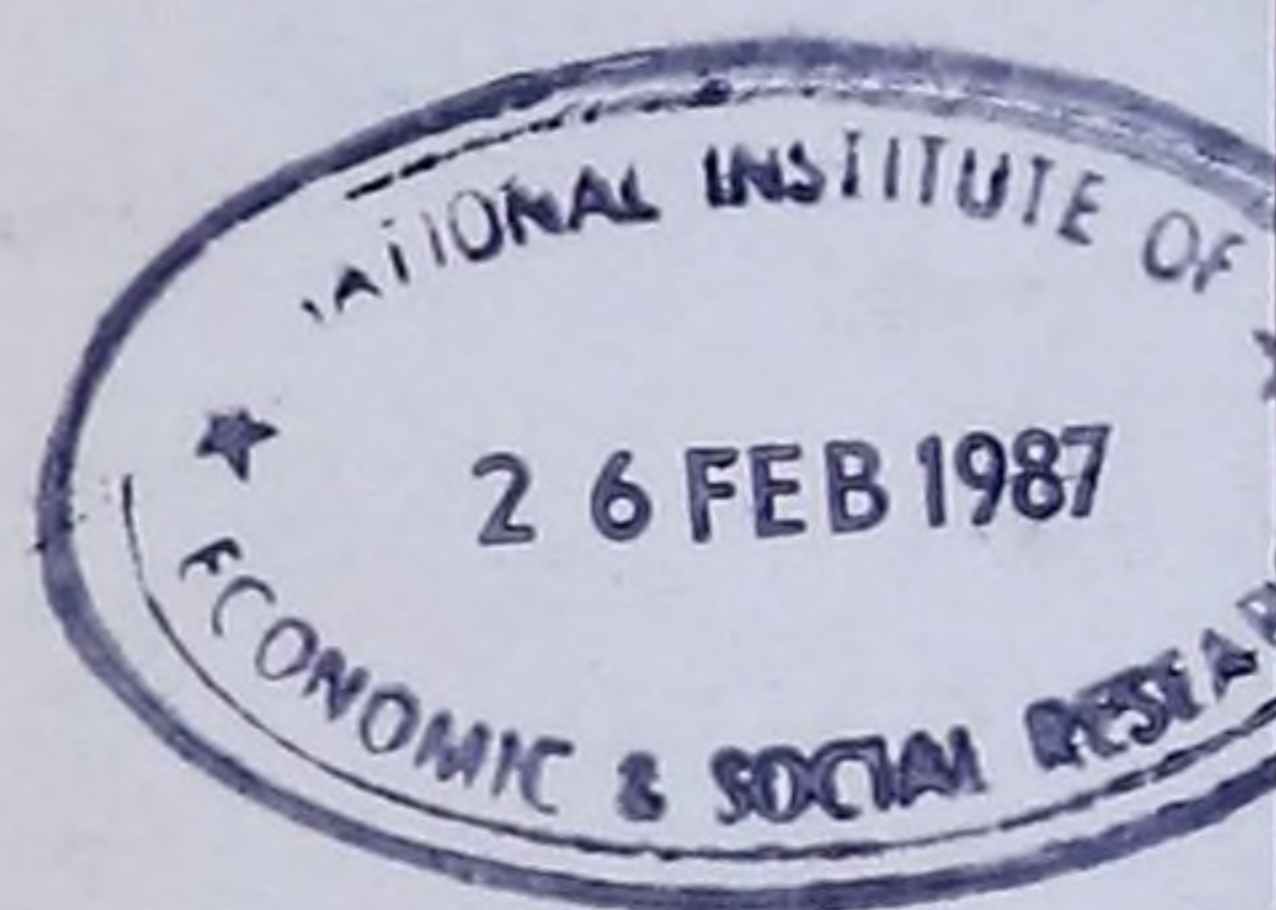


CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE

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Statistical News



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**HM Customs and Excise
Statistical Liaison Group
Company Accounts Analysis
Statistics Users' Conference
Writing Statistical Articles**

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No. 76

**February 1987
HMSO Quarterly**



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Government Statistical Service

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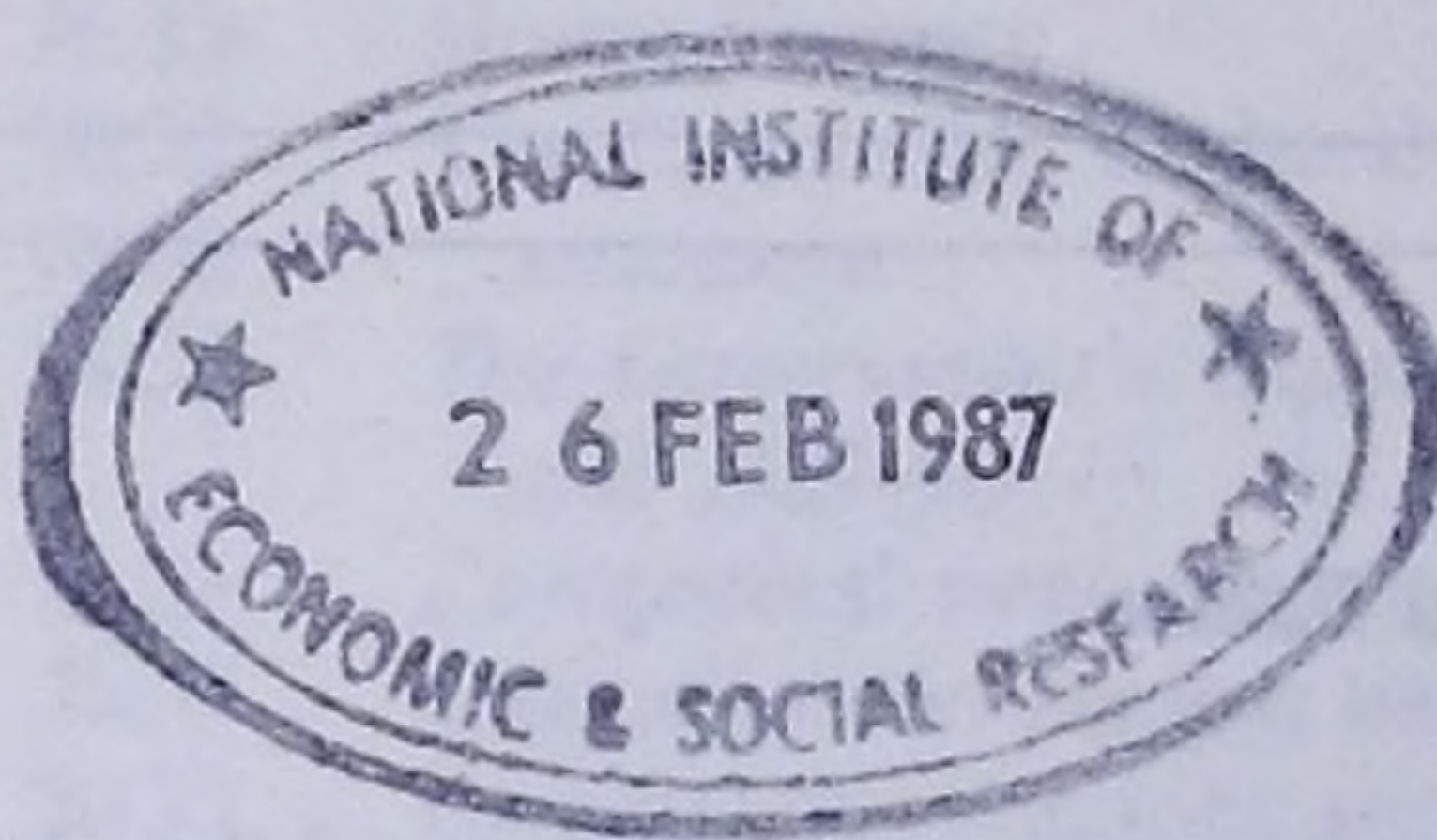
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FRONT COVER

The cover design depicts a corner of the Government Offices in Great George Street which house the CSO. The entrance to the historic Cabinet War Rooms, which are now open to the public, can be seen at the bottom of the picture. The design is from a pen and ink drawing by Mr Harry Foster, a Security Guard at the Office.

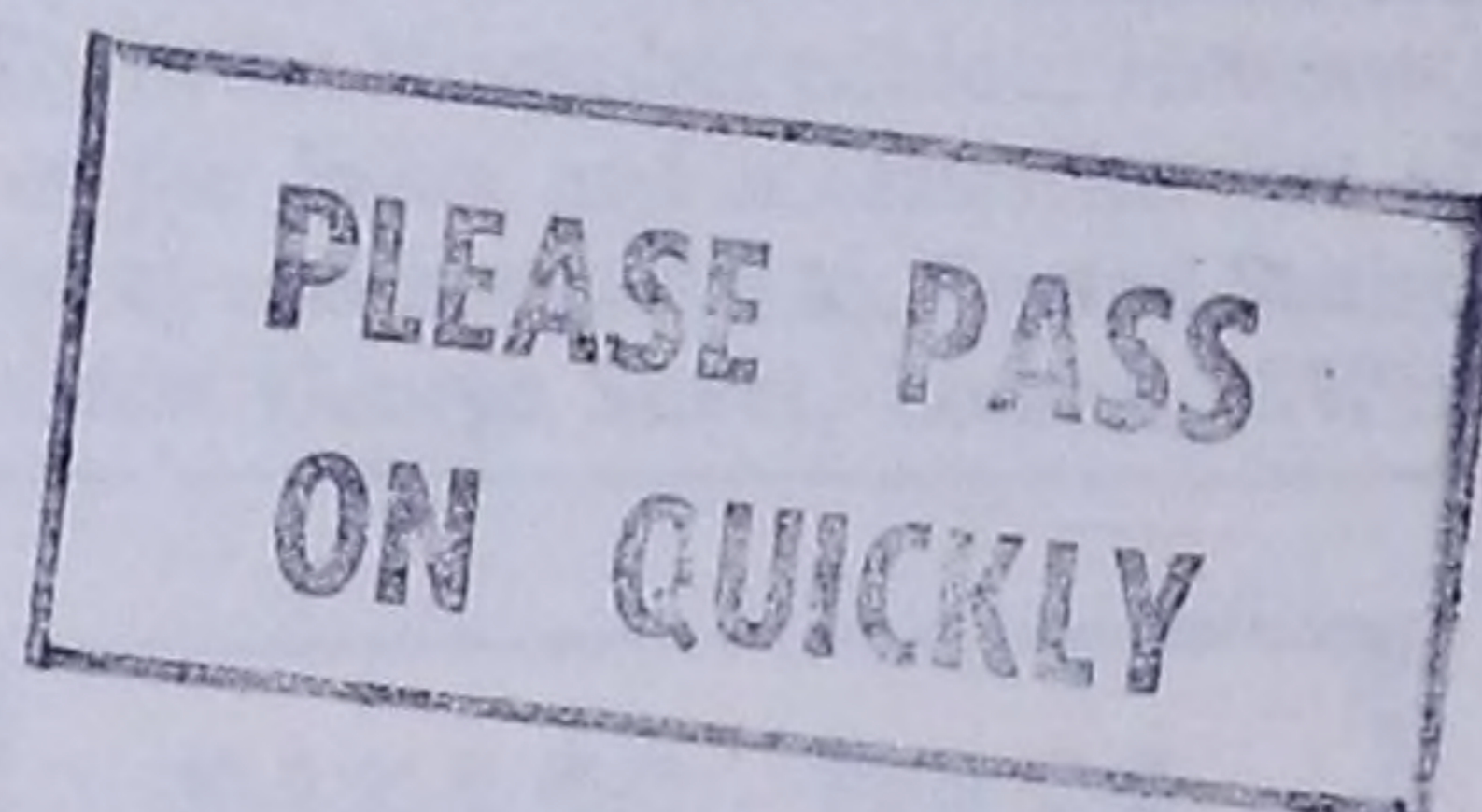
CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE



Statistical News

**Developments in British
Official Statistics**

**No. 76
February 1987**



London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office

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The alphabetical index will in future only be published annually in the November edition. However, a free up-to-date copy of the index and a classified list of articles can be obtained by sending a SAE to: Central Statistical Office, Room 72/3, Great George Street, London, SW1P 3AQ.

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The Departmental Planning Unit —
seated left to right: Peter Wilmott and Barry Sexton; standing: members of the statistical branch.



The Statistical Office — seated left to right: Athol Cowley, Colin Finlinson and Ralph Schiller;
standing left to right: David Watts, Brian Wood and David Quirk

Statistics in HM Customs and Excise

Colin Finlinson, Controller, HM Customs and Excise

Introduction

Statistical work in HM Customs and Excise is carried out in two discrete areas, although they share common parentage. The Departmental Planning Unit's role is in the formulation of general policy on the internal taxes for which Customs and Excise is responsible - VAT and the excise duties. This involves studying the pattern of excise duties and taxes as a whole, and how they fit in with the overall British tax system. A primary task is to forecast the yield of the department's taxes for the next financial year and to monitor revenue receipts against forecast. The Statistical Office's function is the compilation of statistics of the overseas trade of the United Kingdom. The primary use of these statistics is in the construction of the balance of payments accounts and in the economic analysis of overseas trade. These activities are the responsibility of the Department of Trade and Industry and have been described in two earlier articles in *Statistical News* (1,2). However, the Statistical Office also makes detailed statistics available directly to other government departments, to the European Community and to the general public, as well as meeting an increasing demand for information from within Customs and Excise.

The Departmental Planning Unit

History

Until 1970 the Departmental Planning Unit was known as the Intelligence Branch. The latter was set up in the early 1920s when it took over and developed the work in revenue statistics and estimating which had earlier been carried out by the Statistical Office. Over the years the responsibilities of the branch widened and it came to play an important part in the department's Budget activities, advising on the buoyancy of various duties and taxes, the effect of changes in tax rates and other implications of suggested changes.

The Intelligence Branch had responsibilities for collecting information of all kinds relating to indirect taxation. This was gleaned from many sources - departmental accounts, official publications, non-government economic and statistical agencies etc. It was not confined to domestic issues: the examination of tax systems in other countries formed an important part of the work.

The translation to Departmental Planning Unit came about largely as a result of the recommendations of the Fulton Committee. This recommended the creation of planning and research units to take responsibility for long-term policy planning. As the Intelligence Branch was already carrying out some of the functions envisaged for such units its name was changed to the Departmental Planning Unit.

Organisation

The Departmental Planning Unit's staff comes from the statistical and economic services, and from the administration group within the department who provide the necessary Customs and Excise experience. It is headed by Peter Wilmott, Assistant Secretary, who reports directly to the Deputy Chairman, Internal Taxation. The unit has four branches; dealing with indirect tax policy, statistics, economics and tax harmonisation. As this article is principally concerned with statistics further description will be restricted to that branch. It is headed by a Statistician, Barry Sexton, who is supported by a Senior Assistant Statistician and it has a complement of eleven.

The main functions of the Statistics branch are to collate and analyse statistics on all the department's taxes and, together with the Economics branch, to forecast and monitor receipts. It also plays a central role in calculating the United Kingdom's contribution to the European Community's budget.

Revenue forecasts require an increasingly technological approach and the branch has access to increasingly sophisticated facilities. It relies on the Treasury's computerised model of the economy, and has a microcomputer and a terminal to access the new VISION system which provides information on VAT within Customs and Excise.

A new computer system, based on a network of microcomputers, is being developed to deal with the storage, retrieval and analysis of all duty statistics. It will improve the facilities available for the analysis and presentation of data and provide a more efficient and extensive service to the department, to government as a whole, and to trade interests, of all statistical aspects of the Departmental Planning Unit's work.

Although only the Statistics branch has been described in any detail, a striking feature of the Departmental Planning Unit is that it relies on team work involving more than one branch or discipline. A recent example was a distortion in wine statistics which resulted from an anomaly in duty differentials following the 1984 budget; it became cheaper to blend high and low strength wines than to provide medium strength wine. As a consequence statistics of clearances in the various strength bands bore little resemblance to consumption. This was the subject of painstaking investigation involving dissecting and reconstructing the data, and was eventually remedied in the 1985 budget with the closing of the loophole.

