, *Consolidated statistics of all international arrivals and departures: a technical report*, price £6.00 net

United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Statistical yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 1983, price £54.00 net

United Nations, Economic and Social Council

Official records, 1985: supplements, 6, (*Statistical Commission*) *Report on the 23rd session (25 February to 6 March 1985)*, price £7.00 net

United Nations, Economic Commission for Europe

Annual bulletin of housing and building statistics for Europe, Vol. 28, 1984, price £12.50 net

Annual bulletin of steel statistics for Europe, Vol. 12 1984, price £11.00 net

Annual review of the chemical industry 1983, price £30.00 net

United Nations, Industrial Development Organisation

Input-output tables for developing countries, price £30.00 net

Council of Europe

Comparative tables of the social security systems in the Council of Europe member states not belonging to the European Communities, price £4.70 net

Population studies 15, *The background of recent fertility trends in the member states of the Council of Europe*, price £2.50 net

European Communities Commission

Regional statistics: the Community's financial participation in investments 1983, price £3.30 net

European Conference of Ministers of Transport

Statistical report on road accidents in 1983, price £5.00 net

Transport statistical series: *Trends in investment, infrastructure, rolling stock and traffic 1982*, Vol. 2, price £9.00 net

Eurostat

Analytical tables of foreign trade: NIMEXE 1984, complete series, import and export, price £227 net, 26 single volumes, price £12.50 net each

Annual investment in fixed assets in the industrial enterprises of the EC 1977-1982, price £3.80 net

Balance of payments: geographical breakdown 1979-82, price £9.20 net

Carriage of goods by rail 1983, price £7.60 net

Carriage of goods by inland waterways 1983, price £6.40 net

Electricity prices 1980-1985, price £5.70 net

External trade: statistical yearbook 1985, price £4.60

External trade statistics: users guide, price £2.10 net

Gas prices 1980-1985, price £6.50 net

NACE: general industrial classification of economic activities within the European Communities, price £2.00 net

National accounts ESA: detailed tables by branch 1985, price £5.90 net

Operation of nuclear power stations 1984, price £7.50 net

Structure and activity of industry: annual inquiry, main results 1981/1982, price £11.40 net

Trade union membership, methods and measurement in the European Community by Kenneth Walsh, price £2.60 net

Food and Agricultural Organisation
1984 FAO trade yearbook, price £18.00 net

International Monetary Fund
International financial statistics yearbook 1985, price £25.00 net

OECD, Industry committee. Working party on industrial statistics
Industrial structure statistics 1983, price £8.50 net

OECD
Meat balances in OECD countries 1978-1984, price £7.50 net
Purchasing power parities and real expenditure in the OECD by Michael Ward, price £6.00 net
World steel trade developments 1960-83, a statistical analysis, price £12.00 net

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

PUBLICATIONS

Annual Abstract of Statistics No. 122 1986 Edition

The 1986 edition, the one hundred and twenty second Annual Abstract, was published in February 1986. The Abstract contains some 345 tables that cover a wide range of subjects including population, agriculture, retailing, transport, national income and expenditure, employment, banking, law enforcement, external trade and defence.

The majority of tables give annual figures from 1974 to 1984 where available; and some give monthly data to early 1985. Current series for many of the tables in the Abstract are published in *Economic Trends*, the *Monthly Digest of Statistics* and *Financial Statistics*. Supplementary to the national data, more detailed regional information is published in *Regional Trends*. All of these publications are prepared by the Central Statistical Office.

Changes in content this year include the addition of 'The Hundred Year Table, some comparisons 1884-1984'. Figures are given for 1884 and 1984 for some twenty subjects. The 1884 figures are taken mainly from the *Statistical Abstract for the United Kingdom* for 1871 to 1885 published in 1886. The main revisions have been in the Transport section affecting the contents of ten tables. The table for National Savings has been completely revised.

This year's edition is accompanied by a facsimile edition of the 1886 version of the *Statistical Abstract of the United Kingdom* which has been produced to mark over 100 years of Annual Abstracts and the bicentenary of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

Reference

Annual Abstract of Statistics No. 122, 1986 edition (HMSO) (Price £17.50 net) ISBN 0 11 620152 5.

Northern Ireland Annual Abstract of Statistics

The fourth edition (1985) of *Northern Ireland Annual Abstract of Statistics* is now available. 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. 4 1985 (HMSO Belfast) (Price £12.00 net) ISSN 0267-6044. Available from the HMSO Belfast Book shop at the address shown on the back cover.

Economic Trends Annual Supplement

The 1986 edition of the *Economic Trends Annual Supplement* was published in January 1986. This eleventh issue of the Supplement brings together long runs of quarterly and annual data for the key series of economic statistics which are included in the monthly *Economic Trends*. It is of special value to economists, planners, analysts and academic researchers. Some 300 series are included, linked to give continuous runs as far back as possible in the post-1945 period. In many cases there are both seasonally adjusted and unadjusted figures and over half the series span more than twenty five years. Tables in the Supplement are backed by concise notes and definitions and an index to further, more detailed sources.

References

Economic Trends Annual Supplement No. 11 1986 Edition (HMSO) (Price £12.50 net) ISBN 0 11 620181 9

Economic Trends (HMSO monthly) (Price £9.50 net, annual subscription including Supplement £115.00)

Financial Statistics and Explanatory Handbook

The 1986 edition of *Financial Statistics Explanatory Handbook* will be published with the February issue. An up-to-date Handbook is a must for the user of *Financial Statistics* as it includes definitions and descriptions of the data series and methods of compilation. It is consistent with the January edition of *Financial Statistics*.

There are some interesting new additions to the first issue of *Financial Statistics* for 1986. These include a new summary table at the beginning showing the main financial indicators. It consists of series that are already shown throughout the book but are amalgamated here in an easily readable form.

Two new tables are introduced showing general government transactions. One shows the financial transactions of the sector, while the other shows all transactions as presented in the Medium Term Financial Strategy section of the Financial Statement and Budget Report.

Financial Statistics is produced from data stored on the CSO computer which means the majority of the series are also available with longer runs of data in computer readable form from the CSO databank.

For the second year running the cost of both publications has been reduced making it even better value for money.

References

Financial Statistics (HMSO monthly) (Price £7.50 net, annual subscription including postage and Handbook £90.00).

Financial Statistics Explanatory Handbook 1986 Edition (HMSO) February 1986 (Price £6.95 net) ISBN 0 11 620203 3

CSO Databank, enquiries to CISI Wharton Computer Services, Ebury Gate, 23 Lower Belgrave Street, London SW1W 0NW, Telephone: 01 730 4544

Financial Statement and Budget Report, 1985-86 (HMSO March 1985) (Price £5.35 net)

Monthly Digest of Statistics Annual Supplement

The 1986 *Annual Supplement* will be published shortly. This edition replaces the one published in January 1985. The definitions relate to the tables as they appear in issue No. 481 of the *Monthly Digest* for January 1986. If further new series are added or changes made in the content before the next edition of the *Supplement* additional definitions will be given, where necessary, in the footnotes to the tables in the *Digest*. The definitions in the *Supplement* also apply to corresponding items in the *Annual Abstract of Statistics* and *Regional Trends*.

References

Monthly Digest of Statistics (HMSO) (Price £5.75 net, annual subscription including Supplement £65.00)

Monthly Digest of Statistics Supplement of Definitions and Explanatory Notes 1986 Edition (HMSO) (Price £2.75 net) ISBN 620228 9

Scottish Economic Bulletin

The latest edition of the *Scottish Economic Bulletin*, published in January 1986, contains an economic review, three articles, charts and statistics and a list of other official publications on the Scottish economy.

The first article 'A note on high technology manufacturing industry in Scotland' by Miss C. M. J. McKay discusses some of the problems in defining high technology industry, adopts a particular grouping of activity headings, and presents some simple information on growth in output and employment share in recent years.

The next article 'Employment profiles of new manufacturing establishments in Scotland and the HIDB area' by Mrs A. Campbell examines the early employment history of certain manufacturing units opening in Scotland over the 1960-74 period, and derives a profile of average employment growth in new openings. Survivors were identified separately from those plants which closed during the period under study. As a result, it was possible to examine both how many plants survive and the pattern of growth in employment associated with these new plants.

The last article 'Branch plant performance in Scotland' by Miss J. Cawdrey and A. C. C. Taylor analyses the extent to which new domestic and overseas-owned branch plants proved to be stable or growing sources of employment and important contributors to the development of the local economy. Any of these plants would have been significantly influenced by regional incentives in setting up in Scotland.

Reference

Scottish Economic Bulletin No. 32 (HMSO January 1986) (Price £7.00 net) ISBN 0 11 492491 0

Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin

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

The unlisted securities market (USM)

This article reviews the progress of the unlisted securities market as a market place for trading the equity of small companies and as a vehicle for generating equity finance since its inception in 1980. The article also examines changes in the type of company entering the USM and in methods of entry and concludes that the market has been a success both in establishing an active, relatively liquid market for the equity of small companies and in providing a stepping stone to fully listed status for a significant number of firms.

Change in The Stock Exchange and regulation of the City

The changes that are currently in train in The Stock Exchange and in the financial services industry more generally will transform the structure of the City over the next twelve months. This article describes the current market structure of The Stock Exchange and the pressures for change that have built up in recent years and explains the details of the new structure now evolving. The proposed changes in regulation of the financial services industry (under the terms of the Financial Services Bill published in December) are also described.

Arbitrage between spot and future markets for euro-dollars in London

This article explains the nature and purpose of financial futures and reports the results of a statistical study which examines whether the futures market for euro-dollars in London operates efficiently, in the sense that prices adjust so as to eliminate opportunities for profitable arbitrage between the spot and futures markets: the analysis is reasonably conclusive in giving an affirmative answer. The article goes on to describe how neither interest rates available on the futures market nor implied forward rates derived from the spot market provide precise measures of current market expectations of future spot interest rates, because liquidity and risk considerations influence behaviour in these markets.

Developments in leasing

The changes in the corporate tax system announced in the 1984 Budget had major implications for the leasing industry. This article, one in a regular series, outlines the relation of leasing with the tax system, sets out the implications of the 1984 tax changes for the industry and examines future prospects. It concludes that the tax changes, which will reduce the attractions of leasing appreciably, may have a significant dampening effect on demand and cause fewer companies to use this form of financing – and perhaps induce some lessors to leave the industry.

Distribution of the national debt: end-March 1985

This article, which continues an annual series, analyses the national debt by instrument and by holder: it also explains why market holdings of national debt instruments rose by substantially more than the central government borrowing requirement during 1984/85.

Other items

The December Bulletin also contains a summary report of the proceedings of the Statistics Users' Conference, held at the Royal Society, Carlton House Terrace, SW1

on 13 November. Also reprinted are the Governor's Mansion House speech, in which he explains the background to the authorities' decision to override the £M3 target this year; a speech by the Deputy Governor on the challenges posed for banks, and for the supervisory authorities, by the changes now taking place in international banking and financial services; and one by Mr David Walker on the implications for British industry of the changes taking place in the capital markets.

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

National Institute Economic Review

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

Rational expectations in an econometric model: NIESR model 8

This article by S. G. Hall and S. G. B Henry summarises research on the role of forward-looking behaviour in important sectors of a macro-econometric model. It is based on the work of a number of researchers at the National Institute over the last two years. Important changes are introduced into many central equations in the model. The authors argue that on grounds of both the underlying theory and the plausibility of the empirical results, this work is a significant advance in explaining dynamic macro-economic behaviour.

Macro-economic policy in Germany and Britain

Germany has combined exceptionally low inflation with economic growth averaging since the mid-1960s about three per cent a year compared with the United Kingdom's two per cent. Factors contributing to this success include public sensitivity to the dangers of inflation, the independent influence exerted by the Bundesbank, generally good labour relations, currency appreciation deriving from wage moderation and export-led growth, and an economic strategy which emphasises monetary, and especially fiscal, conservatism without any theological superstructure. Increasingly 'Germanic' policies are now being followed here and the article's authors, Kate Barker, Andrew Britton, Fiona Eastwood and Robin Major remark that it remains to be seen whether they will achieve similar success in British conditions.

Reference

National Institute Economic Review No. 114 November 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)

Chips and jobs: the acceptance of new technology at work

This publication, compiled by Jim Northcott, Michael Fogarty and Malcolm Trevor, is an appraisal of the available research material on the subject, supplemented by the evidence from a number of surveys by the Policy Studies Institute. The study was commissioned by the Economic and Social Research Council and funded by the Department of Trade and Industry, as one of the international collaborative projects arising out of the Versailles Heads of State summit conference in 1982.

The report cost £8.95 and is available from:

The Policy Studies Institute
100 Park Village East
London NW1 3SR
Telephone: 01-387 2171

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

One week residential course: multivariate analysis Preston 7th-11th April 1986

Multivariate Analysis has been described as a mixed bag of statistical techniques but they all share a common aim of summarizing complex sets of data in order 'to see the wood for the trees', examples including the investigation of dependence amongst many variables, sorting and clustering, and structural simplification. Increasing availability of computing power makes these techniques more readily accessible, the list of areas of application being surprisingly broad, for example agriculture, anthropology, biometrics, the biological sciences, economics, education, medicine and sociology as well as many areas of industry.

This week-long intensive course, for which a working knowledge of elementary statistical methods is necessary, will describe and illustrate a range of these techniques, particular emphasis being placed on a practical, computer-based approach. Organised by the Institute of Statisticians, it will take place at the School of Mathematics and Statistics at Lancashire Polytechnic in Preston from 7th-11th April 1986.

Interested applicants may contact the Head of the School at Lancashire Polytechnic, Dr R. R. Harris, for more details concerning the programme (Telephone: 0772 22141).

Booking forms may be obtained from: Mrs L. Butterworth, The Conference Secretary, The Institute of Statisticians, 36 Churchgate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 1RD. Telephone: (0284) 63660.

Practical Bayesian statistics, Cambridge, United Kingdom 8th-11th July 1986

The growth of Bayesian ideas and methods in the last decade has been remarkable and their successful application in a wide range of practical contexts was well illustrated at the Institute's first conference on Practical Bayesian Statistics held in 1982. Since then, further developments have taken place; topics such as industrial experimental design, expert systems, and medical and pharmaceutical applications have come more to the fore, and there has been substantial progress with purpose-built software. The time is ripe for a second conference on the current state of the art in this important area.

Programme Topics

Topics to be featured at the Conference will include:

- Design of Industrial Experiments
- Forecasting and Control
- Bayesian Software
- Medical and Pharmaceutical Applications
- Reliability and Quality Control
- Uncertainty in Expert Systems
- Forensic Science and Legal Reasoning
- Image Processing
- Sample Surveys

Further information may be obtained from: Mrs L. Butterworth, The Conference Secretary, The Institute of Statisticians, 36 Churchgate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 1RD, England.

Offers of Papers to the Technical Convenors (Professor A. F. M. Smith and Professor A. P. Dawid) via the same address.

Industry, quality and statistics 10th-12th September 1986

As part of the programme for United Kingdom Industry Year 1986, The Institute of Statisticians and The Royal Statistical Society jointly, with other interested organisations, are to hold a Conference with this title at the attractive Lowfield Hall site at Topley on the edge of Sheffield, part of the Sheffield City Polytechnic.

The Conference will seek to stimulate discussion rather than rely upon passive reception of lectures; the statisticians' contribution of Quality will be stressed and, it is hoped, critically assessed.

Planned themes include quality design, quality and the law, quality of medicine, standards for quality, quality in manufacturing industry, recent developments in quality methods.

Write for details to Mrs L. Butterworth, The Conference Secretary, The Institute of Statisticians, 36 Churchgate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 1RD.

Papers are invited on the above themes for the conference, which is to be opened by Sir Geoffrey Chandler, Director of Industry Year. Please send your papers (brief synopsis by end-March) to the Technical Convenors (Dr Derek Bissell, Dr Denis Farlie, David Newton and Bill Pridmore) at the Suffolk address above.

Seminar on statistical information: sources for business planning and marketing

A one-day seminar has been arranged by the University of Warwick and it will be held on Friday 25 April 1986. It will review the range of United Kingdom statistics available for business and industry. It is particularly intended for those involved in business planning and marketing where there is a constant need for up-to-date statistical information in such areas as sales, production, consumption, foreign trade, prices, employment, economic and social conditions, markets, and advertising expenditure, etc.

The seminar will be of interest to those involved in business information activities such as market researchers, corporate and business planners and commercial librarians and information officers. The seminar will be held at Arden House Conference Centre, University of Warwick and will cost £85 plus VAT (Warwick Statistics Service clients—£75 plus VAT). The cost includes background seminar papers, coffee, tea and lunch.

A limited amount of overnight accommodation is available at the Arden House Conference Centre for those wishing to arrive the night before the seminar. A fee of £25 will be charged on cancellations received after 11 April 1986.

Enquiries should be made to:

Margaret Brittin
Information Officer
Warwick Statistics Service
University of Warwick Library
Coventry CV4 7AL
Telephone: 0203-523051/523251

GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL SERVICE

Reviews of regular surveys

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

Survey of electricity generated

Mr C. Slight
Business Statistics Office
Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
Newport
Gwent
NPT 1XG

Inquiry into overseas earnings of UK insurance brokers

Mr W. Hall
Department of Trade and Industry
Sanctuary Buildings
20 Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3DB

Quarterly survey of freight market conditions

Mr R. Davies
Department of Transport
Romney House
43 Marsham Street
London SW1P 3PY

Voluntary agencies survey

Mr R. B. McKerron
Overseas Development Administration
Abercrombie House
Eaglesham Road
East Kilbride
Glasgow
G75 8EA

II Surveys to Local Authorities

Statistics of school leavers return of candidates for the GCE and CSE examinations during the academic year
Statistics of school leavers return of school leavers during the academic year

Further education candidates for GCE advanced level examinations

Return of children with special education needs

Mr T. C. Knight
Department of Education and Science,
Elizabeth House
York Road
London SE1

Census of pupils and staff in special schools

Educational psychologists

Mrs I. R. Magill
Department of Education and Science,
Elizabeth House
York Road
London SE1

Appointments and changes



Mr M. V. Wilde was promoted to Grade 4 on 1 October 1985 on appointment as Executive Director (Statistics), Ministry of Defence.

After University and National Service in the RAF, Maurice Wilde spent six years with ICI working in the Operational Research field. He joined the Department of Education and Science in 1963 and for the next two years was engaged mainly on the training and supply of teachers. There followed three years as the University Grants Committee's Statistician, and after a brief return to the Department of Education and Science, he moved to the Central Statistical Office working on the national accounts. He was promoted to Chief Statistician in 1970, on transfer to the Ministry of Defence, working initially in the supply area and later on armed forces and civilian manpower. In 1975 he moved back to the Central Statistical Office as head of the Statisticians Group Management Unit and in 1978 he transferred to the Department of Health and Social Security, spending almost all of the next seven years on social security at Newcastle Central Office.

Mr C. J. Spiller, Statistician, Department of Education and Science was promoted to Grade 5 and transferred to the Business Statistics Office on 16 September 1985.

Mr S. R. Curtis, Chief Statistician, Business Statistics Office, became Registrar at the Companies Registration Office, Cardiff on 17 September 1985.