The Statistical Office

History

The Statistical Office has its origins in the 17th Century and the collection of statistics of overseas trade can be traced to even earlier dates. When the Statistical Department was created in 1871 it incorporated three well established offices. The Examiner's Office was in existence in 1675 and its functions were to examine entries and check computations made by Customs Clerks for duty purposes. By 1870 it had grown to be a very large office and was also undertaking the collection and preparation of information for statistical purposes.

The Bill of Entry was originally a private concern and did not come fully under Customs control until 1881. It operated under a patent which is known to have been in existence in 1619. This patent gave the holder the right to access all official documents relating to Customs reports and entries and of publishing information derived from them. From early times daily lists of ships arriving and clearing at the ports together with details of their cargoes were published. These daily Bills of Entry eventually gave their name to the agency producing them and it is still retained within the Statistical Office.

The Statistical Office is, however, most directly descended from the Inspector General's Office which was created for the specific purpose of computing statistics of overseas trade in 1696. The first Inspector General, William Gulliford, was instructed 'to make and keep a particular, distinct, and true account of the importations and exportations of all commodities into and out of this kingdom, and to and from what places the same are exported or imported, and out of the said account one in every year and as often as he shall be thereto required by us or any three or more of us, or by the lord high treasurer or any three or more of the commissioners of the treasury for the time being, make and present a fair and exact scheme of the balance of trade (as it then stands) between England and any other part of the world'.

The Inspector General's Office recorded particulars of imports and exports in ledgers, one for each year, in which they were arranged under the names of countries and broken down by commodities. About 1774 a new kind of statistical table was introduced known as the 'States of Navigation and Commerce', which was simpler than the ledgers and ultimately superseded them. Allowing for changes in coverage and classification, the present system of monthly and annual statistics can be said to have originated with the formation of the Statistical Department in 1871.

The Statistical Department also acquired the responsibility for the preparation of revenue estimates for budget purposes and by 1920 this had become sufficiently onerous to justify the creation of the separate Intelligence Branch. At that point the head of the Statistical Office, as it was now called, was given the title of Controller, a title which he stills holds.

In the same year the Statistical Office moved from the Custom House to its own premises in Holborn. A Machine Division was set up during 1922-23 with the then largest punched card installation in a government department. After evacuation to Buxton during the Second World War the Statistical Office returned to premises in Brooke Street in 1946, remaining there until it moved, in 1966, to its current location in Southend-on-Sea.

Processing and Outputs

The primary use of the overseas trade statistics is for the construction of the balance of payments accounts and macro and micro economic analysis. The Department of Trade and Industry adjusts the statistics to a Balance of Payments basis and from them calculates the United Kingdom's balance on visible trade; summary figures are published as a Press Notice some three to four weeks after the end of the month to which the figures relate. Much more detailed figures on the original Customs basis are laid before Parliament and published in Overseas Trade Statistics (OTS)³ a few weeks later. Although formally a Department of Trade and Industry publication, OTS is entirely produced by the Statistical Office and is passed to HMSO as camera ready copy for printing.

The requirement to produce very timely statistics and the volume of import and export documents (known as entries) that must be processed, have a major impact on the operations of the Statistical Office. In 1985 there were approximately five million import entries, and four million export entries. Although an increasing proportion of import entries is provided to the Statistical Office in machine readable form, either input directly by traders or keyed by Customs staff at ports, most export entries and half of all entries are still in paper form. These paper entries must be sorted, microfilmed and keyed; this is a very labour intensive operation in which any incipient backlog must be dealt with promptly.

All entries for consignments with a value of £475 and above are subjected to computer validation and credibility checks. Entries failing validity checks must be corrected before inclusion in the statistics; those failing credibility checks are included but must be scrutinised to ensure that significant errors are not allowed through. This data editing function involves a comparatively large number of staff working to a strict timetable.

As well as the OTS much more detailed breakdowns are produced for use within Customs and Excise, for other government departments and for the general public - especially trade interests. The main tabulations in the OTS use the UN's Standard International Trade Classification to categorise goods to approximately 1900 headings. However traders are required to classify goods on Customs entries using the more detailed 8 digit Tariff Trade Code Numbers (TTCN), of which there are currently some 9000.

Some tabulations by TTCN are included in the OTS but additional analyses at the TTCN level, broken down by country of consignment, origin or destination, or port are also produced. Moreover such analyses may be produced on conventional paper tabulations, on microfiche or on magnetic tape. The service providing this detailed information to the general public is still operated under the historic title Bill of Entry.

Membership of the European Community (EC) has added a further statutory requirement to provide statistics to the Statistical Office of the European Communities (SOEC) in Luxembourg. These figures, which are compiled on a different basis to those published domestically, are for statistical purposes and are published in Eurostat. In addition the Statistical Office is required to provide a range of information to both the SOEC and to various Directorates General in Brussels for surveillance and control purposes (eg to assist in the operation of the Common Agricultural Policy or the Generalised System of Preferences). In the latter case this can, and frequently does, require the provision of reports every ten days for specified goods for specified countries.

Organisation

The Statistical Office is a division of the department's Customs Directorate and is headed at Grade 5 level by the Controller who is currently Colin Finlinson. The Deputy Controller (Grade 6) is Athol Cowley who also heads a small administration branch. It has been recent practice for either the Controller or Deputy Controller to be drawn from the administration group of Customs and Excise, and for the other post to be filled by a professional statistician; currently the Deputy Controller is a statistician. The office is organised into five branches and, excluding the administration branch (Branch 4), these are headed at Grade 7 level. Two of the branches are headed by Statisticians. The Statistical Office's present complement of nearly 600 staff reflects the volume of data processed each month, requiring substantial numbers of data processing staff for keying paper inputs and a large body of clerical and executive staff for data editing.

Branch 1 is responsible for data editing and data improvement at source. It is organised into units each of which is responsible for imports and exports of a range of associated TTCNs. Data editing is increasingly being targeted towards meeting the priority needs of users, so that TTCNs which are considered important have more resources devoted to them than those which represent insignificant trade or attract little interest. Data editing is routinely a matter of dealing with the output from the computerised validation and credibility checks. However, trade associations may challenge published figures which in their members' experience, or in the light of other evidence, they consider likely to be in error. Where such errors are significant they are investigated and the developing relationship with trade associations has been very beneficial.

The branch also deals with representations that published figures may reveal commercially significant details about individual traders. Where justified, potential breaches of confidentiality are avoided either by merging of data for two or more TTCNs or by non-publication of detailed country and/or port data.

Increasing attention has been given in recent years to the identification and education of agents or traders who persistently submit incorrect entries. Data improvement is of particular importance because there may be revenue implications as well as the requirement to produce accurate

statistics. Although there is a statutory requirement for accurate entries, in practice it is the persistence of Statistical Office staff, referring well documented cases of errors to agents and eventually to their principals, that yields results.

Branch 2 has more diverse responsibilities. It is responsible for the initial sorting of entries received by the Statistical Office and the provision of the Bill of Entry service. Its other functions are the control of a simplified clearance procedure whereby exporters are permitted to lodge detailed declarations after the goods have been exported, and the carrying out of special exercises.

The Bill of Entry service provides detailed information on United Kingdom imports and exports. Tabulations showing value and quantity for individual TTCNs are produced broken down, for example, by country of origin or destination, or by port of import/export. The range of information supplied extends from an occasional single sheet tabulation, to regular monthly comprehensive analyses on magnetic tape. A substantial customer base, including some 3500 regular subscribers, has been built up over the years reflecting the quality of service and value for money offered. Nevertheless, it has become apparent that radical change is required to meet the growing demand for better access to overseas trade statistics and the imminent partial return of the Bill of Entry service to the private sector is outlined in a later section.

The export control function may seem slightly unusual for a Statistical Office but statistical analysis is probably the most important use of export entries since there are relatively few revenue implications. The branch monitors the post-shipment declarations submitted by traders to ensure that all pre-shipment advice documents are accounted for. Because a complete reconciliation is never possible, even though traders risk being withdrawn from the scheme if they default, some under-recording of exports occurs. Consequently the branch carries out regular exercises where the original documents are sought from traders in respect of pre-shipment documents unaccounted for. This provides an estimate of under-recording and is used to adjust the value of exports in the balance of payment accounts.

A similar quality control exercise is carried out to determine the accuracy of the overseas trade statistics, and the success or otherwise of the validation and credibility checks. For this purpose a three per cent sample of entries is periodically extracted and the original documents relating to them obtained. These are then examined in detail and any errors in the entry as submitted, before and after editing are determined. This sample is also the basis of a number of further special exercises including the verification of export values.

Currently the branch is also involved in a survey of the inland origins and destinations of trade on behalf of the Department of Transport to assist in the planning of the transport infrastructure. A similar survey was conducted in 1978.

Branch 3 is responsible for systems and computing liaison. The Statistical Office does not have its own systems and programming staff or a dedicated computer but is supported by the department's Computer Services Division. However the scale and complexity of the various trade statistics computer systems have made it essential to maintain a specialised liaison branch.

The branch is responsible for monitoring and advising on computer processing and making sure that the critical monthly timetable is achieved. Equally important is the development and specification of the requirements for enhancements to the systems and changes in input and output requirements. The branch oversees the implementation of such enhancements. Catering for changes in inputs to the trade statistics systems involves close liaison with the appropriate Customs divisions and detailed scrutiny of changes in Customs entry processing systems from which much of the statistical data is drawn. Where changes to these source systems are required to maintain or extend the information provided to the Statistical Office these similarly become the responsibility of the branch.

Branch 5 is responsible for all matters relating to the European Community's statistical requirements. It supplies the statistical and surveillance returns mentioned earlier, and liaises with other government departments concerning changes in the latter. The branch also provides a representative, as does the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), on the External Trade Statistics (METHODS) Committee which is responsible for the determination of the rules and procedures to be applied in the compilation of statistics for the SOEC.

The other major function of Branch 5 is concerned with nomenclature. Again this has a strong EC flavour and involves the review and amendment of the Community's NIMEXE trade classification system through representation, together with DTI, at meetings of the NIMEXE Committee in Luxembourg. A significant Branch 5 involvement, in collaboration with DTI, is also required to examine and approve proposals either from within government or from trade interests, for insertion of purely national statistical subdivisions within the overall NIMEXE classification structure.

Current Developments

Following a major internal review of the Statistical Office in 1984, it was clear that without considerable development the Bill of Entry service would not be able to meet the potential demand for statistics, nor customers' demands for more advanced methods of dissemination. Rather than attempting to improve the service from very limited resources, it was decided to appoint marketing agents from the private sector who could offer a wide range of services providing new facilities such as on-line access to a trade statistics database, information on floppy disk for customers with microcomputers and tailor-made analyses. The Statistical Office will be providing the agents each month with comprehensive computer files containing significantly more information than previously made available through the Bill of Entry. The new arrangements are due to come into operation in March 1987 when the January 1987 trade statistics

become available. Six marketing agents have been appointed following widespread advertising of the proposal, and trialling of the system is now under way.

By appointing a number of marketing agents the effect of competition should ensure that customers will continue to get the service they had previously, and at a reasonable price. To further protect customers the contract with marketing agents stipulates that services should be maintained close to their existing prices for the initial year.

On 1 January 1988 major changes will occur in Customs procedures affecting the processing and publication of trade statistics. The new internationally agreed method of classifying goods for customs, statistical and trade purposes (the Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System) will replace existing systems. The Statistical Office has been heavily involved in the transposition from the NIMEXE system and in the integration of existing national statistical sub-divisions into the new structure. Related to the introduction of the Harmonised System is the introduction of the Community Integrated Tariff (TARIC). The end result is a more precise and detailed coding structure leading to the availability of more detailed trade statistics to the EC and other interested parties. At the same time a new Single Administrative Document (SAD) is to be introduced by all member states of the EC for Customs entries. The SAD is intended to facilitate trade within the EC, to simplify documentation required for trade generally and makes provision for the longer code requirements of the Harmonised System and TARIC.

The 1 January 1988 changes have become a major project in Customs and Excise. In the Statistical Office computer systems must be modified, keying and document handling procedures amended, staff trained etc. Because the changes affect all traders and agents there is likely to be a significant if short-term increase in the number of entries rejected at data editing despite an extensive public education programme. Although enhancements to computer systems may be able to handle some of these problems automatically, the Statistical Office's staff will be fully stretched to produce trade statistics of acceptable quality to the normal timetable.

The problem for the Statistical Office is compounded by the introduction also on 1 January 1988 of the third revision to the Standard International Trade Classification. The EC are also introducing a new regulation requiring the compilation of additional transport statistics to become effective on the same date. As a result hardly any part of the Statistical Office's operations will be unaffected.

The Future

With the development of new Customs entry processing systems it seems likely that the Statistical Office will eventually receive significantly fewer paper Customs entries. This will have a major impact on the size of the office since it affects directly the number of keying staff required and because the data will already have been subject to some validation and credibility checks before reaching the trade statistics system.

A research project, which was initially supported by a commercial firm of consultants, is being carried out to improve credibility checking methods and to develop means of imputing values or quantities for non-credible data. The improved credibility checks will be incorporated into both the new Customs entry processing systems and the Statistical Office's system. There are major plans to develop and enhance the latter involving a new on-line system for data editing to replace the present batch system.

A further development, now at the feasibility study stage, is the creation of a Customs Data Store. The essential concept is a computer system holding a long run of original basic customs entry data, with all subsequent amendments, for use throughout the department. The volume of data is very large and the project has only become feasible with the development of optical storage technology. Even so only the most recent year's data will be held on-line for immediate interrogation or analysis.

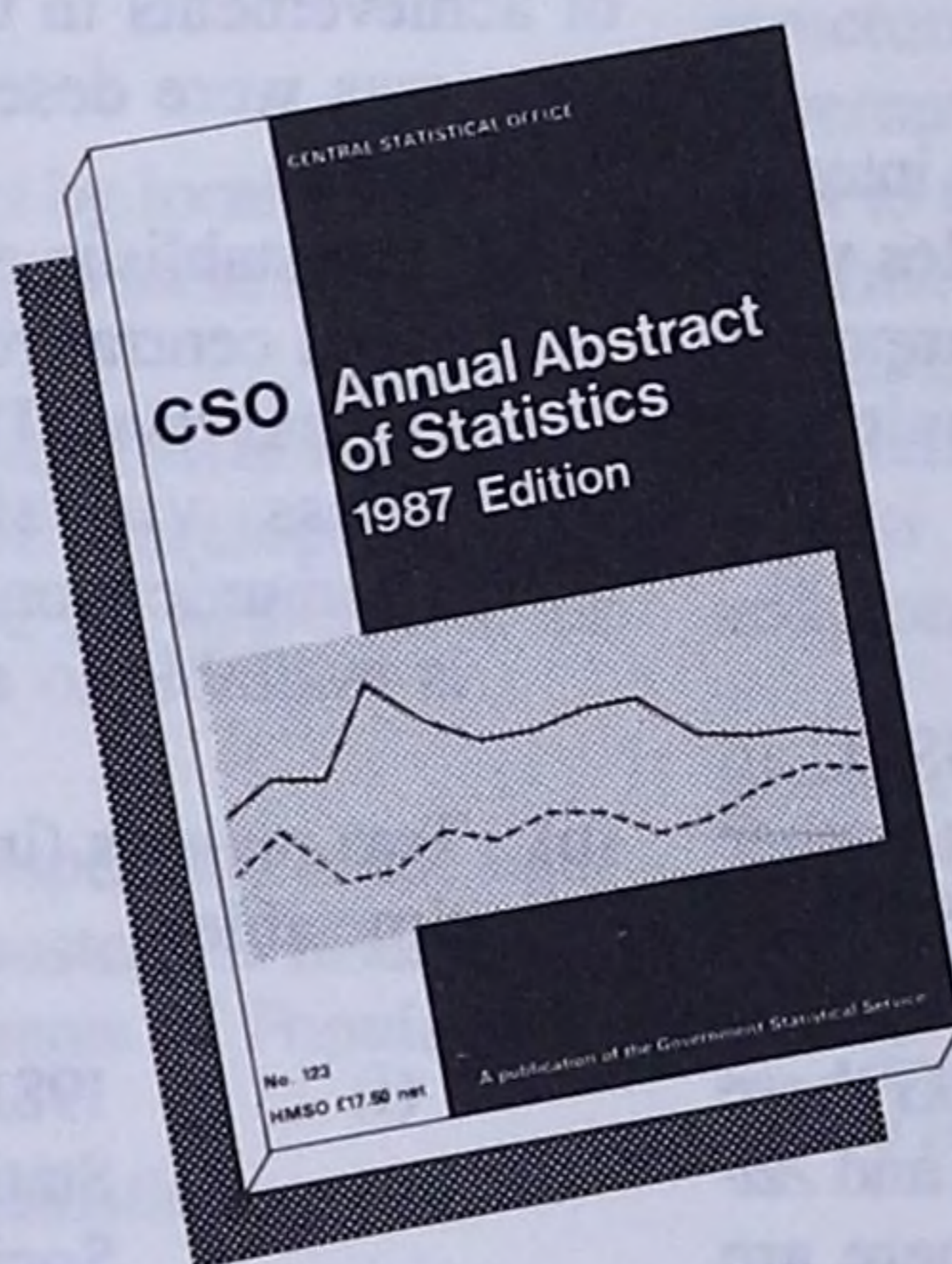
The EC's requirements for overseas trade statistics are becoming an increasingly important factor for the Statistical Office. The substantial range of statistics and surveillance information provided to the EC has already been described. However the proposals in the EC 'White Paper' - *Completing the Internal Market*⁴ could have a much greater impact on the compilation of trade statistics than anything that has gone before. Internal market developments and their effect on the compilation and availability of intra community trade statistics, are likely to be a major factor in Statistical Office planning in the next five years.