Mr J. N. Lithgow, Grade 5, Ministry of Defence transferred to the Department of Health and Social Security on 1 October 1985.

Miss P. W. Annesley, Statistician, Department of Health and Social Security was promoted to Grade 5 (Chief Statistician) on 14 October 1985.

Mr T. S. Simmons, Statistician, Department of Energy was promoted to Grade 5 (Chief Statistician) on 1 October 1985.

New Year Honours List 1986

Miss J. H. Thompson, Chief Statistician, Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, was awarded the CBE.

Mr W. Gonzalez, Chief Statistician, Board of Inland Revenue, was awarded the CBE.

Retailing inquiry 1984: summary provisional results

An article in *British business*, 24 January 1986, presents summary provisional results from the retailing inquiry for 1984. The inquiry involved the dispatch of 20 000 forms and the results in this article are based on around 15 000 usable returns including figures for nearly all the large retailers.

The 1984 inquiry was a 'full' inquiry and is broadly comparable in terms of the range of data collected to those taken for 1982 and annually from 1976 to 1980. Full retailing inquiries are now carried out every second year, and alternate with 'slimline' inquiries which collect data only on turnover, stocks and capital expenditure.

The final results of the inquiry for 1982 were published in *British business*, 20 July 1984 and in *Business Monitor SD025*. The 1983 slimline inquiry results were published in *British business*, 16 August 1985. The final results for the 1984 inquiry will be published this summer in *Business Monitor SD025*, with a summary appearing beforehand in *British business*. These will be based on a slightly higher response rate than the provisional results presented in this article, and also reflect a further scrutiny of the detail of the returns.

Reference

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

Census of Production – Northern Ireland

The Report on the Census of Production and Construction in Northern Ireland 1982 was published in January 1986 by HMSO on behalf of the Department of Economic Development for Northern Ireland. It is only available from HMSO Bookshop, Belfast, price £6.80 net, ISBN 0 337 09240 0.

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.

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

- abortion statistics, 64.24, 69.36
- adoptions, 64.21
- adults heights and weights, 68.37
- aerospace and electronics cost indices, 64.28, 69.43, 72.43
- agency nursing staffs, Scotland, 68.38
- agricultural
 - and horticultural census, 67.36, 69.42, 71.43
 - canned and bottled fruit and vegetables, 66.51, 68.41, 69.42, 70.33
 - cereals on farms, 68.40, 69.42, 70.33
 - crop production, annual estimates harvest, 1982, 1983, 67.38, 1984, 68.40, 71.43
 - December census, 1983, 67.38, 1984, 69.42, 70.33
 - December, glasshouse census, 67.38
 - Departmental Net Income Calculation, 67.37, 69.41
 - economic report, Scottish, 64.28
 - June agricultural census, 1983, 67.37, 1984, 69.42
 - machinery census, 67.38, 70.33
 - pig inquiry, sample, April 1984, 67.38, August 1984, 68.40, April 1985, 71.43
 - Scotland, 64.28, 67.38
 - price indices, 64.27
 - Scottish agricultural censuses, June, 65.35, 67.38, 69.42, 72.42: December, 65.35
 - stocks, wheat, barley, oats, 68.40, 69.42, 70.33, 71.43
 - straw survey, 67.37, 69.42
 - survey, December 1984, 69.42, 70.33
 - vegetable and flower census, 67.37, 70.33
 - wine, English, 70.33
 - workers, hours and earnings, 66.50, 70.33
- Agricultural Statistics for the United Kingdom*, 67.38
- agriculture, economic accounts, UK, 67.37
- Agriculture in Scotland*, 67.38, 71.44
- agriculture, Northern Ireland, capital consumption, 66.51
- all stocks index, 66.51
- amputation statistics, 67.34
- Annual Abstract of Greater London Statistics 1983/84*, 71.53
- Annual Abstract of Statistics, 1984*, 64.37, 1985, 68.46, 1986, 72.29, 72.50
- Annual Abstract of Statistics Northern Ireland, 1983*, 64.39, 1984, 69.47, 1985, 72.50
- Annual Review of Agriculture 1984*, 65.34, 1985, 69.41
- Annual Review of Government Funded R&D 1983*, 64.36, 1984, 68.44, 1985, 72.48
- armed forces pay, 66.50, 67.37, 70.31, 71.43
- arts, funding in Europe, 68.38
- assisted areas, business mix, 64.29, 65.36
- balance of payments,
 - developments, 71.51
 - gold, treatment of, 65.40
 - overseas earnings, 66.58, 70.41
 - United Kingdom Balance of Payments 1984*, 66.57, 1985, 70.40
- Bank of England as registrar, 71.51
- Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin*, 64.39, 65.41, 66.59, 67.45, 68.47, 69.47, 70.44, 71.51, 72.51
- bank lending, 64.39, 65.42
- banking markets, international, 65.42, 69.47
- banking statistics, 64.39, 71.51
- bill of entry system review, 64.34, 69.53
- birth projection, microcomputer graphics, 72.24(A)
- birth statistics, 65.17, 66.41, 69.36
- Blue Book, 64.33, 66.56, 67.42, 70.40
- breath test statistics, 67.33
- broad money and external flows, 64.39
- Britain's workforce, 67.31
- British Aid Statistics*, 64.35
- British businesses, by turnover size, 65.46, 68.41
 - manufacturing units by size, 65.36, 67.39
- British citizenship, 67.33
- British Industrial Performance*, 71.19(A)
- British Overseas Aid 1982*, 64.35
- British Telecom Statistics*, 64.40
- budget report and financial statement, 65.39, 69.45
- business expansion scheme, 68.43
- business finance, 67.45

- Business Monitor series, 64.29, 65.35, 66.51
67.38, 70.34
- Business Statistics Office, 68.4(A)
- businesses,
assisted areas, 64.29, 65.36
manufacturing, classified list, 66.52, 67.39
new register, 70.13(A)
regional analysis, 68.41, 69.42
starts and stops, 64.29, 65.36, 66.53, 68.41,
69.42, 70.35, 71.44
turnover analysis, 72.42
- cancer statistics, 64.23, 66.45, 72.38
- cash limits, 67.43, 71.48
- catering inquiry, 1982, 67.41, 71.44
- Census of Employment, 64.25, 66.47
- Census of Population 1981, 64.19, 65.26,
66.9(A), 66.40, 68.34, 69.35, 70.27
automatic editing, 68.13(A)
between-area differences, 71.33
children, Britain's, 69.35
economic activity, 65.26, 66.40, 67.31
elderly population, 68.34
evaluation of, 70.27
local authority areas, 64.19, 68.35, 71.37
longitudinal study, 67.31
migration, 64.19, 65.27, 69.36
Northern Ireland, 64.19, 67.32, 70.27
place names, 66.40, 72.36
post-enumeration survey, 69.35
Runcorn, 66.42
Scotland, 64.19, 65.26
shaping the next census, 69.35
travel to work, 1971-1981, 69.35
urban areas, 66.40
wallcharts, 65.26, 66.40, 68.34
ward trends, 1971-1981, 72.35
wards and civil parishes, 64.19
- Census of Population, infants under one,
1861-1981, 68.35
- Census of Population and associated social
statistics, 68.16(A)
- Census of Production
industry monitors, 1981, 64.29, 1982, 65.35,
66.51, 67.38, 1983, 70.34
Northern Ireland, 1980, 65.36, 1981, 68.41,
72.55
overseas owned firms, Scotland, 67.41
review of annual survey, 65.45
Summary volumes, 1982, 70.35, 1983, 72.42
- Census of Woodlands and Trees, 64.28
- central postcode directory, 64.20
- Central Statistical Office, 65.1(A)
new Director, 69.4
publications, reduced prices, 68.46, 71.56
- Centre for Statistical Education, 65.31
- changing from a manual to a computer system,
69.19(A)
- children, Britain's, 69.35
- children, dental health, 69.39
- children, pre-school provision, Scotland, 68.38
- Chinese delegation visit, 64.14
visit by GSS Director, 68.25
- Chips and jobs acceptance of new technology*,
72.53
- cinemas, 67.41, 71.45
- CIPFA information service, 72.17(A)
- Civil Judicial Statistics, Scotland 1982*, 66.44
- Civil Service, ethnic monitoring, 68.28(A)
- Civil Service Statistics, 1984*, 66.59, 1985, 70.43
- Classification
and see Standard Industrial Revised (1980)
areas, socio-economic, 69.36, 71.37
heavy goods vehicles, 66.55
local authorities, 66.41, 71.37
manufacturing, businesses, list, 66.52, 67.39
overseas trade, 65.41, 69.47, 70.41
sector booklet, 64.33, 69.46
- code of practice, GSS, 66.32
DTI, 69.53
- Commercial and Industrial floorspace statistics*,
66.53, 70.35
- commodity flow accounts, 70.37, 71.47
- Commonwealth Statisticians, tenth conference,
71.9(A)
- companies, annual report on, 71.47
- company
boards, composition, 70.44
finance and profitability, 66.56, 67.45, 70.38,
70.44
investment intentions, 68.43, 70.39, 72.47
liquidity survey, 70.39
profitability, international comparisons,
67.44
rates of return, 67.43, 72.47
sector finances, 66.57
- computer services, industry turnover, 70.36
- computer system for aid statistics, 69.19(A)
- computerised purchase of naval spares,
65.18(A)
- conception statistics, 69.36
- condensation, housing, Scotland, 67.33
- conferences and meetings
Bayesian statistics, 72.53
Commonwealth Statisticians, tenth, 69.51,
71.9(A)
European Statisticians, 64.41, 66.63, 70.48
full employment, 67.46
industry, quality and statistics, 72.53
information sources for business, 72.54
job generation, 68.39
Kendall Memorial Lecture, 66.63
multivariate analysis, 72.53
National Statistical Institutes,
Directors-General, 66.62, 70.48
other meetings, 69.51
population conference, 67.31, 67.49
Royal Statistical Society, 150th Anniversary,
64.41, 66.16(A)
Royal Statistical Society Study Group on the
Government Statistical Service, meetings,
64.41, 67.48, 71.53
Statistical data files, 70.49
Statistical modelling, 66.63
Statistics Users' Conference, Transport,
64.10(A), 65.37, Census of Population,
68.16(A), 1985 Financial Statistics, 70.48,
72.26(A)
Survey Methods Centre, 69.52
Time Series Meeting, 65.44

- United Nations Statistical Commission, 69.50
- construction industry, Acop 1981, 64.29, 1983, 72.42, NI 1980, 65.36, 1981, 68.41, 1982, 72.55
 - training board statutory return, 66.64
- construction output data, Northern Ireland, 65.15(A)
- consumer durables, stock of, 64.29, 67.50, 72.43
- Control of Immigration Statistics, 1983*, 66.44, 1984, 70.29
- costs, labour, 71.42
- criminal careers, young males, 71.37
- criminal convictions, drug addicts, 71.38
- Criminal Statistics, Scotland, 1980-82*, 68.37
- Customs and Excise
 - bill of entry review, 64.34, 69.53
 - export values verification, review of survey, 68.50
 - review of statistical office, 69.53
- cycling, 66.56

- data advisory panel, education, 68.38
- Data Archive Bulletin*, 65.42, 67.47, 69.49, 70.45
- database
 - systems for statistical applications, 65.41
- data analysis and collection, social science, 68.52
- data management, DOE, 66.29(A)
- Data Protection Bill, 64.4(A), 67.24(A), 70.51
- deaths
 - by cause, 66.41, 72.36
 - in institutions, 72.35
 - infant, 64.24, 72.36
 - suicides, 65.27
 - weekly monitoring, 64.20
- Defence Estimates, statement on, 1985, 70.36
- demographic, projections, 65.6(A)
- developments, Council of Europe, 71.33
- dentists' remuneration, 66.50
- development
 - and research, 64.36, 66.58, 68.44, 70.42
 - employment, 66.60
- Digest of Environmental Protection and Water Statistics No. 6*, 64.36, *No. 7*, 68.43
- Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics*, 66.54, 71.45
- disabled people, public sector, 65.34, 69.40
- disaggregated information system, 66.19(A)
- diseases
 - infections, during pregnancy, 69.39, 71.40
 - sexually transmitted, 70.30
- distributive and service trades, results of 1983 inquiries, 71.44
- divorce, marriage and, 64.21
- doctors' remuneration, 66.50, 70.31
- DOE, data management, 66.29(A)
 - statistical work in, 72.4(A)
- domestic proceedings, in court, 65.29, 70.17(A)
- drinking
 - regional, 71.40
 - women, 72.37
- drug addicts, convictions, 71.38
- drug-related illness, 71.39

- earnings-also see pay and salaries
 - and hours, agricultural workers, 66.50, 70.33
 - manual workers, 65.34, 69.41, 70.33
 - basic wage rates, indices, 65.34
 - New Earnings Survey, 1984*, 66.65, 69.41, 71.42
 - overseas, 66.58, 70.41
 - public services pay in the 1980s, 70.44
 - real wage-employment, UK models, 70.45
 - UK shipping, 66.54
- economic activity, reports, 65.26, 66.40, 67.31
- economic policy, 1979-82, 66.61
- economic recovery, patterns, 69.46
- economic recovery 1930s, 68.49
- Economic Trends Annual Supplement 1984*, 64.38, 1985, 68.46, 1986, 72.50
- education
 - assisted places scheme, Scotland, 72.40
 - Centre for Statistical Education, 65.31
 - composite classes, primary schools, Scotland, 64.25
 - data advisory panel, 68.38
 - engineering related, 64.25
 - further education students, 66.47, Scotland, 72.40
 - non-advanced, 69.39, Scotland, 71.41
 - graduates, first job, Scotland, 65.31, 72.40
 - graduate diploma in statistics, 66.63
 - higher education in Great Britain, 65.32, 67.35
 - international comparisons, 66.46
 - projections, Scotland, 64.25, 72.40
 - international comparisons, 72.39, 72.40
 - overseas students, 66.46
 - pre-school children, provision, Scotland, 68.38
 - schools, pupils and teachers, Scotland, 70.31
 - special, 65.31
 - placing requests Scotland, 70.31
 - SED statistical bulletins, 64.25, 65.31, 66.47, 68.38, 69.39, 70.31, 71.41, 72.40
 - statistics, United Kingdom, 1983, 64.24, Scottish basic, 66.47
 - university students, 70.31
 - vocational training, 69.41, Scotland, 71.41
- EEC, see European Community
- elderly, residential accommodation, 65.29
 - 1981 Census, 68.34, mortality rates, 72.35
- election expenses, 1983, 64.23
 - results, 67.46
- electoral statistics, 1983/4, 66.42, 1984, 69.37
- electrical engineering, 67.40
- electricity supply industry, performance, 67.40
- electricity supply statistics, 68.42
- electronics industry, manpower, Scotland, 64.40
 - and aerospace, cost indices, 64.28, 69.43, 72.43
- employed labour force, 66.47
- employees in employment, 69.39
- employment
 - and real wage, UK models, 70.45
 - and real wages, inter-war period, 68.49
 - Appeal Tribunal, 68.39
 - census, 64.25, 66.47
 - disabled persons, 65.34, 69.40

- earnings and hours, agricultural workers, 66.50, 70.33, manual workers, 65.34, 69.41, 70.33
- estimates, 69.39
- ethnic minorities, 66.49, 68.28(A)
- full, conference papers, 67.46
- graduates, 65.31, 70.31, 71.42, 72.40
- homeworking, 64.26, 66.49
- hours and holiday entitlements, 70.33
- job generation conference, 68.39
- labour costs, 71.42
- labour force outlook, 65.32, 71.42
- labour force survey, 66.47, 67.36, 68.39, 70.31, 71.42
- manufacturing change, Scottish regions, 64.40
- manufacturing, output expectations, 66.61
- manufacturing units, size, 65.36, 67.39
- North Sea, 69.41
- outworkers, 64.26, 66.49
- part-time women, 67.36
- public and private sectors, 64.26, 69.40, 72.40
- recent trends, Scotland, 69.40, 72.51
- research and development, 66.60
- self-employed, 64.26, 68.40, 69.40
- small firms, 67.40
- statistics reclassified to SIC(R) 1980, 64.25
- sources and definitions, 72.40
- temporary, 72.41
- women in employment, 65.33, 66.48, 67.36 in engineering, 65.34
- young people first employment of, 66.49, 68.39, 71.42
- energy demand, short-term forecasting, 70.37
- Energy Statistics, Digest of United Kingdom*, 66.54, 71.45
- engineering industry
 - manpower and training, 68.39
 - statistics, 65.36
 - training board publications, 64.26, 65.34, 65.43, 68.39, 68.41, 70.46
- engineering, mechanical, 66.53, 70.43, electrical, 67.40
- Environment, Department of the, 72.4(A)
- environmental pollution, 64.36, 68.43
- epidemiology, occupational, reproductive, 71.40
- ESRC Data Archive Bulletin, 67.47, 69.49, 70.45
- estimates, population, 65.27, 65.28, 66.41, 66.42, 70.27
 - supply estimates, summary and guide, 1985-86, 69.45
- ethnic
 - intermarriage in Great Britain, 70.27
 - minorities, statistics on, 66.49
 - monitoring in the Civil Service, 68.28(A)
 - origin and economic status, 72.37
- Europe, funding the arts, 68.38
 - demographic trends, 71.36
- European Community
 - labour force survey, 66.47
 - 'stagiaire' courses, 72.27
 - tariff protection, 67.46
- European Statisticians Conference, 64.41, 66.63, 70.48
- Eurostat
 - appointments and changes, 66.63
 - life with, 67.14(A)
- exchange rates, variability, 67.46
- expenditure
 - arts, the, 68.38
 - autumn statement, 64.33, 68.43, 72.46
 - definitions and trends, 64.34, 70.51
 - government expenditure, 66.61
 - government's plans,
 - 1984-85 to 1986-87, 65.39
 - 1985-86 to 1987-88, 69.45
 - public, measuring, 70.51
 - to 1990s, 65.39
- export values verification, review of survey, 68.50
- exports sales ratios, 64.35, 72.48
- external flows and broad money, 64.39
- family, the
 - and fertility, 65.27
 - budgets, international comparison, 71.37
 - household units, 65.27
- Family Expenditure Survey, Report, 1982, 64.22, 1983, 68.36, 1984, 69.37
 - study of differential response, 72.13(A)
 - use of, 72.8(A)
- family planning, 72.38
- family statistics, 64.21
- farm income, England, 64.27
- farm management survey, 66.51
- farms, liabilities and assets survey, 66.51
- fertility
 - and family background, 65.27
 - trends, 1970-83, 71.33
 - world survey, 64.41, 65.44, 67.45, 67.48, 68.49, 69.49
- film and television, overseas transactions, 67.44, 71.48
- film exhibitors inquiry, 67.41, 71.45
- films, registration, 70.36
- finance leasing, 67.45
- financial futures, 72.52
- financial institutions, international, 68.48
- Financial Statement and Budget Report*, 65.39, 69.45
- financial statistics, local government, 64.34, 67.43, 68.43
- Financial Statistics*, 64.38, 68.47, 72.51
 - Explanatory handbook*, 1984, 64.38, 1985, 68.47, 1986, 72.51
 - conference, 72.26(A)
- fire cover standards, 70.30
- fireworks injuries, Scotland, 1984, 68.38
- fiscal policy, 67.46, 71.52
- fish landings in the UK, 1984, 72.42
- floorspace statistics, 66.53, 70.35
- food, self-sufficiency, 64.27, 72.41
- food supplies, total, 64.27, 72.41
- food survey, national, 1982, 66.65, 1983, 70.33, 71.43
- foundries, non-ferrous, 66.53, iron, 71.44
- freight market conditions, survey, 72.45
- freight, waterborne, 66.55, 69.44
- FT-actuaries indices, 64.34