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1. 'Statistics of Trade and Industry - a Bicentennial Review'; *Statistical News* (HMSO, August 1986) (Price £3.75 net).
2. 'The Headquarters Divisions of the Department of Trade and Industry'; *Statistical News* (HMSO, November 1986).
3. *Overseas Trade of the United Kingdom* (HMSO, Monthly) (Price £17.50 net).
4. *Completing the Internal Market; Com (85) 310 final*; Commission of the European Communities, June 1985. Sold by HMSO, (Price £3.90) ISBN 9 28 255436 8.

This is the twelfth in a series of articles on the structure and functions of the Government Statistical Service.

Annual Abstract of Statistics



The *Annual Abstract* is a selection of the most important statistics on the economic, industrial and social life of the United Kingdom. It presents the widest range of information of all Central Statistical Office publications, with data for periods of 10 years or more. Some 348 tables cover population, social conditions, employment, production, national income and expenditure, home finance, banking and insurance, and prices.

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Central and Local Government Statistical Liaison - The Information Development and Liaison Group (IDLG)

Sam Jones, Chief Executive, Leicestershire County Council and Roger Sellwood, Chief Statistician, Department of the Environment (DOE)

Introduction

The Information Development and Liaison Group (IDLG) provides a largely professional statistical forum in which specialist officials in local and central government work together in matters of mutual interest. IDLG's terms of reference, membership and sub groups are described in the Annexes A and B (extracted from the 'IDLG Reference Manual'). A diagram is provided in the Manual's Annex C illustrating the relative position of the IDLG in the current committee structure of the Consultative Council on Local Government Finance (CCLGF). (The CCLGF is chaired by the Secretary of State for the Environment and brings together elected Members from local government as well as Departmental Ministers.)

The Chairman of the IDLG is the Director of Statistics in the Department of the Environment (DOE), and the Local Authority-side Chairman is the Chief Executive of Leicestershire County Council.

Historical background

The IDLG has been in existence for two years; its predecessor - the National and Local Government Statistical Liaison Committee (NLGSLC) was established in 1970, and its work was described in an article in *Statistical News* No 29.

Coverage

The IDLG's remit covers all statistical topics of mutual interest to local and central government in England and Wales with the exception of local government financial and manpower statistics; these are covered by separate consultative arrangements, as shown in Annex C.

Modus operandi

The IDLG have built on the approach of the NLGSLC in providing a forum for statisticians and others to work together on both short and longer term issues of mutual concern. IDLG holds three meetings a year, which are well attended by both local and central government. In support of the IDLG there is an established kernel of sub-groups (with Working and *Ad-hoc* Groups formed as circumstances demand). There are currently sub-groups dealing with employment; information technology; land use, development control and related planning statistics, and a Housing Forms Panel. A new sub-group has recently been formed to consider local government requirements from the next Census of Population. In addition, there are groups linked to IDLG dealing with a wide range of topics, including personal social services statistics, education data, population estimates and transportation forms.

Timetables and agendas are drawn up well in advance of meetings and are designed to allow for recent developments and new initiatives. The important inter-departmental nature of the IDLG's work is reflected in its very wide Government Statistical Service (GSS) representation. The local authority contribution is covered by the local authority associations (LAAs) representatives who in turn deal with the spectrum of local authority responsibilities. IDLG maintains links with the Scottish Statistical Liaison Committee (SSLC). The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) and the Scottish Office are both members of IDLG.

Achievements

Despite the absence throughout local government of any group as clearly defined (in central government) as the GSS, the IDLG and its predecessor have achieved notable successes over the years. This is a reflection of the co-operation and goodwill of all concerned and the effectiveness of the local authority associations in nominating representatives of high calibre and experience able to contribute to IDLG's work. Before the meeting with the central government side the local authority meet together separately to establish the policy they wish to pursue, and the agendas for meetings are discussed and agreed between the two sides. Such approaches are fundamental to the successful operation of IDLG. A selection of achievements in the last decade is listed below - earlier successes were described in the previous article:

- (a) The establishment in 1986 of an information technology-based central register of local authority (LA) research and surveys. This provides for the first time remote access via six voluntary LAs using powerful communications and text search facilities. Free access is available to all LAs.
- (b) Two reviews (in the early 1980s) working to very tight timetables.
 - (i) 1981 Review of Personal Social Services Statistics for the Department of Health and Social Security associated with the Rayner Review.
 - (ii) Review for the Secretary of State for the Environment of Administrative Returns to the DOE with recommendations for savings, nearly all of which have been implemented.

- (c) The development of a first set of LA 'performance indicators' as an integral part of the Code of Practice associated with the Local Government Planning and Land Act.
- (d) Support for a large scale housing survey in the late 1970s together with linked follow-up surveys for specific housing policies. The survey was integrated with some LA household and house condition surveys to enhance its value to the local authorities.

Complementing these more 'eye-catching' successes has been a solid ongoing programme of work which has included the successful regular monitoring and assessment of statistical returns from local to central government and the provision of output in a form useful to local authorities. More recently the IDLG have been considering the practical applications of IT to a range of local/central government statistical interests. A great deal of highly successful - but unobtrusive - work has been carried out in its sub-groups - ranging from attempts to reduce the burden of form filling on LAs to advice to other groups on their proposals. There is a good balance between practical and conceptual issues well illustrated in the IDLG's work on the use of postcodes and other spatial referencing systems.

Current topics and directions

Items which are at present being considered in the IDLG include:

- (a) Consideration of how useful to local government, specific central government data sources are and might be, particularly in the context of the work of the Committee of Enquiry into the Handling of Geographical Information.
- (b) Administrative and statistical returns by local authorities to central government and their costs to local authorities.
- (c) Consideration of the means of providing local authorities with details of the progress of development on housebuilding sites where the NHBC are responsible for building control.
- (d) The use of postcoded information, especially in the light of the decision not to map all unit postcodes in England and Wales as part of the 1991 Census of Population.
- (e) Improvements to retail planning statistics.
- (f) Availability of information from the Censuses of Employment.

Local government is dependent on central government for the provision of information to assist in making many of its functions more effective. The IDLG is important in ensuring that central government is aware of the needs of local government for information collected by central government.

Current membership

The three Local Authority Associations - Association of County Councils, Association of District Councils, Association of Metropolitan Authorities - each provide a team of representatives (the AMA covers any London Authority Association interests) who are selected from local authorities in England and Wales and include the Associations Headquarters representatives, (COSLA and LAMSAC are also Members). There are over fifty local authorities in Great Britain with one or more representatives contributing to the work of IDLG and its sub or linked groups, and many other local authorities request items to be considered by IDLG. All government Departments with an interest in Local Government matters are Members including the Central Statistical Office, HM Treasury, the Home Office and the Scottish and Welsh Offices. Departments attend according to the subject matter of the meeting, but regular attendance is usual from those Departments with IDLG Sub-groups or Linked groups (Central Statistical Office, Department of Education and Science, Department of Employment, Department of Health and Social Security, Office of Population Censuses and Surveys). The LAAs have six or seven members from the ACC and AMA, and four members in the ADC team.

Contacts

Further information about the current work of the IDLG can be obtained from the Secretariat (Eileen Fisher 01-212 8563) or from the LA-side Secretary Alan Johnston (of Leicestershire CC on 0533 871313 Ext 7502).

Summary

The IDLG is a useful forum for local and central government statistical interests to be considered and developed in a well structured and professional manner. Both local and central government support the IDLG and its associated groups. They look to the Group to provide timely and professionally sound information on topics of mutual interest. The minutes of the meetings of IDLG and its sub-groups are given wide circulation and articles appear in *Statistical News* and other regular publications. The local authority-side provides additionally a Newsletter for distribution to all Authorities.

References

1. 'The National and Local Government Statistical Liaison Committee' *Statistical News* May 1975 (HMSO)
2. 'Pilot Register of Local Authority Research and Surveys: a Practical Application of Information Technology', *Statistical News* August 1986 (HMSO) (Price £3.75 net).

Quick key to abbreviations

ACC	Association of County Councils
ADC	Association of District Councils
AMA	Association of Metropolitan Authorities
CCLGF	Consultative Council on Local Government Finance
COSLA	The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
IDLG	The Information Development and Liaison Group
IPG	Information Policy Group
LAAs	Local Authority Associations
LAMSAC	Local Authority Management Services and Computer Committee
NHBC	National House Building Council
NLGSLC	The National and Local Government Statistical Liaison Committee
OSG	Official Steering Group
SSLC	Scottish Statistical Liaison Committee

ANNEX A

The Information Development and Liaison Group

I Description

It has been agreed that the Group will be called the Information Development and Liaison Group (IDLG).

Under the new consultative arrangements IDLG (NLGSLC's successor) formally becomes one of the groups reporting to the Official Steering Group (OSG) of the Consultative Council for Local Government Finance (CCLGF).

The future working arrangements for IDLG and its sub groups will follow broadly those of the NLGSLC and its sub groups for a year at least from the June 1985 Meeting.

II Membership

- a. The Group in effect builds on the former functions of the NLGSLC, with Membership mainly comprising representatives of LA Associations and one representative from each Government Department with interests in local government. Other specialists would occasionally attend according to the subject discussed - see paragraph II(b).
- b. *Alterations to the composition of IDLG or any subsidiaries should not be made without consultation between Central Government and the LA-side Secretary and the LA Association HQ Representatives.* Anyone attending on an *ad hoc* basis representing local government interests should be invited by the LA-side Chairman, Sub-Group Leaders or the LA Associations as appropriate. Central Government may also invite *ad hoc* attendance of suitable specialists as appropriate.

III Terms of Reference (TOR)

The TOR agreed with LA-side are at Annex B.

IV Meetings

The Group will normally meet three times a year in February, June and October depending on the amount and pressure of items for consideration (as did the NLGSLC). The Sub-Groups and Linked Groups should meet in the intervening periods so that reports are available regularly and in good time for the main Meetings.

V Sub-groups

- a. The Sub-groups charted in Annex C mostly retain the Terms of Reference and the composition (Annex D of the ready reference manual) formerly agreed under the NLGSLC.
- b. It is for the LA Associations to decide whether their representation should be changed in any way, but it is planned to match membership in the Sub-groups more systematically and gear that membership more to the subjects under consideration. This may increase the number of members without increasing the number attending. There will be an identifiable lead member on the Local Authority side of the Sub-Groups.

VI Report Procedure

- a. One copy of the minutes of each meeting of each Sub-group or linked Group should be sent to the Central Government and LA-side Secretaries and the Chairmen of these Groups should report to the Main Group as necessary.
- b. A written version of oral statements should be provided.

ANNEX B

Information Development and Liaison Group Structure and Terms of Reference

<i>Chairman:</i>	Director of Statistics DOE
<i>Members:</i>	LA-side Chairman, Local Authority Associations representatives, a LAMSAC representative and a COSLA (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities) representative; relevant Central Government Departments.
<i>Secretariat:</i>	DOE
<i>Terms of Reference:</i>	('Updated' from that of NLGSLC)

(a) To alert local government to the statistics which are already available or envisaged, particularly from the Government Statistical Service, including both published material and material available on application.

(b) To alert central government to local government needs for statistical information and problems they experience in obtaining and using information collected by central government.

(c) To co-ordinate the statistical activities, including the use of new technology and the statistical aspects of administrative procedures of local and central government in order to facilitate a flow of information in both directions.

(d) To discuss common problems in such fields as data protection, definitions and classifications, working towards common standards where these are appropriate.

(e) To make recommendations to the CCLGF through the OSG or IPG as appropriate on the collection and dissemination of information derived from statistical and administrative sources, arising from any central or local government department or service.

IDLG Information Technology Sub Group

Terms of Reference

1. To assemble a modest programme of practical demonstrations on applications of new technology in local/central government information activities.
2. To consider and report on aspects of new technology with implications for data protection in the area of local/central data bases.
3. To consider the extent to which IDLG might contribute to new technology in respect of standards, particularly in classifications, communications and software in the area of local/central government uses of new technology and to report to the IDLG. The Sub-group's remit should also include information dissemination to users of micro computers.*
4. To explore ways of bringing the work of the LA Research and Surveys Sub-group** within the ambit of the Information Technology Sub-group.
5. To assess progress in the development of new technology in local/central government information activities and the contribution of the Sub Group to that progress.

* remit added from the IDLG first meeting

** now the Working Group of the IT Sub-group

LA Research and Surveys Working Group

Most Recent Remit

To undertake a feasibility study to assess the benefits of a centralised register and the best system for providing it.

Employment Sub Group

Terms of Reference

To consider matters of importance to Central and Local Government relating to statistics of employment, unemployment and the labour force.

Housing Forms Panel

Terms of Reference

The panel was set up to act as a forum for discussion on future housing data requirements.

Land Use, Development Control and Related Planning Statistics Sub-group

Terms of Reference from 11/12/74

- a. To examine proposals for new enquiries or substantial changes in existing enquiries in the fields of land use, development control and related planning statistics and make recommendations with a view to:
 - i. ensuring the maximum benefit of enquiries in relation to meeting the objectives of Central Government and Local Government, having full regard to the cost involved;
 - ii. progressing towards standardisation of terms and definitions and the co-ordination of Central Government and Local Government enquiries in this field;
 - iii. ensuring that suggested methods of collection keep pace with developments in data handling and organisation;
 - iv. avoiding duplication and overlapping of returns.
- b. To report as and when the Sub-group or the IDLG think appropriate.

IDLG Linked Group:

DHSS/LA Technical Working Group on Statistics for the Personal Social Services

Terms of Reference (from Oct 1983)

1. To keep under review and make recommendations to Department of Health and Social Security on central collection of data on Personal Social Services.

2. To provide a forum in which LA staff closely connected with the completion of the national returns and the Department's Statisticians can discuss matters of mutual interest.
3. To consider the form by which these statistics can be fed back to Local Authorities in a useful way.

IDLG Linked Group:

Education Data Advisory Panel

Terms of Reference

To advise the Department of Education and Science on national arrangements for collecting education statistics, the related burden of form filling and the need for any changes in the arrangements.