- FTSE 100 Share Index, 65.40
- gas and oil resources, 66.54, 70.36
- General Household Survey, 66.43, 70.9(A), 71.12(A), 72.37
- pension question, 72.38
- gdp
- effects of rebasing, 64.32
 - output measure, series and weights, 64.28, 66.53
 - revisions, 70.37
- geographic information, Committee of Enquiry, 70.42
- gilt-edged market, future structure, 68.48, 70.44
- gold in balance of payments, 65.40
- goods vehicle survey, review, 65.45
- government expenditure
- autumn statement, 64.33, 68.43, 72.46
 - borrowing and economic policy, 71.52
 - growth, 66.61
 - plans, 65.39, 69.45
 - research and development funding, 64.36
 - supply estimates 1985-86, summary and guide, 69.45
- Government Statistical Service
- appointments and changes, 64.41, 65.45, 66.63, 67.49, 68.51, 69.54, 70.49, 71.54, 72.55
 - Business Statistics Office, 68.4(A)
 - Central Statistical Office, 65.1(A)
 - Chinese delegation visit, 64.14
 - code of practice, 66.32, DTI, 69.53
 - Department of Health and Social Security, 67.4(A)
 - Department of the Environment, 72.4(A)
 - Departments of Industry and Trade, 69.53
 - Director's Chinese visit, 68.25
 - Home Office 70.4(A)
 - integrity, 68.19(A)
 - Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, 66.1(A)
 - Overseas Development Administration, 71.4(A)
 - retrospect by S. F. James, 68.26(A)
 - review of regular surveys, 64.42, 65.45, 66.63, 67.49, 68.50, 69.52, 70.50, 71.53, 72.54
 - Scottish Office, 69.5(A)
 - State figures, 69.11(A)
 - statistics in the 1980s, 68.9(A)
 - working overseas, 72.20(A)
- graduates, employment, 65.31, 70.31, 71.42, 72.40
- graduates, leaving employment, 72.41
- Guide to Official Statistics*, 71.50
- Health and Personal Social Services Statistics for England, 1985*, 72.38
- Health and Safety Commission Report 1983-84*, 67.34
- health and safety, manufacturing and service industries, 67.34
- Health and Safety Statistics 1981-82*, 70.30
- Health and Social Security, Department of, 67.4(A)
- tax/benefit model tables, 70.28
- health authorities, socio-economic classification, 71.37
- health visitors, pay, 66.50, 70.32
- heavy goods vehicles, 66.55, 68.21(A)
- HMSO, bicentenary, 72.29
- homeworking, 64.26, 66.49
- Home Office, 70.4(A)
- homelessness in Scotland, 72.38
- horticultural statistics, basic, 66.51, 69.42
- hospital activity statistics, 66.44, 70.30
- hospital in-patients, England and Wales, 64.23, 65.30, 66.44, Scotland, 65.30, 66.44, 71.39
- hospitals, mental, 66.44, 67.34, 72.39
- hours and earnings, agricultural workers, 66.50, 70.33, manual workers, 65.34, 69.41, 70.33
- house condition survey, English, 64.22
- house renovation grants in Wales, 71.26(A)
- Household Food Consumption and Expenditure 1983*, 70.33
- household formation, 65.27
- household income, effects of taxes and benefits, 64.22, 68.37, 72.37
- household projections, 69.37
- household surveys
- continuous, Northern Ireland, 67.50
 - inter censal, Wales, 1986, 71.39
- household units, minimal, 65.27
- households, moving, 64.22
- saving, 70.45
- houses, council, applications to buy, Scotland, 69.38, 71.38
- Housing and Construction Statistics 1973-1983*, 67.40, 1974-1984, 71.44
- housing finance market, 69.48
- Housing Statistics, Scottish*, 68.37, 71.38
- Northern Ireland*, 67.34, 71.39
- housing trends, Scotland, 64.22, 67.33, 71.38, 72.38
- Humberside airport passenger survey, 72.46
- immigrant mortality, 67.32
- immigration control, statistics, 66.44, 70.29
- import penetration, 64.35, 72.48
- income
- distribution 1981/82, 66.56
 - farm, England, 64.27
 - survey of personal, 1982-83, 71.47
- index-linked bonds, 65.38
- index of place names, 72.36
- industrial production index
- rebasing and reclassification, Scotland, 65.35, 66.60
 - series and weights, 64.28
- industrial research and development - see research and development
- industrial stoppages, 64.26, 70.43, 71.42
- industrial tribunals, 68.39
- industry and banks, statistics, 64.28
- infant and perinatal statistics, 64.24, 69.39, 72.36
- infants under one, Census, 1861-1981, 68.35

- inflation effects on, income, saving and wealth, 64.37
 - adjusted saving and sectoral balances, 66.59
- Inland Revenue Statistics 1984*, 67.43, 1985, 72.47
- input-output tables
 - disaggregated information system, 66.19(A)
 - Scottish tables, 1979, 66.52, 66.60, 68.48
- insurance business, 65.39, 71.47
- insurance companies, financial assets, 67.44, 72.47
- interest rates, short-term, 64.39
- international
 - Bank for Reconstruction and Development, 69.47
 - bank lending, 64.39
 - banking markets, 65.42, 69.47
 - comparison of stoppages, 65.41, 70.43
 - comparisons of profitability, 67.44, 72.48
 - comparisons, taxes and social security contributions, 64.36, 69.47
 - earnings UK shipping, 66.54, 71.45
 - education, all levels, comparisons, 72.39
 - education, higher, comparisons, 66.46
 - external flows and broad money, 64.39
 - family budgets, 71.37
 - financial institutions, role and future, 68.48
 - floating-rate instruments, 67.45
 - industrial data for research, 71.48
 - inflation effects on income, saving and wealth, 64.37
 - migration, 64.21, 66.42, 71.33, 72.36
 - Monetary Fund, 64.39
 - population conference, 67.31, 67.49
 - publications, 64.40, 65.43, 66.61, 67.47, 68.49, 69.49, 70.47, 71.49, 72.49
 - road haulage survey, 65.45, 66.55, 68.42, 71.46
 - Statistical Institute, official statistics, 72.48
 - travellers, 67.44
- investment
 - intentions survey, 68.43, 70.39, 72.47
 - management in the UK, 70.44
 - overseas, 65.41, 66.57, 70.40, 71.48
 - rate of return on, 70.40
- iron foundries, 71.44
- job generation conference, 68.39
- jobs, acceptance of new technology, 72.53
- Judicial Statistics 1983*, 67.32, 1984, 71.37
- labour
 - costs, 71.42
 - force outlook, 65.32, 71.42
 - force survey, 66.47, 70.31
 - civilian estimates, 67.36, 68.39, 69.39
 - market data, sets, 67.36
 - market for new graduates, 70.31, 71.42
 - market trends, quarterly report on, 69.40, 71.41
 - land use change, 66.58
 - laundry appliances industry, 68.41
 - leasing, changes, 72.52
 - libraries, government department and other, 65.43, 71.16(A)
 - life licensees, 69.38
 - liquidity aggregates, 70.39
 - survey, company, 70.38
 - local authority
 - socio-economic classification, 69.36, 71.37
 - classification, 66.41
 - population centres, 1981 and 1971, 68.35
 - statistics, 64.19, 66.40
 - local government financial statistics, 64.34, 67.43, 68.43
 - Local Government Trends*, 65.43
 - Comparative Statistics*, 69.54
 - Longitudinal study, OPCS, 67.31, 70.27
 - fertility and family background, 65.27
 - macroeconomic policy
 - France and Britain, 68.48
 - Germany and Britain, 72.52
 - NIESR model 8, 72.52
 - manpower
 - Civil Service Statistics*, 66.59, 70.43
 - electronics, Scotland, 64.40
 - engineering industry, manpower and training, 68.39
 - forecasting for Royal Navy officers, 69.22(A)
 - mechanical lifting and handling equipment industry, 64.26
 - NHS statistics, Scotland, 67.34, 68.38
 - statisticians, supply and demand, 68.40
 - manual workers, earnings and hours of, 65.34, 69.41, 70.33
 - earnings, skill levels, 65.33
 - manufactured goods, imports, 71.52
 - manufacturers' sales, index of commodities, 64.29
 - manufacturing industry
 - business, classified list, 66.22, 67.39
 - employment change, Scottish regions, 64.40
 - health and safety, 67.34
 - import penetration and export sales ratios, 64.35
 - sales, review of monthly inquiries, 68.51
 - trends in trade and output, 70.35
 - manufacturing units, employment size, 65.36, 67.39
 - markets, spot and futures, 72.52
 - marriage and divorce, 64.21
 - internal migration, early years, 68.35
 - mechanical engineering, 66.53
 - research and development, Scotland, 70.43
 - mechanical lifting and handling equipment industry, manpower, 64.26
 - mental health enquiry, 65.30, 66.44, 69.39, 70.30
 - mental health statistics, 72.39
 - mental hospitals, facilities and services, 66.44, 67.34, 72.39
 - micro-computer
 - birth projections in Scotland, 72.24(A)
 - manpower forecasting, 69.22(A)
 - purchase of naval spares, 65.18(A)
 - user-friendly analysis package, 67.20(A)
 - midwives, pay, 66.50, 70.32
 - migrant flows, history, in the Rep. of Ireland, 69.36

- migration
 - international, 64.21, 66.42, 71.33, 72.36
 - national, 64.19, 65.26, 65.27, 66.41, 68.35
- mineral statistics, UK, 66.61, 70.43
- minerals, annual census, 64.29, 72.42
- model, National Institute, 66.61, 67.46, 72.52
- manufacturing employment, 66.61
- wage-employment, 70.45
- monetary policy, 68.43
- monetary statistics, 71.51
- money supply, 64.39, 65.40, 65.42
- Monthly Digest of Statistics*, 64.38, 66.61
- Annual Supplement*, 1984, 64.38, 1985, 68.47, 1986, 72.51
- mortality
 - area comparisons, 72.35
 - by cause, 66.41, 72.36
 - immigrant, 67.32
 - occupational, 64.20
 - perinatal and infant, 64.24, 69.36, 72.36
 - projection rates of the elderly, 72.35
 - socio-demographic differentials 1971-1981, 70.27
- Mortality statistics* 1982, 65.27, 1983, 67.31, 1984, 72.36
- motor trades inquiry, 67.41
- museums, visiting, 67.33, 72.40

- national accounts
 - commodity flow accounts, 70.37, 71.47
 - companies, real rates of return, 67.43, 67.44
 - GDP, quarterly revisions, 70.37
 - index-linked bonds, 65.38
 - personal sector saving ratio, 67.43
 - rebasing and reclassification, 64.32
 - sector classification booklet, 64.33, 72.46
 - sources and methods, 70.20
 - United Kingdom*, 66.56, 67.42, 70.37
- National Coal Board Annual Report 1983/4, 67.48, 1984/5, 71.53
- national debt, distribution of, 64.39, 68.48, 72.52
- national food survey
 - quarterly results, 71.43, 72.41
 - Reports for, 1982, 66.65, 1983, 70.33
- National Health Service
 - central register, population movements, 66.40
- National Income and Expenditure* 1983, 64.33, see *UK National Accounts*
- National Institute Economic Review*, 64.40, 65.42, 66.61, 67.46, 68.48, 69.48, 70.44, 71.52, 72.52
- National Maritime Museum, visitors, 72.40
- National Savings Statistical Handbook* 1983-84, 65.46
- New Earnings Survey*, 1984, 66.65, 69.41, 1985, 71.42
- non-official statistical sources, 67.47, 69.25(A)
- Northern Ireland
 - agricultural, capital consumption, 66.51
 - Annual Abstract of Statistics*, 1983, 64.39, 1984, 69.47, 1985, 72.50
 - Census of Population, 1981, 64.19, 70.27
 - Belfast, 67.32
 - Census of Production, 65.36, 68.41, 72.55
 - construction output data, revised, 65.15(A)
 - Housing Statistics*, 1983, 67.34, 71.39
 - Registrar General, Annual Report, 1981, 68.36
 - Social Security Statistics* 1984, 69.48
- North Sea oil
 - financing of, 64.39, 68.48
 - offshore employment, 69.41
 - oil and gas resources, 66.54, 70.36
- numerical and statistical techniques, 68.45
- nursing staff, pay, 66.50, 70.32
- agency, Scotland, 68.38

- occupational
 - mortality, 64.20
 - reproductive epidemiology, 71.40
- OECD statistics, 71.21(A)
- Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, 66.1(A)
 - Handbook for interviews*, 64.23
- official statistics, 64.1(A), 72.48
- oil and gas resources, 66.54, 70.36
- oil exporters' surpluses, 69.48
- other services, starts and stops, 70.35
- output
 - construction data, Northern Ireland, 65.15(A)
 - production industries index, 64.28
 - Scottish service sector, 67.41
 - trends in manufacturing, 70.35
- overseas aid, 64.35
- Overseas Development Administration, 71.4(A)
- overseas earnings, 66.58, 70.41
- overseas investment, 65.41, 66.57, 69.46, 70.40, 71.48
- overseas students, 66.46
- overseas trade
 - by industry, 71.48
 - classification, 65.41, 69.47, 70.41
 - foreign currency invoiced, 70.41
 - UK statistics 1982, 64.34
- overseas transactions
 - films and television, 67.44, 71.48
- overseas travel and tourism, 67.44, 71.48

- parliamentary expenses and votes, 64.23
- election results, 67.46
- pay - and see earnings and salaries
 - armed forces, 66.50, 67.37, 70.31
 - doctors' and dentists' remuneration, 66.50, 70.31
 - nursing staff, midwives, health visitors, 66.50, 70.32
 - professions allied to medicine, 66.50, 70.32
 - public and private sector, 65.42
 - public services pay in the 1980s, 70.44
 - real wage-employment debate, UK models, 70.45
 - top salaries, 66.49, 71.43
- PAYE statistics, 67.36
- pension funds, financial assets, 67.44
- scheme membership in 1983, 72.38
- pensioners, 66.43
- pensions provision, 64.39, 66.43

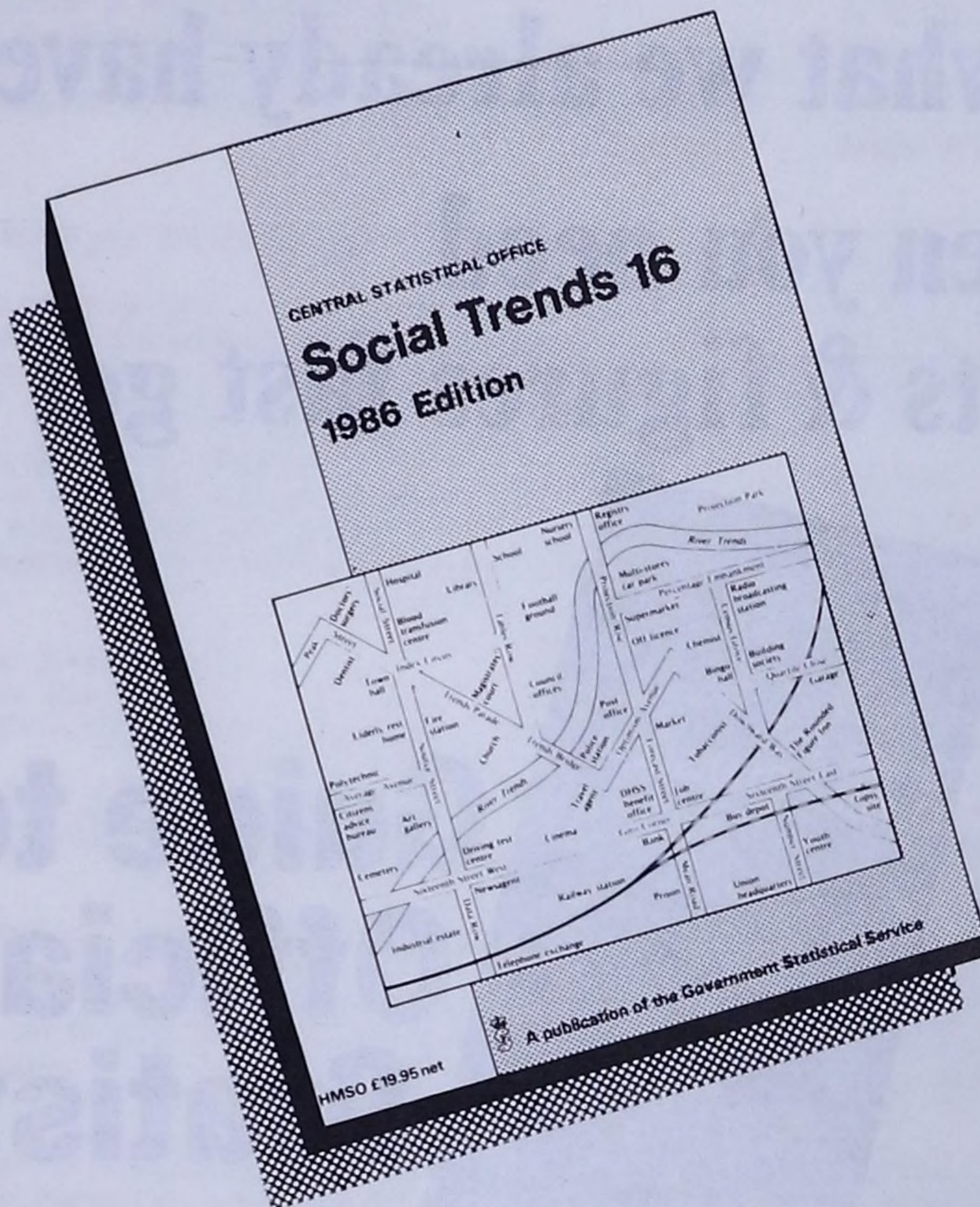
- perinatal and infant mortality, 64.24, 69.36, 72.36
- personal sector
 - liquidity aggregates, 70.39
 - saving ratio, 67.43
- place names, index, 72.36
- pollution, environmental, 64.36
- population - and see Censuses of Population
 - GRO(S), 64.21, 66.42, 67.32, 68.35, 69.37, 70.28, 71.36
 - adults heights and weights, 68.37
 - birth statistics, 65.27, 66.41
 - density, better measures of, 69.35
 - estimates, 65.27, 65.28, 66.41, 66.42, 69.37, 70.28, 70.28, 71.33
 - international conference, 67.31, 67.49
 - local authority areas, 64.19, 66.40, 68.35
 - mortality-see separate item
 - movement, 66.40
 - pensioners, 66.43
 - prison, 66.43, 70.29
 - projections, 65.6(A), 65.28, 66.41, 66.42, 71.33
 - regional migration, 68.35
 - review of 1982, 64.19, 1983, 68.34, 1984, 72.35
 - small area statistics, 65.26, 66.40, 66.42, 68.35, 71.33
 - socio-demographic change, 71.34
 - sources used, 71.33
 - Trends*, 64.19, 65.27, 66.40, 67.31, 68.34, 69.35, 70.27, 71.36, 72.35
 - ward, trends, 72.35
- Port Statistics*, 64.30, 67.41, 69.44, 71.46
- postcodes
 - central directory, 64.20
 - workplace/transport, Scotland, 65.26
- potato crisps and snack foods, 64.27, 66.51, 68.41, 69.42
- pregnancy, infectious diseases, 69.39, 71.40
- price indices
 - agricultural, 64.27
 - retail, 66.54
- prison population, projections, 66.43, 70.28
- Prison Population in 1984*, 70.29
- prison service, staff attitudes, 69.38
- prison statistics: Scotland, 72.38
- prison, young offenders, 65.29, 69.38
- private and public sector employment, 64.26, 69.40, 72.40
 - pay, 65.42
- production
 - census-see Census of Production
- productivity
 - British and German manufacturing plants, 69.48
- profitability, in companies, 67.45, 70.44, 71.51
 - international comparisons, 67.44, 72.48
- public and private sector employment, 64.26, 69.40, 72.40
 - pay, 65.42, 69.40
- public expenditure and taxation to 1990s, 65.39
- public expenditure
 - autumn statement, 64.33, 68.43, 72.46
 - cash limits, 67.43, 71.48
 - definitions and trends, 64.34, 70.51
 - measuring, 70.51
 - White Paper, 65.39, 69.45
- public library, use of statistical publications, 71.16(A)
- public sector
 - borrowing requirement, 65.40, 68.48, 71.52
 - disabled employees, 65.34, 69.40
 - employment, 64.26, 69.40, 72.40
 - financial targets, 71.52
 - government's policy, 71.52
 - housing sales, Scotland, 65.29, 69.38, 71.38
 - pay, 65.42, 70.44
 - rents, Scotland, 67.33, 71.38
- radioactive waste disposals, Scotland, 66.58, 69.46
- reconvictions and recalls of life licensees, 69.38
- redundancy statistics, 64.26, 70.31
- regional
 - accounts 1981, 64.34, 1982, 65.39, 1983, 67.50, 1984, 71.47
 - analysis, businesses starts and stops, 68.41, 69.42
 - drinking, 69.38, 71.40
 - labour force estimates, 1983, 68.39
 - migration, effect on populations, 68.35
 - policy changes, Scotland, 68.48
 - Trends 1984*, 64.21, 1985, 68.36
- register of businesses, 70.13(A)
- registrations, cancer patients, 64.23, 72.38
- research and development statistics, 64.36, 66.58, 68.44, 70.42, 70.43, 72.48
 - employment, 66.60
- Retail Prices Index Advisory Committee, 66.54
- retail prices, indices 1914-1983, 66.54
 - weights, 69.37
- retail sales index, rebased, 64.30
- retailing inquiry, 1982, 64.29, 66.65, 69.43, 1983, 72.55
- retirement, inquiry, 66.43
- review of surveys, 64.42, 65.45, 66.63, 67.49, 68.50, 69.52, 70.50, 71.53, 72.54
- Road Accidents: Great Britain*, 67.42, 1984, 72.45
 - for English regions, 64.32, 69.44
 - Scotland, 64.32, 66.55
- road conditions, 65.37
- road goods transport survey, 66.55
- road haulage survey, international, 65.45, 66.55, 71.46
- road length data, 69.43, Wales, 70.44
- Royal Statistical Society, 150th Anniversary, 64.41, 66.16(A)
 - GSS study group, 64.41, 67.48, 71.53
 - other meetings, 69.51
- salaries - and see earnings and pay
 - armed forces' pay, 66.50, 70.31, 71.43
 - doctors' and dentists' remuneration, 66.50, 70.31
 - nursing staff, midwives, health visitors, 66.50, 70.32
 - professions allied to medicine, 66.50, 70.32
 - top, 66.49, 71.43
- saving and sectoral balances, 66.59