IDLG Linked Group:

OPCS Liaison Group on Population Estimates

Terms of Reference

The purpose and standing of the Group:

1. The Group is an informal one, set up by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys to improve communications and understanding between Central Government, Local Government and National Health Service (NHS) interests.
2. The Group will be concerned with current OPCS population estimates methodology with a view to improving post 1981 estimates and their acceptability. The Group will not be directly concerned with census matters or the extended electoral register.

3. The Group will not report officially to IDLG or to the DHSS Regional Statisticians meeting. But matters of substance identified by the Group may be referred to these other meetings on an ad hoc basis. Occasional 'for information' papers are a possibility.
4. Some members of the Group have been nominated by the LA Associations and the NHS but it is understood that they are not necessarily to be regarded as formally committing their nominating bodies. Except when they state the contrary, they are participating as individuals endeavouring to express a representative judgement or opinion but without necessarily formally committing their colleagues.

IDLG Linked Group:

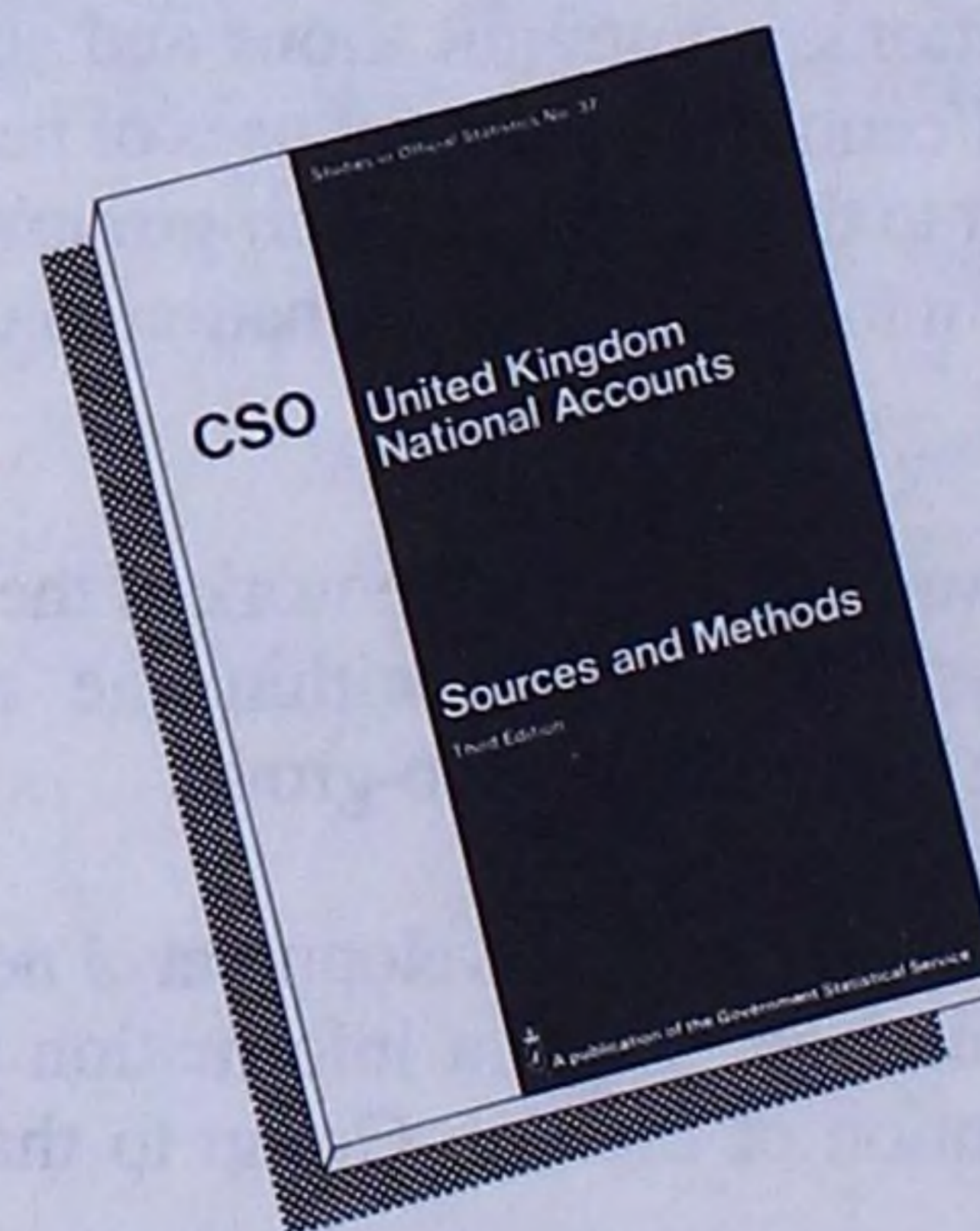
Transportation Forms Working Group

Terms of Reference

To draw up a comprehensive list of existing statistical forms on transportation, setting down the reasons for and the usefulness of each return to both Central and Local Government, and any other known major users, and estimating the cost to Local Government of each form.

ANNEX C is on page 76.15.

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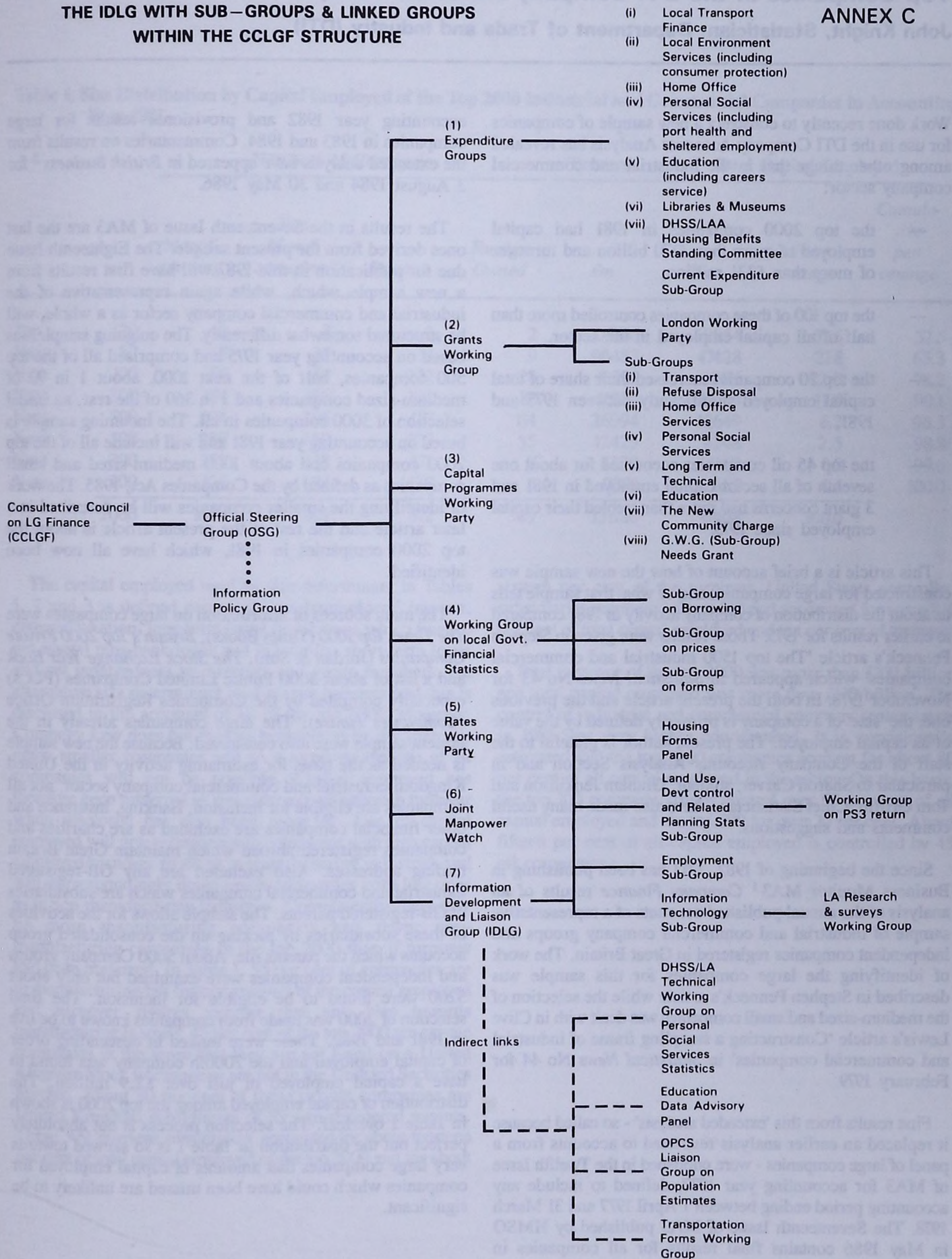
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ANNEX C



Top Companies in the DTI Company Accounts Analysis

John Knight, Statistician, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)

Work done recently to construct a new sample of companies for use in the DTI Company Accounts Analysis has revealed among other things that in the industrial and commercial company sector:

- the top 2000 companies in 1981 had capital employed of more than £170 billion and turnover of more than £331 million,
- the top 100 of these companies controlled more than half of all capital employed in the sector,
- the top 20 companies increased their share of total capital employed significantly between 1975 and 1981,
- the top 45 oil companies accounted for about one seventh of all sector capital employed in 1981 and 3 giant concerns had more than trebled their capital employed since 1975.

This article is a brief account of how the new sample was constructed for large companies and of what that sample tells us about the distribution of company activity in 1981 compared to earlier results for 1975. Those results were given in Stephen Penneck's article 'The top 1500 industrial and commercial companies' which appeared in *Statistical News* No 43 for November 1978. In both the present article and the previous one, the 'size' of a company is primarily defined by the value of its capital employed. The present author is grateful to the staff of the Company Accounts Analysis Section and in particular to Sharon Carver, student. Graham Jenkinson and Tom Griffin, Chief Statisticians, have also made many useful comments and suggestions.

Since the beginning of 1982, DTI has been publishing in *Business Monitor MA3*¹ *Company Finance* results of an analysis of the annual published accounts of a representative sample of industrial and commercial company groups and independent companies registered in Great Britain. The work of identifying the large companies for this sample was described in Stephen Penneck's article while the selection of the medium-sized and small companies was dealt with in Clive Lewis's article 'Constructing a sampling frame of industrial and commercial companies' in *Statistical News* No 44 for February 1979.

First results from this 'extended analysis' - so called because it replaced an earlier analysis restricted to accounts from a panel of large companies - were published in the Twelfth Issue of MA3 for accounting year 1977, defined to include any accounting period ending between 1 April 1977 and 31 March 1978. The Seventeenth Issue of MA3 published by HMSO in May 1986 contains final results for all companies in

accounting year 1982 and provisional results for large companies in 1983 and 1984. Commentaries on results from the extended analysis have appeared in *British business*² for 3 August 1984 and 30 May 1986.

The results in the Seventeenth Issue of MA3 are the last ones derived from the present sample. The Eighteenth Issue due for publication in mid-1987 will have first results from a new sample which, while again representative of the industrial and commercial company sector as a whole, will be structured somewhat differently. The outgoing sample was based on accounting year 1975 and comprised all of the top 500 companies, half of the next 1000, about 1 in 70 of medium-sized companies and 1 in 360 of the rest, an initial selection of 3000 companies in all. The incoming sample is based on accounting year 1981 and will include all of the top 2000 companies and about 1000 medium-sized and small companies as defined by the Companies Act, 1985. The work of identifying the smaller companies will be described in a later article and the rest of the present article is about the top 2000 companies in 1981, which have all now been identified.

The main sources of information on large companies were *The Times Top 1000* (Times Books), *Britain's Top 2000 Private Companies* (Jordan & Son), *The Stock Exchange Year Book* and a list of about 3000 Public Limited Companies (PLCs) especially compiled by the Companies Registration Office (*Companies House*). The large companies already in the present sample were also considered. Because the new sample is needed as the basis for estimating activity in the United Kingdom industrial and commercial company sector, not all companies are eligible for inclusion. Banking, insurance and other financial companies are excluded as are charities and companies registered abroad which maintain Great Britain trading addresses. Also excluded are any GB-registered industrial and commercial companies which are subsidiaries of GB-registered parents. The sample allows for the activities of these subsidiaries by picking up the consolidated group accounts which the parents file. About 5000 Company groups and independent companies were examined but only about 3200 were found to be eligible for inclusion. The final selection of 2000 was made from companies known to be live in 1981 and 1982. These were ranked in descending order of capital employed and the 2000th company was found to have a capital employed of just over £2.9 million. The distribution of capital employed among the top 2000 is shown in Table 1 overleaf. The selection process is not absolutely perfect but the distribution in Table 1 is so skewed towards very large companies that amounts of capital employed for companies which could have been missed are unlikely to be significant.

Table 1: Size Distribution by Capital Employed of the Top 2000 Industrial and Commercial Companies in Accounting Year 1981

	Numbers of Companies					Turnover	Total Capital Employed		
	<i>Manuf-acturing</i>	<i>Non Manuf-acturing</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>Foreign Owned</i>		£m	£m	<i>Per-centage</i>	<i>Cumula-tive per-centage</i>
Top	20	13	7	2	2	105166	63954	37.5	37.5
Next	80	45	35	12	9	96453	47428	27.8	65.3
Next	100	56	44	222	28	41585	21916	12.9	78.2
Next	300	174	126	102	87	41859	20198	11.9	90.1
Next	500	294	206	187	114	26994	10649	6.2	96.3
Next	500	250	250	237	55	12425	4248	2.5	98.8
Next	300	162	138	171	8	4330	1360	0.8	99.6
Next	200	105	95	139	6	2376	655	0.4	100.0
	2000	1099	901	872	309	331188	170408	100.0	

The capital employed used as size determinant in Tables 1, 2 and 3 is defined essentially as shareholders' interest, deferred taxation, long-term loans (ie all items which finance net assets) plus bank loans and overdrafts, short-term loans and net indebtedness to directors and group members. An alternative size determinant is of course turnover and this is disclosed in the accounts of all of the top 2000. However, Company Law does not require turnover to be disclosed by many smaller companies and so a turnover analysis of all companies will not be possible. Capital employed has therefore been preferred as size determinant although turnover when disclosed has also been recorded. Use of capital employed will give prominence to companies with high capital employed/turnover ratios as in manufacturing industries and will correspondingly down-grade companies with low ones as in non-manufacturing industries. Consequently, there may be more manufacturing companies and fewer non-manufacturing companies in the top 2000 than if turnover had been preferred. In Table 1, 55 per cent of companies are in manufacturing but further analysis of the capital employed and turnover figures suggest that any bias towards manufacturing is small. 45 per cent of the top 2000 are private companies in the sense that they are not listed on a United Kingdom Stock Exchange or are not in the Unlisted Securities Market. About 30 per cent of these private companies are United Kingdom subsidiaries of foreign-registered parents. These 309 'overseas subsidiaries' accounted for about fourteen per cent of total capital employed of the top 2000 and for about

sixteen per cent of the turnover. United States controlled subsidiaries numbered about 100 and accounted for some 8½ per cent of total capital employed and ten per cent of turnover.

Total turnover of the top 2000 was more than £331 billion and total capital employed was more than £170 billion. The control of industrial and commercial company sector assets in 1981 was very highly concentrated. It is provisionally estimated that the top 2000 companies account for about 80 per cent of all capital employed in the sector. On this basis, the top 100 company groups control over 50 per cent of all capital employed and the top 500 for over 70 per cent. About fifteen per cent of all capital employed is controlled by 45 oil companies.

Table 2: The Top 1500 Companies in 1975 Compared with the Top 1500 Companies in 1981

		Average Capital Employed		Total Capital Employed				Cumulative Percentage 1975	Cumulative Percentage 1981
		1975 £ million	1981 £ million	1975 £ million	1981 £ million	Percentage 1975	Percentage 1981		
Top	20	1411.3	3197.7	28225	63954	33.0	38.0	33.0	38.0
Next	30	441.3	829.8	13238	24894	15.6	14.7	48.6	52.7
Next	50	236.3	450.7	11817	22534	13.8	13.4	62.4	66.1
Next	150	94.3	184.4	14144	27656	16.5	16.4	78.9	82.5
Next	250	34.7	57.8	8686	14459	10.2	8.6	89.1	91.1
Next	250	16.2	26.8	4044	6690	4.7	4.0	93.8	95.1
Next	250	9.6	15.8	2405	3959	2.8	2.4	96.6	97.5
Next	250	6.8	10.4	1697	2591	2.0	1.5	98.6	99.0
Next	250	4.8	6.6	1210	1657	1.4	1.0	100.0	100.0
	1500	57.0	112.3	85466	168394	100.0	100.0		

Table 2 is an attempt to compare the figures Penneck summarised in his article for 1975 with their counterparts in 1981. Because of the extreme skewness in the distribution of capital employed, the picture for the top 1500 companies is not very different from that for the top 2000. Overall, capital employed nearly doubled between 1975 and 1981 but more than forty per cent of this increase came from the top twenty companies which increased their share of total capital employed from 33 per cent to 38 per cent. Nearly 25 per cent of the total increase in capital employed actually came

from three giant oil companies which between them more than trebled their combined capital employed. Rising North Sea Oil production certainly had much to do with this increase and there was also some real growth in the activities of other industrial and commercial companies. However, part of the observed increase in the total capital employed of the top 2000 occurred because of mergers and acquisitions. It is therefore not possible to say from the figures available how much of the total increase was real and how much simply reflected changes in corporate organisation.

Table 3

The Top 20 Companies by capital employed in 1975 and 1981

1975

1. British Petroleum
2. Shell Transport and Trading
3. Imperial Chemical Industries
4. British American Tobacco
5. Rio Tinto Zinc
6. Imperial group
7. Burmah Oil
8. Grand Metropolitan
9. General Electricity Company
10. Unilever
11. Courtaulds
12. Esso Petroleum
13. Land Securities Investment Trust
14. Guest Keen and Nettlefolds
15. Peninsular and Oriental
16. Reed International
17. English Property Corporation
18. MEPC
19. Bowater Corporation
20. Rank Xerox

1981

1. British Petroleum
2. Shell Transport and Trading
3. Imperial Chemical Industries
4. Rio Tinto Zinc
5. BAT Industries
6. Esso Petroleum
7. General Electric Company
8. Grand Metropolitan
9. Unilever
10. Land Securities Investment Trust
11. Ford Motor Company
12. BOC Group
13. Allied-Lyons
14. Pilkington Brothers
15. British Leyland
16. Lonrho
17. Bass
18. Marks and Spencer
19. Distillers Company
20. Guest Keen and Nettlefolds

The top 1500 companies in 1981 are not the same ones which were the top 1500 in 1975. A suggestion of the rapid change which took place in these few years is given by Table 3. Only eleven of the top twenty companies in 1975 were still in the top twenty in 1981 although the top five were the same in both years albeit with one change of position. Had turnover been used as the size indicator, the top nine companies in 1981 would be the same as with the capital employed ranking but only three others would be in the top twenty.

Finally, this article is necessarily a summary of a large amount of data. The 1981 records compiled for each of the top 2000 companies contain:

- Company Registration Number (CRN)
- Company Name
- Capital Employed in 1981
- Turnover in 1981
- Whether parent of a group
- Company Type (eg PLC, USM, Private)
- Whether listed on a Stock Exchange
- Industry Group
- Area of Operation (eg mainly United Kingdom or wholly overseas)
- Nationality of Ultimate Parent

Tabulations ranked numerically by CRN, alphabetically by company name, by value of capital employed or by value of turnover are available from the author at:

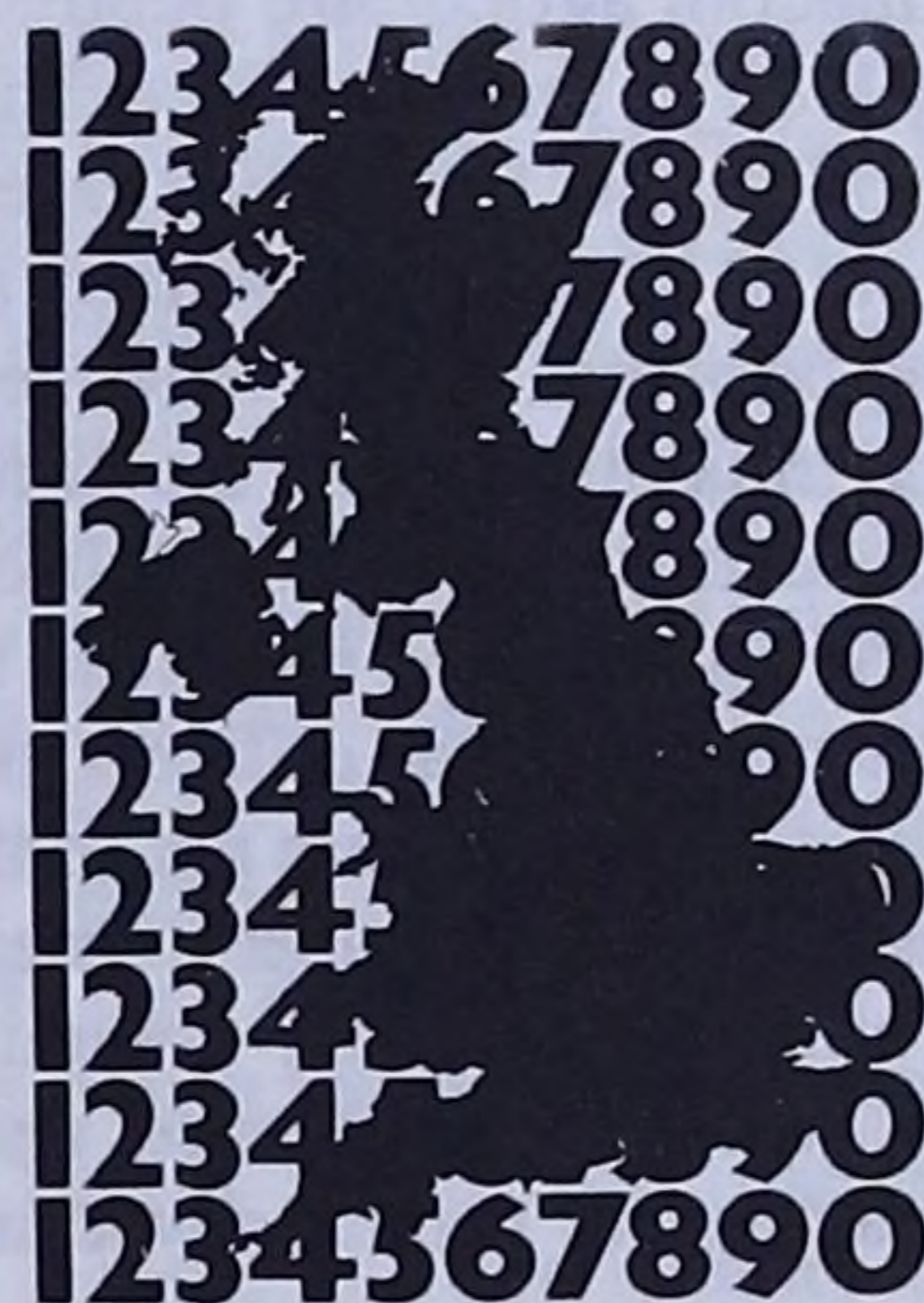
Company Accounts Analysis Section
 Department of Trade and Industry
 Government Buildings
 Room 1.381
 Cardiff Road
 Newport
 Gwent NP9 1XG
 Telephone: 0633-222929

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1. Business Monitor MA3 *Company Finance*, seventeenth issue (HMSO) (Price £9.00 net).
2. *British Business* (Department of Trade and Industry weekly) (Price £1.25 net).

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The Statistics Users' Conference on Agricultural and Food Statistics

Arthur Barnett, Statistician Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF)

The thirteenth Statistics Users' Conference, the first on agricultural and food statistics, was held at the Royal Society on Monday 10 November 1986.

The conference was organised by the Statistics Users' Council in conjunction with organisations working in this area of statistics. It was attended by 125 delegates of which 17 were from MAFF.

The purpose of the conference was outlined by the conference chairman Professor Bernard Benjamin as being to bring together the collectors, providers and users of statistical information to promote an exchange of views. To this end the conference was organised to allow the maximum discussion and papers were distributed in good time before the conference. The minimum time was allocated for introductory statements and many points were raised from the floor. There were five sessions at which papers were presented and discussed, plus a final open forum covering the whole subject area of the conference.

The first session related to two background papers that were tabled but not orally introduced. These were concerned with the statistical activities of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and the Health and Safety Executive.

Three papers were presented at the second session on Structure and Land Use. Dr Berkeley Hill (Wye College) presented a paper on Farm Size. He pointed out that neither the 'farm' nor 'size' were amenable to a simple definition. A farm may have non-agricultural activity such as a shop, tourism (bed and breakfast etc), or 'horticulture'. The farm business may be part of a business that spans activities outside agriculture. There may be income from employment off the farm. The point was made that the present holding concept now used in the agricultural censuses is pragmatic and not based on definition. The suggestion was made that the collection of agricultural information should relate to an economic unit which would encompass the farm as a business. Size created similar problems. Area measures, whilst being simple to understand and have immediate appeal, are nonetheless limited in their usefulness because of the wide range of land quality. Other measures such as labour requirement or financial measures lose the advantage of simplicity, but are more useful. However there is no single measure that is universally applicable and the measure needs to be chosen to fit the purpose. This led the author to ask for public use computer tapes of the Farm Business Survey to be made available so that different concepts of farm size could be studied and developed. This request for public use tapes was echoed by different speakers in various contexts ranging from anonymised data from surveys to a database for aggregate information. The possible conflicts between different user needs, with their implications for the problem

of ensuring confidentiality were also raised from the floor.

The second paper on the Dynamics of Land Use was presented by John Jeffers of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology (ITE). Agricultural land use is only part of the range of land use and for a full understanding it must be examined in the context of total land use. Mr Jeffers described the methods of looking at land use developed at ITE. The methodology used a small stratified sample which was dependent for its success on the quality of the land classification system developed by ITE. Data presentation made extensive use of computerised cartography. Environmental policy is seen as the main potential customer for this methodology. This led to a discussion on the potential of remote sensing as an alternative to the method promulgated in this paper. However, remote sensing is not without its problems: the United Kingdom is not always blessed with cloudless skies, which can limit the opportunity for the satellites to make observations, and there are further problems associated with processing vast amounts of data with present computer resources. Mr Jeffers also pointed out the fundamental problem of correlating remote sensing data with what actually occurs on the ground. Data such as that provided by ITE would be required for this purpose.

The final paper of the first session dealt with the topical subject of the Balance Sheet of British Agriculture. This paper by Mr Christopher Johnson (Chief Economic Adviser, Lloyds Bank) was in part based on the balance sheet for United Kingdom agriculture published by MAFF for the first time in 1986 in the new 'Farm Incomes in the United Kingdom' publication. The author gave this 'long overdue' publication 8 out of 10 and then went on to describe where the two marks had been lost. These were the exclusion of domestic dwellings and milk quotas, and the different treatments of depreciation between sources. The subsequent discussion revealed that MAFF might find it difficult to raise its score above 8 because different users had different views on what should be included. The differences were not confined to the conference because, interestingly, the paper formed the basis of John Cherrington's 'Farmer's Viewpoint' column in the Financial Times the day following the conference, and this column also disputed the treatment of capital advocated by Mr Johnson.

The third session was concerned with commodity statistics. There were four papers on milk, cereals, meat and livestock, and horticultural statistics. The first on milk was introduced by Roland Williams, Milk Marketing Board (MMB). He pointed out that many of the statistics on milk are derived from the operation of the five MMBs. Notwithstanding the source, he issued warnings to the unwary in the use of statistics of the milk industry. This was illustrated by a tortuous journey through the different definitions of milk production and the uses to which each is put. Further, he pointed to the difficulties of collecting statistics taking as his example the topical subject

of low-fat milks. The MMB auditing system does not currently monitor these nor the butterfat that is their by-product. This information gap creates problems for both liquid milk statistics and also those of butter and cream.

The cereal statistics paper was introduced by Ewen Low (Home-Grown Cereals Authority). The paper was concerned with the adequacy of the statistics available to the market which had changed within a short period from one of deficit to surplus. He summarised the needs of the market as the urge to know the price of grain tomorrow, for the rest of season, and for next season. His primary conclusions were that there were insufficient statistics in spite of the mass that was already available. However, it was wrong to expect statistics to provide all the answers. Fortunately government and industry's needs tended to be similar and he expressed optimism about the future in this area.

Mr Hilary Marks (Meat and Livestock Commission) gave the aim of his paper as being to provide a brief description and to offer guidance in the area of meat and livestock statistics. He commented on the need for one agricultural census for the United Kingdom, and the difficulties caused by the different questions asked in the different countries. The slaughtering statistics were complimented for their timeliness, but a plea was made for fewer revisions. Mr Marks stressed the problems that arise when price information is based on 'rumour and hearsay' rather than good price recording. On the whole it was considered that the livestock market had good transparency. There were gaps and a series of dead weight sheep prices was needed. Also he felt there was a need (disputed from the floor!) for the industry to make better use of the information that was already available.

The final paper in session three was given on horticulture by Mr John Malcolm of the National Farmers Union. Mr Malcolm provided an entertaining but pointed introduction to his paper. The task of writing the paper he compared to being offered a ball of barbed wire and a pair of chopsticks and then being told to knit something useful. He criticised the performance of the Horticultural Crop Intelligence Committees and cited the information obtained on the 1986 Discovery apple crop. The committees had forecast a large crop so prompting an advertising campaign sponsored by the Apple and Pear Development Council. This large crop did not materialise. An unsatisfied demand was created to the embarrassment of all except the domestic industry's competitors. The price collection system was good but needed to be brought up to date to reflect the current market conditions. In the area of the income and profitability of horticulture, far from asking for more or better statistics Mr Malcolm suggested that even what was collected could be dispensed with.

The fourth session was concerned with the state of the agricultural economy or, perhaps, more precisely its measurement. Mr Sean Rickard of the National Farmers Union presented a paper on Farmers' Income. He stressed the difficulties of interpretation of the different measures available. He interpreted the aggregate measure of income - the Departmental Net Income Calculation - as a measure

of the underlying economic condition of the industry rather than as a measure of welfare. He also pointed to the difficulties of calculating with accuracy any income which is necessarily the difference between two large aggregates - a one per cent change in agricultural output carries through to a ten per cent change in income. This point and its implications for the veracity of the income measure was echoed by various questioners. Because of the volatility of the series arising from natural causes - principally the weather - together with those deriving from economic fluctuation and measurement problems, Mr Rickard suggested that the series be subject to some smoothing. On other measures of farm income, the Farm Business Survey - formerly the Farm Management Survey - provides direct measures of the income of farms by type and size. The nature of such a large and complex survey understandably means that the accounting year to which it relates is somewhat out-of-date. Mr Rickard also pointed out that this problem was further compounded by the difficulties inherent in forecasting the results of the survey.

The second paper in this session was concerned with farm incomes in the EEC. It was introduced by Bernard Brookes of the European Commission. Mr Brookes described the Farm Accountancy Data Network set up by the Commission to monitor farm incomes. He pointed out that the Treaty of Rome requires the maintenance of reasonable incomes in agriculture and that the income measured is per person; not per holding, unit or business. The paper described examples of how the data on incomes is used by the Commission.

The final paper in this session was presented by Professor George Peters of the University of Oxford on Factor Returns. Professor Peters provided an erudite account of the problems. His starting point was the premise that we could all agree on what is meant by gross product or gross value added. Beyond that we entered the murky waters of capital consumption and depreciation in order to reach net value added and beyond that the economic arguments became ever more complex.

Professor Peters described the differences and relative merits of factor share analysis based on functional breakdown, and the practice adopted in official estimates of farm income where factor ownership predominates. He argued that the particular concepts used to arrive at an estimate of income have real implications for policy makers and those doing business with the industry.