- saving ratio, personal sector, 67.43
savings, committed and discretionary, by households, 70.45
school children, secondary, smoking, 71.40
numbers leaving, 71.42
schooling standards in England and Germany, 70.45
schools, applied statistics, prizes, 66.34, 70.21
Scotland
Advance Tables (NHS), 70.30
agency nursing staff, 68.38
agricultural censuses and surveys, see agricultural
agriculture in, 67.37, 71.44
assisted places scheme, 72.40
census, 1981, 64.19, 65.26
Civil Judicial Statistics 1982, 66.44
composite classes, primary schools, 64.25
condensation, housing, 67.33
court proceedings, 65.29
crime, recorded, 65.29
Criminal Statistics 1980-1981, 68.37
destinations of young people leaving school, 65.31
Economic Report on Scottish Agriculture 1982, 64.28
economic support in rural areas, 70.43
educational basic statistics, 66.47
elderly, accommodation, 65.29
electronics manpower, 64.40
employment in research and development, 66.60
employment trends, 69.40, 72.51
family planning, 72.38
fine defaulters, 65.29
foodborne infections and intoxications, 1984, 70.30
further education, enrolment, 66.47, 71.41, 72.40
General Medical Services, 70.30
Gaelic language in, 65.26
graduates, first employment, 65.31, 72.40
health statistics, 65.30, 66.45, 67.34, 68.38, 70.30,
homelessness, 72.38
hospital statistics, 71.41
housing sales, public sector, 65.29, 69.38, 71.38
housing trends, 64.22, 67.33, 71.38, 72.38
index of industrial production, 65.35, 66.60
input-output tables 1979, 66.52, 66.60, 68.48
industry, high technology, 72.51
manufacturing employment, 64.40, 72.51
medical and dental staff, 71.41
mental health in-patient statistics, 71.41
microcomputer graphics, 72.24(A)
NHS, national manpower statistics, 67.35, 68.38
non-advanced further education, 71.41
overseas owned firms, 67.41, 72.51
patterns of work, 70.43
plant, branch performance, 72.51
population and vital statistics-see under population
postcodes, 64.20, 65.26
pre-school children, provision, 68.38
prison statistics, 72.38
radioactive waste disposal, 66.58, 69.46
regional policy changes, 68.48
regions, 64.40
Registrar General's Annual Report, 1982, 64.21, 1983, 67.32, 1984, 71.36
rents, 67.33, 71.38
research and development in mechanical engineering, 70.43
road accidents, 64.32, 66.55
school leavers, 65.31, 66.47, 69.39, 71.41
schools, placing requests, 70.31
schools, pupils and teachers, 70.31
seat belts, 64.32
SED statistical bulletins, 64.25, 65.31, 66.47, 68.38, 69.39, 70.31, 71.41, 72.40
service sector output, 67.41
special schools, 65.31
student awards and bursaries, 69.39
teachers, excess and deficit, 66.47, 71.41
transport industry 1979, 68.42
travel-to-work areas, 68.48
university students, 70.31
Scottish Abstract of Statistics, 66.60, 71.51
Scottish Agricultural Economic Report, 64.28, 70.33
Scottish Economic Bulletin, 64.40, 66.60, 68.48, 70.43, 72.51
Scottish Health Statistics, 65.30, 67.34
Scottish Housing Statistics, 64.22, 68.37, 71.38
Scottish Office-Centenary, 69.5(A)
Scottish social work statistics, 65.29
Scottish transport statistics, 65.37
Sea Fisheries Statistical Tables, 1984, 72.42
sea passenger movements, review of form, 71.46
sector financing, 65.39, 66.57, 66.59, 70.44
sector balance sheets, 65.39
sector classification booklet, 64.33, 69.46, 72.46
securities market, future, 66.60
unlisted, 72.51
self-employed, 64.26, 69.40
young workers, 68.40
self-sufficiency in food, 64.27, 72.41
service, and distributive, trades, results of four-year inquiry, 1983 inquiries, 71.44, 72.43
services sector
importance, 65.37
in the UK economy, 71.44
'other', starts and stops, 70.35
Scottish output, 67.41
Seychelles, working there, 72.20(A)
shipping, 64.31, 66.54, 71.45
industry, purchases and sales of ships, 67.42, 71.46
Skelmersdale New Town, population and social survey 1983, 65.43, 1984, 69.49
small area statistics, 65.26, 66.42, 67.36, 68.35, 71.33
small firms
definition, 67.40
job generation, 67.40, 68.39
starts and stops, 64.29, 65.36, 66.53, 68.41, 69.42, 70.35, 71.44
smoking