Dr John Salter from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food introduced his paper for Session 5 giving an overview of the statistics on food supplies and consumption that MAFF collects and uses. Unlike for agriculture, MAFF does not collect the bulk of the statistics on food, making considerable use of data collected by the Business Statistics Office. Dr Slater described the statistics available from the different official sources, including the gaps that exist - notably in monitoring the catering industry. The problem of low-fat milk was raised again as an illustration of the difficulties of maintaining up-to-date series in an ever changing market.

The second paper in this session offered a view of official statistics of the food industries from the point of view of the industry. The paper was introduced by Mr Andy Robson of the Institute of Grocery Distribution who offered a 'Which Guide' to official statistics. He suggested a list of points for action to improve the statistics: the main ones being to improve timeliness, to make the definitions of activities fit better with commercial needs, and to provide more detailed geographic coverage.

The final paper was presented by Mr Richard Cottrell of the British Nutrition Foundation on the use of aggregate statistics in nutrition and health. The paper was concerned in a large measure with the difficulties of using aggregate statistics in the context of the assessment of health risks, and what the authors considered the abuse of such statistics. The example they took was the relationship between fat consumption and deaths from coronary heart disease and the lack, in their view, of any proven relationship and the impossibility of proving one with aggregate statistics alone.

The conference was concluded with an open forum in the final session when the floor was open for questions on any topic. There followed a stimulating and distinctly constructive exchange of views. A short article like this cannot hope adequately to reflect the range of the discussion and I can do no more than to recommend to readers that they approach

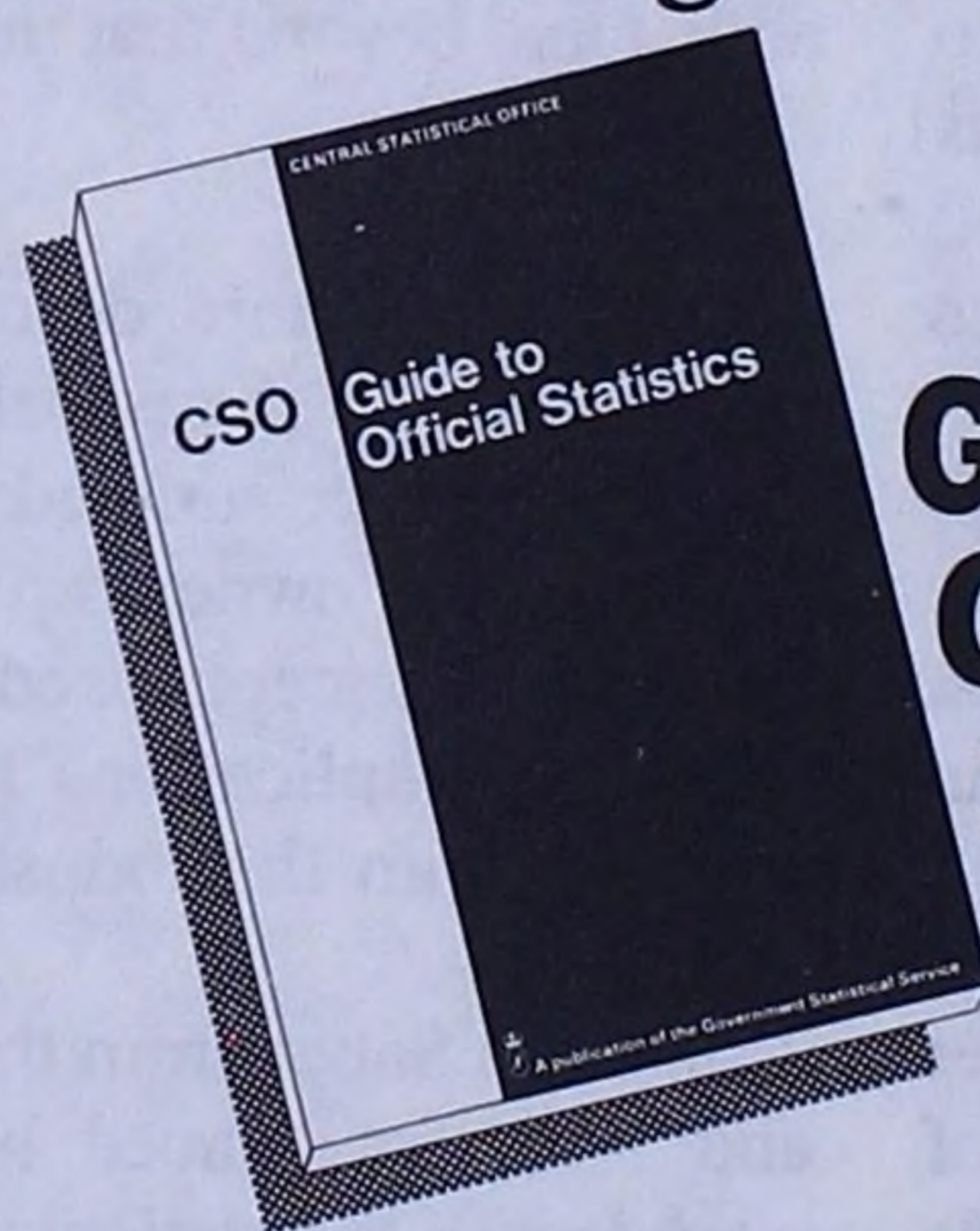
Ian Maclean for a copy of the proceedings. *The chairman of this question and answer session was Mr Jack Hibbert, Head of the Government Statistical Service, who quoted from Sir Derek Rayner in reminding the conference of the straitened world in which government statisticians live. However, it is fair to state that the participants fully appreciated the resource problems and virtually all stuck firmly within the art of the possible. The conference left those statisticians that work in the area with valuable insights into the needs of users that are bound to influence thinking on the future development of agricultural and food statistics.

Full details of the conference will be published under the auspices of the Statistics Users' Council. For further information contact:

*Mr Ian Maclean
Secretary, Statistics Users' Council
Lancaster House, More Lane
Esher, Surrey
KT10 8AP

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Writing Statistical Articles for Publication*

Tom Griffin, Chief Statistician, Central Statistical Office

If there is a secret of effective writing, it is put yourself in the place of the reader. The aim is to get the reader's attention and to keep it. This is not an easy task for an amateur but it can be made a little easier by following a few fairly well-accepted guidelines.



There have been many articles and books on good writing practices, and there is no single set of precisely defined rules to suit every occasion, but there are some precepts which have fairly general application and may help for example when writing articles for publications like *Statistical News*.

The 'guidelines' may be set out under three broad headings:

1. Get the structure right

Get to the point. Start with the conclusions. Relegate technical detail to an appendix.

2. Be clear and be brief

Use short words and sentences. If in doubt cut it out. Avoid jargon and abbreviations.

3. Review and revise

Start early. Be prepared to revise several times. Take advice.

*This article was presented at a course on technical writing for publication at the Civil Service College.

Getting the Structure Right

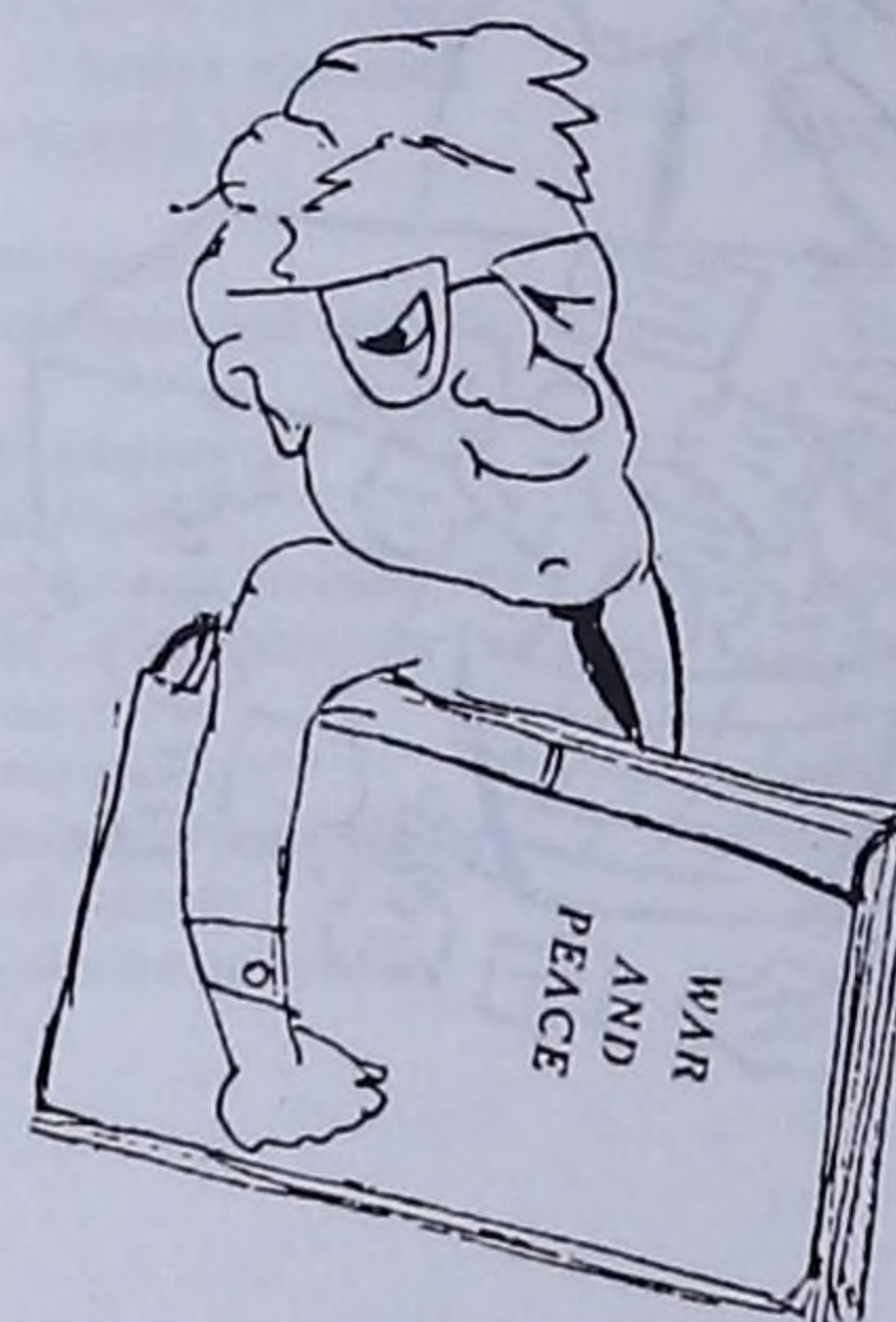
It is quite natural, when writing a statistical report, to start with the background and the end with the conclusions. Unfortunately, such a structure can make very dull reading. Readers vary but most have some interest in the results of the study and so that is the place to start. When doing a first draft it may be advisable to write the 'natural' chronological way in order to get down all that the writer wants to say but, bearing in mind what the reader wants to read, it is then necessary to go back and put it in the order that he wants to read it, with the conclusions first.

In fact starting at the end in this way has other advantages which can help make an article clearer. If the conclusions are put first they have to be able to stand on their own and be clearly expressed and defined. They also provide both reader and writer with a point of reference. The remainder of the article can then be seen as supporting and filling out the main findings.

Having set out the main results and conclusions the next step is to give more detailed findings and commentary. The methods, the background and evaluative discussion should follow afterwards. Technical explanations, formulae and so on should be relegated to an annex rather than interrupt the flow of the article itself. The structure should be clear to the reader, with sub-headings as appropriate.

Be clear and be brief

On the whole, short sentences and short words are clearer than long sentences and long words. Dr Johnson's advice was to 'Read over your composition, and wherever you meet with a passage which you think is particularly fine, strike it out'. Long sentences and long words may look impressive but they are not so easy to read and are unhelpful in getting the message across.



To be brief and to be clear requires more effort than to be long and rambling. George Bernard Shaw, when writing to a friend, began by saying that he had no time to write a short letter and therefore he was writing a longer one. Perhaps he could be excused as he was writing a personal letter to a friend, but when an author is writing for a large number of readers then the onus is on him to put some effort into being concise. Space is almost always at a premium in any publication and so editors are put off by unnecessary length both by its inefficiency as well as its tendency to bore readers. The most effective way to be brief is to leave out whole paragraphs and passages. There is no shortage of competition for the reader's eye.

Clarity and brevity have to be finely balanced. Heavy use of abbreviations and jargon can help to keep an article short but they are often inconsistent with clarity and can contribute to interrupting the flow of a piece. By and large, abbreviations and jargon should be minimised, but where they have to be used they need to be thoroughly explained.

Clarity and readability can be improved with charts or illustrations, and modern printing techniques can make the reproduction of line drawings of photographs no more expensive than simple text. But remember that graphs must be clear too if they are to be helpful.

Review and revise

Getting started can be one of the most difficult obstacles for amateur and professional alike. Having thought about what you want to say and having some idea of structure it is then important to get something down on paper, however unsatisfactory. The task is less daunting if you consider your first effort purely as a draft and you are prepared to revise it drastically afterwards if necessary. With some rare exceptions, professional writers draft and re-draft many times, so amateurs can hardly expect to do less. Some writing does not call for much effort, but writing for publication does.

Generally, the first step is to develop an outline, listing and if necessary rearranging, the main points or headings. The first draft comes next. It may be easier to write it in historical order and then restructure it later. Having put your thoughts on paper it is then easier to rethink and rewrite. A quite common, but unfruitful, approach is to think and worry about what you are going to say and to wait until the last minute before putting pen to paper. It is much better to assume that your first effort will be crude and need to go through several re-drafts. So the first draft should be done at the earliest possible opportunity, in order to leave ample time for the re-drafting that will inevitably follow.

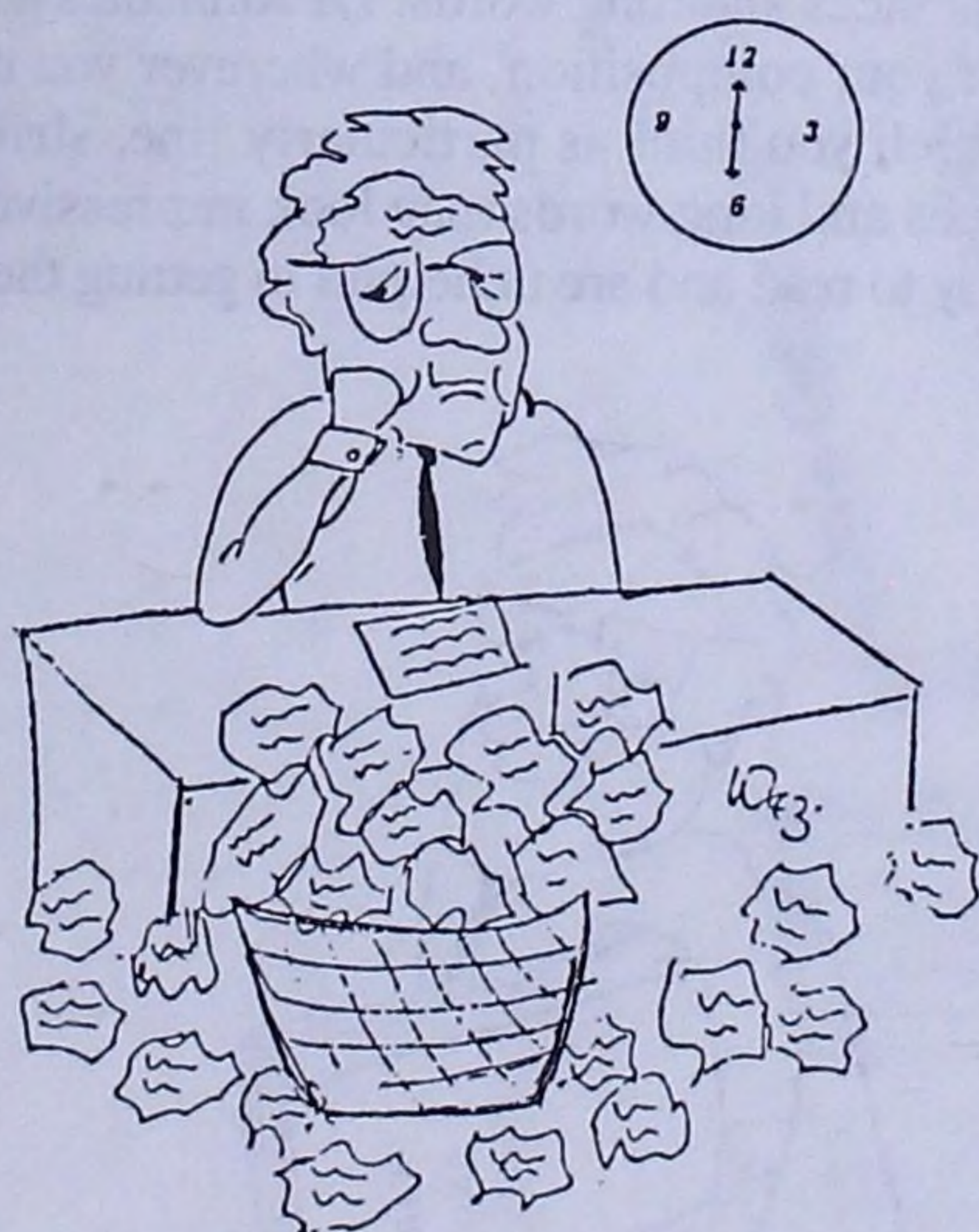
Writing and rewriting one's own drafts can be a rather sterile exercise in which the same mistakes are made over and over. It is difficult to stand back and see it from the reader's point of view, but there are a number of helpful devices and it may be worthwhile to use all of them. The first and most obvious is to leave the first draft for a day or two before re-reading. Another is to ask a friend to read it for you. A third is to try to explain to someone else what the article is intended to say. A further device that some people find useful is to write as if they were writing to their inexperienced grandmother: this can be helpful because it is a common fault to seek to impress the reader rather than inform as clearly as possible. Remember who is to blame if the reader fails to understand.

We are all more often readers than writers so there are plenty of opportunities to see writing from the reader's point of view. It is not possible to develop a good writing style without practice, but much can be learned from reading with a critic's eye.

References

- The American Statistician*, November 1983, article by Ehrenberg
- The Complete Plain Words*, E Gowers
- Modern English Usage*, H W Fowler
- Daily Mirror Style*, K Waterhouse.

Cartoons by Wesley Townsend



For further information on the surveys listed, the appropriate departmental contact may be obtained from Miss C MacMillan (01-270 5963), Survey Control Unit, Central Statistical Office, Great George Street, London SW1P 3AQ

New Surveys notified September to November 1986

<i>Title</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Those approached</i>	<i>Approximate number approached</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
Business and local authority surveys					
Employers' attitudes to non-advanced further education (NAFE)	DEM/MSC	Employers	38	SE	AH
Employment structures in tourism	DEM	Employers	425	E	AH
Consultants study of very small firms and self-employment: stage 1 qualitative	DEM	Small firms	35	GB	AH
Consultants study of very small firms and self-employment: stage 2 quantitative	DEM	Small firms	350	GB	AH
Employers' attitudes to the new workers scheme (NWS)	DEM	Employers	1000	UK	AH
Survey of school industry links in industry year: pilot	DES	Head teachers	1000	E	AH
Educational provision for deaf/blind children	DES	Education authorities	97	E	AH
Pick-up short course monitoring	DES	Educational institutions	100	E	AH
Primary school staffing survey	DES	Head teachers	900	E	AH
Local education authority training grants scheme 1987-88	DES	Education authorities	97	E	A
Survey of private and voluntary residential and nursing homes	DHSS	Registration officers	1525	GB	AH
Survey of users of the national measurement system	DTI	Manufacturing and service industries	235	GB	AH
Questionnaire to laboratories accredited by British calibration service	DTI	Calibration laboratories	125	UK	AH
Survey of quality management: a chief executive's view	DTI	Chief executives	500	UK	AH
Getting to grips with quality: a survey of businessmen	DTI	Businessmen	892	UK	AH
Business views on regulation of auditors (EC 8th company law directive)	DTI	Industries and commerce	NK	UK	AH
Quarterly cinema statistics	DTI	Cinema operators	NK	GB	Q
Inward investment UK market research	DTI	Inward investors	NK	UK	AH
Market study for export intelligence service (EIS)	DTI	Exporters	2100	GB	AH
Business improvement service (BIS) follow-up	DTI	BIS small firm recipients	200	YH	AH
Review of British Overseas Trade Board charging policy	DTI	Exporters	NK	GB	AH
Occupational pensions scheme survey 1987 (eighth)	GAD	Pension fund managers	1300	UK	AH
Research into effectiveness of HSC/E publications	HSE/HSC	Construction industry	14000	GB	AH
Occupational health hygiene and safety services in the education sector	HSE/HSC	Education sector employers	225	GB	AH
Impact of changes in retailing and wholesaling on Scottish manufacturers	IDS/SDA	Manufacturers and retailers	160	UK	AH
Clydebank task force survey	IDS/SDA	Clydebank businesses	140	S	AH
Glasgow east area renewal project evaluation (GEAR)	IDS/SDA	GEAR firms	500	S	AH
An economic appraisal of the bass fishery industry	MAFF	Fishermen, wholesalers and retailers	300	EW	AH
Annual survey of fish farm production	MAFF	Fish farmers	500	EW	A
Integrating agricultural and conservation advice	MAFF/ESRC	Farmers	320	GB	AH
Feasibility project linked to review of vocational qualifications in the rubber industry	MSC	Employers	145	EW	AH
Evaluation of national priority skills scheme (NPSS)	MSC	Employers and industry training organisations	900	GB	AH
Small firms initiative investigation	MSC/COI	Small firms	1672	E	AH
Evaluation of local training grants	MSC	Grant recipients	550	GB	AH
Research into extent of employers vocational education and training activities (VET): feasibility study	MSC	Employers	40	GB	AH
Wider labour market study (VET providers and intermediaries)	MSC	Employers and colleges of further education	850	GB	AH
Research into the extent of employers training activities (VET fund study)	MSC	Employers	15000	GB	AH
Evaluation of business packages (VET)	MSC	Employers	525	UK	AH
Case study follow-up of non statutory training organisations (NSTO) progress report	MSC	Employers and NSTO's	85	GB	AH
Survey of training on the community programme (CP)	MSC	CP sponsors	300	GB	AH
Flexible working practices and the labour market	NEDO	Employers	80	UK	AH
An evaluation of community business	SDD	Community businesses	110	S	AH
Secondary schools in-service training survey follow-up	WO	Education authorities and teachers	50	W	AH
Primary school staffing survey	WO	Head teachers	1800	W	Y5
School/industry links	WO	Education authorities or schools	600	W	AH
Educational provision for deaf/blind children	WO	Education authorities	8	W	AH

<i>Title</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Those approached</i>	<i>Approximate number approached</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
Household and individual surveys					
Effect of improved energy efficiency on performance of small dwellings	BRE/DOE	Owner occupiers	2500	ES	AH
Sound insulation in conversion flats	BRE	Occupants	500	ES	AH
Housing and health in Manchester	BRE	Tenants	100	NW	AH
Early experiences of career development loans	DEM	Employees	20	ES	AH
Post-terminal replacement and enquiry service (TRES): customer satisfaction	DEM	Unemployed	2500	GB	AH
AIDS leaflet research	DHSS/COI	Adults	1100	E	AH
Earnings loss arising from industrial disablement	DHSS	Disabled	2200	GB	AH
Attitudes to unemployment and claiming benefit while unemployed	DHSS	Unemployed	60	EW	AH
Anti-heroin campaign evaluation stage 4	DHSS/COI	Young people and parents	1300	EW	AH
AIDS youth campaign tracking research (November 1986 and February 1987)	DHSS/COI	Youth	600	GB	AH
AIDS youth campaign development (October 1986)	DHSS/COI	Youth	74	E	AH
1987 anti-drugs campaign: target market study: heroin and stimulants	DHSS/COI	Youth	150	EW	AH
Advertising development research for investment accounts among non-taxpayers	DNS	Adults	16	E	AH
Visitors to marketing officers campaigns	DNS	Visitors	107	GB	AH
English house condition survey 1986	DOE	Householders	NK	E	AH
Public expectations of advertising: drink/drive campaigns	DTP/COI	Adults	1500	EW	AH
M25/M26 Chevening interchange: M25 before and after study	DTP	Drivers	10300	SE	AH
Pedestrian/motorist autumn tracking research	DTP/COI	Young adults	600	EW	AH
A19 Easingwold bypass	DTP	Drivers	7000	YH	AH
A6 High Lane and Disley bypass	DTP	Drivers	5000	NW	AH
A568 Widnes eastern bypass	DTP	Drivers	10000	NW	AH
A35 Tolpuddle/Puddletown bypass	DTP	Drivers	8000	SW	AH
Bad weather poster campaign research	DTP/COI	Drivers, motorcyclists and cyclists	400	E	AH
Bad weather poster campaign stage 2	DTP/COI	Male car owners	63	E	AH
A27 Westhampnett bypass: A27/B2144 junction study	DTP	Road users	1500	SE	AH
A41 improvement at Chester: roadside interview survey 1986	DTP	Drivers	200	NW	AH
Airguns and their misuse: campaign evaluation	HOME/COI	Boys and parents	1200	WM	AH
Civil protection awareness monitor (November 1986 and March/April 1987)	HOME/COI	Adults	2000	UK	AH
A survey of UK bass anglers (part of an economic appraisal of the bass fishery industry)	MAFF	Bass anglers	1000	EW	AH
Territorial Army monitor stage 3 (August and November 1986)	MOD/COI	Men	1500	GB	AH
Soldier qualitative research	MOD/COI	Men	80	E	AH
Survey of armed forces resettlement services 1986	MOD	Recently discharged personnel	4000	UK	AH
Restart hall test	MSC/COI	Unemployed	175	E	AH
Open learning omnibus research	MSC/COI	Adults	2000	GB	AH
Restart qualitative research stage 5	MSC/COI	Unemployed	36	E	AH
Follow-up survey of voluntary projects programme training scheme participants - VPP(T)	MSC		200	GB	AH
Attitudes to youth training scheme and reactions to the campaign material	MSC/COI	Adults	58	E	AH
Youth training scheme teachers research	MSC/COI	Teachers	113	E	AH
Research into action special (MSC/BBC post-16 opportunities campaign)	MSC/COI	Youth	60	E	AH
London tube car panel research	STB	Passengers	700	SE	AH
Holiday exhibition follow-up 1986	STB	Visitors	500	E	AH
Road safety attitudes: pilot study	TRRL	Adults	200	S	AH
Effects of bus service reductions in Sale, Manchester	TRRL	Passengers	500	NW	AH
Survey of bus and minibus use in Chatham	TRRL	Passengers	600	SE	AH
Intermediate monitoring: Bedford and Nottingham cycle routes	TRRL	Cyclists	4500	E	AH
Trial of magnetically encoded travel passes in Greater Manchester	TRRL	Elderly	200	NW	AH
Monitoring 1985 Act: 1st case studies of new minibus services in West Wiltshire	TRRL	Passengers	300	SW	AH
Monitoring 1985 Act: 1st case studies of competition on the Port Talbot-Margan corridor	TRRL	Passengers	300	W	AH
Monitoring 1985 Act: 2nd case studies of competition between bus operators	TRRL	Passengers	4800	EW	AH
Monitoring 1985 Act: 2nd case studies of competition between bus and rail: before and after study	TRRL	Passengers	3000	E	AH
Monitoring the 1985 Act: surveys of passenger attitudes in the passenger transport executive areas	TRRL	Passengers	12000	ES	AH
Consumer association survey of taxis and minicabs	TRRL	Adults	480	SE	AH
A4042 Llantarnam by-pass public consultation exercise	WO	Owner occupiers and road users	NK	W	AH

New surveys notified to the Survey Control Unit (continued on page 76.27)

Recently available statistical series and publications

The following publications containing social statistics have recently, or will soon become available during the January to March quarter of 1987. Unless otherwise specified, copies can be purchased from Her Majesty's Stationery Office. A list of release dates of economic series is published monthly in *Economic Trends*.

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 A2215
Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE98 1YX
Telephone: Tyneside (091) 2797373 GTN 2622

Scottish Education Department

The following bulletins are announced:

Staying-on Rates

School Leavers' Qualifications

Autumn Enrolments of Students in advanced and non-advanced Further Education.

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

Referrals of Children to Reporters and Children's Hearings 1985.

Copies of the above bulletins may be purchased (Price 75p net) from:

The Library, Official Publication Sales
Scottish Office, Room 2/65
New St Andrew's House, Edinburgh EH1 3TG
Telephone: 031-244 4806 GTN 2688

Office of Population Censuses and Surveys

Population Trends 47 Spring (HMSO 1987) (Price £5) net
OPCS Monitors: (available free from OPCS Information Branch,

St Catherines House, 10 Kingsway, London WC2B 6JP)

Deaths by cause, 1985 DH2 86/2

Birthweight statistics, 1985 DH3 86/2

Marriages in England and Wales during 1985, FM2 86/1

Divorces in England and Wales during 1985, FM2 86/2

Labour Force Survey 1985 LFS 86/1

Labour Force Survey 1985: Ethnic group and country of birth
LFS 86/2

Congenital malformations - monitoring programme 1985
MB3 86/1

Congenital malformations, 1985 MB3 86/2

Hospital inpatient enquiry (England) Day case statistics 1984
MB4 86/2

Annual reference volumes

Abortion statistics 1985 AB No. 12

Cancer statistics: registrations 1983 MB1 No. 15

Communicable diseases in 1984 MB2 No. 11

Morbidity statistics from general practice 1981/82. Third national study MB5 No. 1

Electoral statistics 1986 EL No. 13

General Household Survey 1984 GHS No. 14

Census

Census Guide 4 - Britain's households (available from OPCS Information Branch)

Social Survey Division

Changing the definition of a household, by Jean Todd and David Griffiths SS1182

Adolescent drinking, by Alan Marsh, Joy Dobbs and Amanda White SS1209

New surveys notified to the Survey Control Unit (continued from page 76.26)

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Locations

E England
ES England and Scotland
EW England and Wales
GB Great Britain
NW North West
S Scotland
SE South East
SW South West
UK United Kingdom
W Wales
WM West Midlands
YH Yorkshire and Humberside

Frequency

A Annual
AH Ad Hoc
Q Quarterly
Y5 5 Yearly

General

NK Not Known

Departments

BRE Building Research Establishment
COI Central Office of Information
CSO Central Statistical Office
DEM Department of Employment
DES Department of Education and Science
DHSS Department of Health and Social Security
DNS Department for National Savings
DOE Department of the Environment
DTI Department of Trade and Industry
DTP Department of Transport
ESRC Economic and Social Research Council
GAD Government Actuary's Department

HOME Home Office
HSC Health and Safety Commission
HSE Health and Safety Executive
IDS Industry Department for Scotland
MAFF Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
MOD Ministry of Defence
MSC Manpower Services Commission
NEDO National Economic and Development Office
SDA Scottish Development Agency
SDD Scottish Development Department
STB Scottish Tourist Board
TRRL Transport and Road Research Laboratory
WO Welsh Office

Welsh Office

Residential Accommodation for the Elderly, Younger Physically

Handicapped and Blind: year ended 31/3/86, price £2 net.

Health and Personal Social Services Statistics for Wales No 13 1986, price £3 net.

Statistics of Education in Wales No 11 1986, price £4 net.