among secondary school children, 71.40
 habit or choice, 67.31
 snack foods, 64.27, 66.51, 68.41, 69.42
 social science, data analysis and collection,
 68.52
Social Security Statistics 1983, 65.28, 1984,
 68.36
Northern Ireland, 1983, 67.34, 1984, 69.48
Social Trends, 67.32, 71.36
 amendments to, 64.23, 69.47
 socio-demographic change, 71.34
 softwear, 65.41
 sources and definitions, employment, 72.40
Sources and Methods, National Accounts, 70.20
SSRC Data Archive Bulletin, 65.42, 67.47
Standard Industrial Classification Revised
 (1980),
 employment statistics, 64.25
 import penetration and export sales ratios,
 64.35
 index of industrial production, 64.28
 Scotland, 65.35, 66.60
 regional accounts, 64.34
 State figures, 69.11(A)
 statistical and numerical techniques, 68.45
 sources, non-official, 67.47
 statistical data files, bibliographical control,
 70.49
 statistical education centre, 65.31
Statistical Handbook 1983-4, DNS, 65.46
 statistical information government guidelines,
 66.32
 statistical methodology, 64.41
 statistical modelling conference, 66.63
 statistical publications in the public library,
 71.16(A)
 statistical softwear, 65.41
 statistical 'stagiaires' in EC, 72.27
 statistical work in DOE, 72.4(A)
 statisticians
 academic, directory, 68.50
 supply and demand, 68.40
 statistics
 aid, computerisation of, 69.19(A)
 EITB, 65.36, 70.46
 government in the 1980s, 68.9(A)
 Guide, 71.50
 industry and quality conference, 72.53
 non-official, 69.25(A)
 OECD, 71.21(A)
 official, 64.1(A)
 tourism, 72.44
 Trade Association, 69.27(A)
 Statistics Users', Council, 68.17
 group, transport industry, 72.45
 steel stocks and consumption inquiry, 66.64
 Stock Exchange, reorganisation, 72.52
 stocks
 all stocks index, 66.57
 of consumer durables, 64.29, 67.50, 72.43
 stoppages, 65.41, 70.43, 71.42
 students, overseas, 66.46
 suicides, 65.27
 supplementary benefit statistics, 1983, 70.28
 survey data expectations, 71.52
Survey of Personal Incomes 1982-83, 71.47
 survey, Welsh intercensal, 71.39
 surveys, reviews of, 64.42, 65.45, 66.63, 67.49,
 68.50, 69.52, 70.50, 71.53, 72.54
 tax/benefit model tables, DHSS, 70.28
 taxation and expenditure to 1990s, 65.39
 taxes and benefits, effects on household income
 1982, 64.22, 1983, 68.37, 1984, 72.37
 taxes and social security changes, 64.40
 taxes and social security contributions,
 international comparisons, 64.36, 69.47
 teachers, excess and deficit, Scotland, 66.47,
 71.41
 technology, new, 72.53
 television and films, overseas transactions,
 67.44, 71.48
 temporary work, 72.41
 time series meetings, 65.44
 top salaries, 66.49, 71.43
 tourism statistics, 72.44
 trade
 association statistics, 69.27(A)
 bill of entry system review, 64.34
 classification, 65.41, 69.47, 70.41
 foreign currency invoiced, 70.41
 import penetration and export sales ratios,
 64.35, 72.48
 overseas, 71.48, 71.51
 tariff protection, 67.46
 trends in manufacturing, 70.35
 union membership, 69.54
 UK statistics, 64.34
 training, vocational, 69.41
 transport
 freight market conditions, survey, 72.45
 first statistics, 68.21(A)
 heavy goods vehicles, classification, 66.55
 ports, 64.30, 67.41, 69.44, 71.46
 road goods survey, 66.55
 road haulage survey, international, 65.45,
 66.55, 68.42, 71.46
 roll on/roll off goods vehicle survey, 65.45,
 66.55
 Scottish industry 1979, 68.42
 sea, FORM PAS 15, 71.46
 shipping, 64.31, 66.54, 67.42, 71.46
 statistics, Great Britain, 68.42, 71.45
 Scotland, 65.37
 Wales, 70.43
 statistics users' group, 72.45
 transport statistics, users' conference,
 64.10(A), 65.37
 waterways, 66.55, 69.44
 travel, national survey, 1985/86, 67.41
 travel and tourism, overseas, 67.44, 71.48
 travel-to-work areas, 67.36, Scotland, 68.48
 changing patterns 1971-81, 69.35
 trees and woodlands, census, 64.28
 unemployment, 65.32, 66.48, 67.35
 adjustments, 71.42
 British, causes of, 69.48
 comparisons, 72.41
United Kingdom Balance of Payments 1984,
 66.57, 1985, 70.40

- UK exports and imports invoiced in foreign currency: 1979-83, 70.41
- UK external assets and liabilities, 66.60, 69.46, 71.51
- UK imports of manufactured goods, 71.52
- United Kingdom Education Statistics 1983 Edition*, 64.24
- United Kingdom Mineral Statistics, 1983*, 66.61, 1984, 70.43
- United Kingdom National Accounts 1984*, 66.56, 67.42, 1985, 70.37
- Sources and Methods*, 70.20
- United Kingdom Statistical Sources*, 70.45
- United Nations
 - industrial data for research, 71.48
 - Statistical Commission, 69.50
 - statistical computing project, 68.45
- university
 - first degree graduates, Scotland, 65.31, 72.40
 - Grants Committee, Annual Survey, 66.46
 - students, 70.31
- Unlisted Securities Market, 72.51
- urban
 - areas, key statistics, 66.40
 - Britain, 66.40
- user-friendly analysis package, micro-computer, 67.20(A)
- vacancies, long duration, 72.41
- vehicle excise duty evasion in GB, 69.43
- venture capital, 66.59
- visitors, National Maritime Museum, 72.40
- wage rates, 65.34
- wages and employment, inter-war period, 68.49
- Wales
 - household survey 1986, 71.39
 - house renovation grants, 1983/84 survey, 71.26(A)
 - local government financial statistics, 64.34, 68.43
 - road length statistics, 1984, 70.44
 - Transport Statistics, 1985*, 70.43
- water statistics, 64.36, 68.43
- Waterfacts*, 70.42
- waterway traffic, 66.55, 69.44
- wholesaling, catering and motor trades, inquiries, 67.41, 71.44
- women, in employment, 65.33, 66.48, 67.36 and drinking, 72.37
- in engineering, 65.34
- women's health care preferences, 68.52
- woodlands and trees census, 64.28
- world fertility survey, 64.41, 65.44, 67.45, 67.48, 68.49, 69.49
- young offenders
 - prison, 65.29, 69.38
 - sentencing, 69.38
- young people, first employment, 66.49, 68.39
- young workers, self-employed, 68.40

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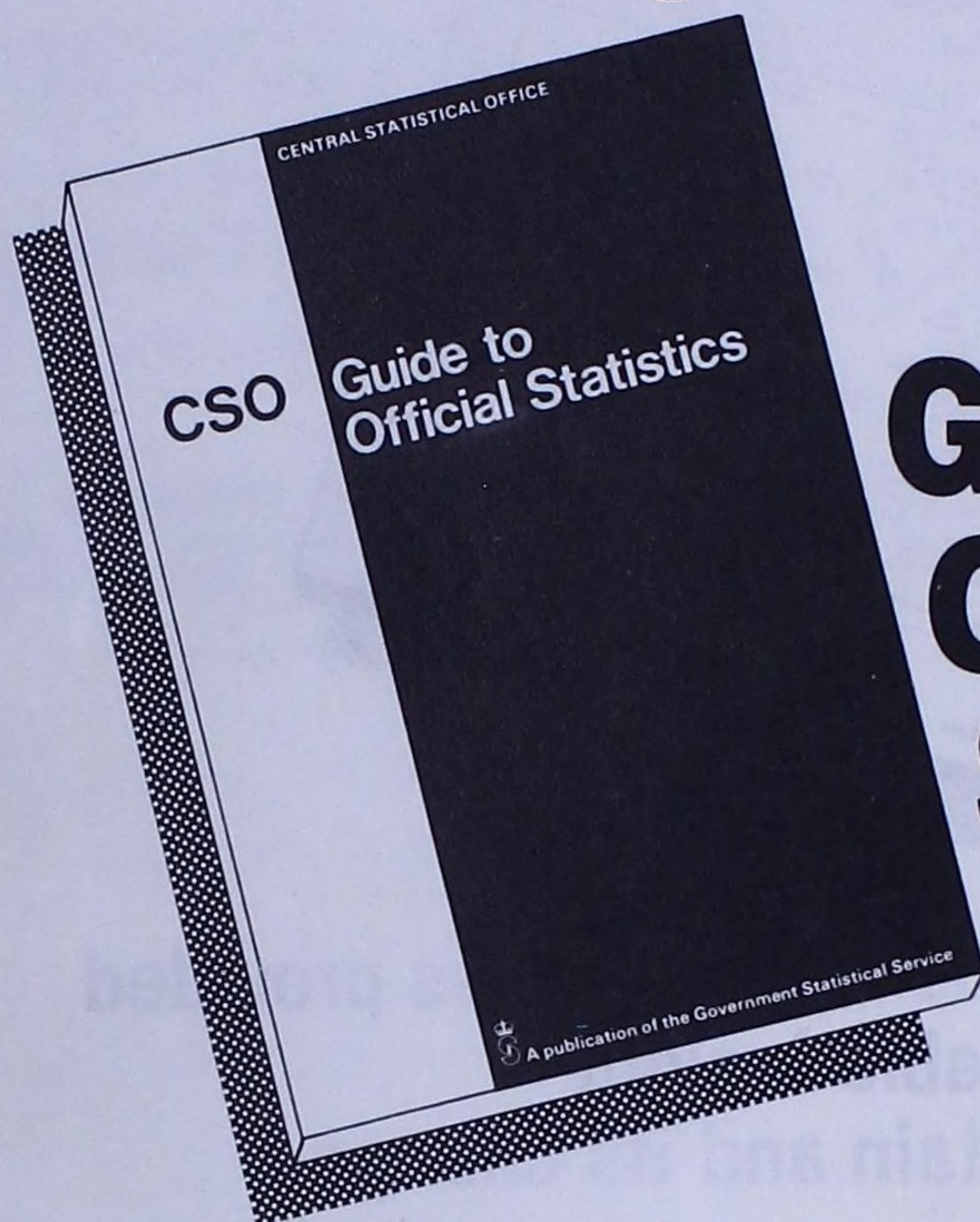
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