The above publications are available from:

Publications Unit

Economic and Statistical Services Division

Welsh Office

Cathays Park

Cardiff CF1 3NQ

Telephone: 0222-82 5054 (GTN 2408)

Department of the Environment

The following publications are available from Her Majesty's Stationery Office:

Housing and Construction Statistics, Great Britain, 1975-1985

Housing and Construction Statistics, September quarter 1986

Part 1 No.27 and June quarter 1986 Part 2 No. 26

Local Housing Statistics, England and Wales, October 1986, No. 79 figures for 1986 second quarter)

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: *Construction output and employment, planning applications and decisions, renovations and homeless households.*

Annually: *Slum clearance.*

Further information is available from:

Department of the Environment

SPPG, Room P1/001

2 Marsham Street

London SW1P 3EB

Telephone 01-212 5985

Scottish Home and Health Department

The following statistical bulletins are available:

No. 5/1985 *Prison Statistics in Scotland 1984*

No. 1/1986 *Recorded Crime in Scotland January to June 1986*

No. 2/1986 *Recorded Crime in Scotland 1985*

No. 3/1986 *Homicide in Scotland 1980 - 1984*

No. 4/1986 *Criminal Proceedings in Scottish Courts 1984*

No. 5/1986 *Prison Statistics in Scotland 1985*

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

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Edinburgh EH1 3TG

Telephone: 031-556 8400 Ext 4806 (GTN 2688)

Department of Education and Science

The following annual publication is announced:

Education Statistics for the United Kingdom - 1986 edition, (HMSO) (Price £7.95 net). This edition provides statistics for 1984-85 and is available from HMSO bookshops.

The following Statistical Bulletins have been announced:

15/86 — *Statistics of Further Education Students in England — November 1985.*

16/86 — *International Statistical Comparisons of the Participation in Education and Day Care of 3 to 6 year olds.*

17/86 — *Student awards in England and Wales.*

18/86 — *Results of the Survey of Microcomputers in Schools — Autumn 1985.*

These bulletins are available from:

Department of Education and Science

Statistics Branch

Room 1/28

Elizabeth House

York Road

London SE1 7PH

Home Office

The following statistical bulletins are announced:

Statistics of drug addicts notified to the Home Office, United Kingdom, 1985 (December)

Statistics on the operation of the prevention of terrorism legislation, 4th quarter 1986 (January)

Waiting times in magistrates' courts: June 1985 - February 1986 (January)

Projections of long-term trends in the prison population to 1995 (March)

Notifiable offences recorded by the police, England and Wales, 4th quarter 1986 (March)

Control of immigration statistics, 4th quarter and year 1986 (March)

The prison population, 1986 (March)

Statistical bulletins are available from:

Home Office

Statistical Department

Lunar House

40 Wellesley Road

Croydon

Surrey CR0 9YD

Department of Transport

Transport Statistics Great Britain 1975-1985 (Annual) (HMSO)
(Price £17.50)

Road Accidents Great Britain 1985, The Casualty Report (Annual) (HMSO) (Price £7.20)

Business Monitor MR15 General trends in shipping (Annual) (HMSO) (Price £8.95)

Crime on the Underground (HMSO) (Price £7.80)

Transshipment of UK Deep-Sea Trade 1976-1984 (Price £25)

Available from: British Ports Association
Commonwealth House
1-19 New Oxford Street
London WC1A 1DZ

The following statistical bulletins are published by the Department of Transport:

British Rail Origin and Destination Survey: London and the South East 1981-1982 No. 86)42, price £3.50

Traffic Speeds on London Roads North West Area Survey, No. 86)43, price £3

United Kingdom Shipping Industry: International Revenue and Expenditure 1985, No. (86)45, price £5

Traffic Speeds on London Roads South West Area Survey, No. 87)33, price £3

Road Lengths in Great Britain 1981-1986, No. 87)32, price £17

The following statistical bulletins are issued on a regular basis:

Monthly: *New Motor Vehicle Registrations, Great Britain* (price £2.50 per copy, annual subscription £25)

Quarterly: *Road Goods Vehicles on Roll-on Roll-off Ferries to Mainland Europe* (price £5 per copy)
Traffic in Great Britain (price £8 per copy, annual subscription £20)
Road Casualties in Great Britain (price £4 per copy)
Quarterly Transport Statistics (price £5 per copy, annual subscription £12)
Department of Transport statistical publications are available from:

Publications Sales Unit
Building 1
Victoria Road
South Ruislip
Middlesex HA4 0NZ
Telephone: 01-845 1200

The Department of Transport is often prepared to sell unpublished data. Further information can be obtained from:

Department of Transport
Romney House
43 Marsham Street
London SW1P 3PY
Telephone: 01-212 6843

Department of Employment

Employment Gazette, which is published towards the beginning of each month, regularly contains recent data and time-series on employment, unemployment, earnings, prices, family expenditure, tourism and other indicators. Subjects of recent articles have included: Early results of the New Earnings Survey, Patterns of Household Spending in 1985, Recent Trends in Redundancies and results of the 1984 Census of Employment.

Employment Gazette is published monthly by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, price £3.25 per issue. Annual subscription inclusive of postage is £35.

Notes on current developments

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 1986 and contains the following articles:

A review of 1984

This presents a summary of the latest information on the size and composition of the population of England and Wales. Some of the more striking changes are described below:

1. The resident population grew by over 100 thousand for the second year running (to 49.9 million persons).
2. The number of deaths rose slightly; numbers of births also rose markedly, resulting in a natural increase of 70 thousand.
3. International migration produced a net gain of 59 thousand due to an increase in immigration and continued low levels of emigration.
4. Metropolitan areas (except for Greater London) continued to lose population to the rest of the country.
5. The mortality rates of the elderly rose between 1984 and 1985 due to the effects of periods of cold weather.
6. The perinatal mortality rate (deaths in the first week and stillbirths) and the infant mortality rate both continued to decline slowly.
7. The proportions of married persons in the adult population continued to decline whereas the proportions of single and divorced persons both increased.
8. First marriage rates again fell at younger ages and the average ages at first marriage for spinsters and bachelors thus continued to increase; but the first marriage rates for women aged over 30 years rose for the second consecutive year.
9. The number of divorces increased by eleven per cent, as a result of the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act (1984) - which now allows couples to petition for divorce after one year of marriage.
10. Live births occurring inside marriage increased by one per cent but those outside marriage increased by fourteen per cent; births outside marriage now account for nearly one in five of all births.
11. The fertility rate for teenage girls increased for the second consecutive year, by seven per cent; rates for women over age thirty also continued to rise and the average age at motherhood increased further.
12. The number of legal abortions to residents in England and Wales increased slightly by one per cent.
13. The proportion of the population which is non-white was 4.4 per cent in 1985; about forty per cent were born in the United Kingdom.
14. The new principal projections of the population are for an increase of 4.5 per cent in numbers from 1985 to the turn of the century.

Ethnic minority populations in Great Britain

This article summarises some of the main demographic features of ethnic minority populations resident in Great Britain, using information provided by the annual Labour Force Surveys for the period 1983 to 1985. The current rate of increase in the size of the non-white population is estimated. These estimates are found to be close to results from the 1976-based projections of the population of New Commonwealth and Pakistan ethnic origin, taking into account differences in definition.

The changing balance of the sexes in England and Wales, 1851-2001

At mid-1986 there were about 950 males for every 1,000 females in England and Wales. This was the highest population sex ratio for over 100 years. This short article by Malcolm Britton and Nigel Edison of OPCS Population Statistics Division describes the trends in the ratio since 1851 and that projected to the end of this century. The contribution of births, deaths and migration to changes in the ratio are also examined.

Projections of first, second, third and later births

Projections of future numbers of births in terms of their birth order as well as in total provide a better insight into the structure of the overall fertility assumptions needed as input to the national population projections, and allow them to be monitored more closely against future actual trends. This article by Barry Werner and Susan Chalk of OPCS Population Statistics Division presents an account of the mid 1985-based variant fertility assumptions in terms of the extent and the ages at which women born in successive years enter motherhood and subsequently go on to have further births. The projected trends in the size of families, in the timing of family building of different generations of women and in the annual numbers of first, second and later births are discussed and a description is given of the resulting pattern of fertility projected for future years.

Recent patterns of migration from and to the United Kingdom

Since 1983 more people have come to live in the United Kingdom than have left and the balance of international migration has shown an increasing gain. Previously there was a loss - of a fluctuating size. In terms of the gross flows the main change has been a drop in the number of people leaving the United Kingdom; recently these have been about 170 thousand annually whereas twenty years ago the figure was over 300 thousand. On the other hand, the numbers coming to the United Kingdom, which includes those returning after a period abroad, have been stable at about 200 thousand for many years; however in 1985 this number rose to 232 thousand. Consequently there was an especially large net gain

from migration. This article by Lak Bulusu of the OPCS Population Statistics Division looks at these changes in terms of countries involved, citizenship, country of birth, age, sex and occupation of the migrants.

Reference

Population Trends 46 Winter 1986 (HMSO 1986) (Price £5 net)

Morbidity statistics from general practice 1981-1982

The main report of the third national study of morbidity statistics from general practice has been published by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys. The aim of the study is to examine the pattern of disease presenting to general practitioners, and to compare the results with those of earlier studies carried out in 1955-56, 1970-71 and 1971-72. The study is based on data provided by 143 doctors working in 48 practices, caring for a total of over 330 thousand people. The diagnosis and other information was recorded for each face-to-face contact between the doctor and any patient on his NHS list over a twelve month period. Although the doctors participating in the study are not necessarily representative of all doctors working in England and Wales, the age and sex distribution of the population for which they provided care varies little from the national population.

Some of the main findings are that more patients (27 per cent) consulted their doctor about respiratory problems than for any other group of diseases. These were most commonly for colds, tonsillitis and bronchitis. The number of patients consulting about problems with their muscles and joints increased by 46 per cent since the last study in 1971-72, particularly for back pain (+65 per cent), osteoarthritis (+36 per cent) and rheumatoid arthritis (+24 per cent).

Although only 8.5 per cent of patients consulted for diseases of the circulatory system, this represents a 28 per cent increase since 1971-72, which occurred particularly in the number of patients suffering from high blood pressure (+91 per cent) and heart attacks (+14 per cent).

Although this study gives valuable information about changes in the numbers of people who consulted their doctors about different diseases, the results must be interpreted carefully because of changes in the coding instructions between the studies, and the possibility of changes in the way individual doctors allocate diagnoses to the patients they record.

Reference

Morbidity statistics from general practice, microfiche 1981-1982. Third national study, series MB5 No.1 (HMSO) (Price £15.90 net).

Revised population estimates, Scotland, 1971-1980

Revised estimates of the population of Scotland by single age and sex for 1971 to 1980 are now available and form a series comparable with the 1981 to 1985 estimates. Although revision of these estimates removes the discontinuity between 1980 and 1981. It creates a new, smaller discontinuity between 1970 and 1971. A breakdown of the revised estimates by local authority area is also available in total, but not by age and sex.

Requests should be made in writing to:

General Register Office for Scotland
Population Statistics Branch
New Register House
Edinburgh EH1 3YT

Vital statistics (Scotland)

Vital statistics tables relating to the third quarter of 1986 appeared in the Registrar General's Vital Statistics Return, weeks 49 to 53.

Papers on the following topics appeared in recent issues (41-44, 45-48) of the Vital Statistics Return:

1. Mortality differentials in Scotland and England and Wales, in manual/non-manual occupational groups, 1969-73 to 1979-83.
2. A relative mortality analysis of Scottish Local Government Districts 1974-84.
3. Heart disease mortality in eighteen postcode sectors in Lanarkshire Health Board 1974-84.

The Vital Statistics Return is obtainable every four weeks for an annual subscription of £20. The order form is obtained from:

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

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

SOCIAL STATISTICS

Social Trends 17: 1987 edition

The 17th edition of *Social Trends* has now been published. This year *Social Trends* includes twelve chapters, corresponding to the administrative functions of government. The focus in each chapter is on current policy concerns, within *Social Trends'* general description of trends in social conditions.

The topics covered in *Social Trends 17* are: population; households and families; education; employment; income and wealth; resources and expenditure; health and personal social services; housing; transport, communications, and the environment; leisure participation; and law enforcement.

This edition includes two articles. The first is on 'Social Trends since World War II', by Professor Halsey of the Department of Social and Administrative Studies at the University of Oxford, and the second includes some analysis of the OPCS longitudinal study in 'Household Formation and Dissolution: a Longitudinal Perspective', by A E Holmans and S Nandy of the Department of the Environment and Audrey C Brown of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

The chapters of *Social Trends 17* contain 226 tables, two-fifths of which are new, and 83 charts, of which around half are new. Latest available data are included, in particular from the General Household Survey, the Family Expenditure Survey and the Labour Force Survey.

Further details are available from:

Peter Stokes
Central Statistical Office
Branch 8, Great George Street
London SW1P 3AQ
Telephone: 01-270 6257

Reference

Social Trends 17, 1987 (HMSO) (Price £19.95 net) ISBN 0 11 620244 0

General Household Survey 1984

The report of the General Household Survey (GHS) for 1984 was published in December. The GHS is an inter-departmental survey sponsored by the Central Statistical Office and carried out by the Social Survey Division of OPCS. 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 various chapters in the 1984 report cover the following subjects: the scope and development of the survey; methodology; population; marriage and fertility; housing; employment; education; health; GP consultations in relation to health care; cigarette smoking and drinking.

An OPCS Monitor, reference GHS 86/1, giving preliminary results from the 1985 GHS, was issued on 18 September 1986.

References

General Household Survey 1984, GHS No. 14 (HMSO 1986) (Price £11.70 net)
General Household Survey: preliminary results for 1985. OPCS Monitor GHS 86/1 (OPCS 1986) (available free from the OPCS Information Branch, see the 'Recently available' section for the address)

Social Security Statistics 1986 Edition

The fourteenth issue of the annual *Social Security Statistics* compiled by the Department of Health and Social Security was published in December 1986. It provides tables covering each of the social security benefits, National Insurance contributions, finance and relative movements on contributions, benefits, prices and earnings. Tables showing trends over several years are included and detailed analyses are provided for the most recent year available.

The tables are grouped in sections according to benefit or subject and relate to Great Britain unless otherwise stated. A brief descriptive note of the main features of the relevant benefit, as they currently apply, appears as a prologue to each section. These notes do not purport to cover all the conditions for entitlement to benefit or payment of contributions, nor do they give a history of the various changes which have occurred over the years. If more information is required on a particular subject, a copy of the appropriate explanatory leaflet should be consulted. A list of these is given in the first appendix. Other appendixes give the sources of the statistics, useful publications, description of social security regions and description of standard regions.

Reference

Social Security Statistics 1986 (HMSO 1986) (Price £14.65 net) ISBN 0 11 761280 4

Family Expenditure Survey (FES) 1985

The FES Report for 1985 was published in December 1986. The report contains 31 tables and four charts detailing average weekly expenditure on over ninety commodities and services by households, classified by income level and household composition, together with complementary information on household income and characteristics.

Following publication of summary expenditure results from the 1985 FES in the September edition of *Employment Gazette*, an article (with six tables) in the December 1986 issue illustrates some aspects of household finances shown in the 1985 Report. These include the variation of the pattern of expenditure and income with household composition and broad income level, with the employment status of head of household, and with married women within the non-retired

household. The availability of certain durable goods according to household size and composition is examined while regional analyses are given, based on results for the two years 1984 and 1985.

References

Family Expenditure Survey Report for 1985 (HMSO) (Price £15.50 net)
Employment Gazette, September and December 1986 (HMSO) (Price £3.25 each net)

Britain's households

The fourth and last of a new series of booklets summarising the main findings of the 1981 Census about the population of Great Britain was published in September 1986 by OPCS. It describes the main features of Great Britain's 19 million households and is illustrated with maps and diagrams.

Over the last decade households have undergone important changes in their number, composition and characteristics. They were affected by factors such as the fall in the number of births, the rise in the number of old people; the increase in divorce; the increasing number of single-parent families; the continuing trend to owner occupation; the rise in unemployment; the growing use of private cars; the tendency of married women to carry on working and by the improvements in housing standards. These topics are all discussed.

The booklet emphasises the great variation between different parts of the country and even within a single local authority and describes some of the characteristics and circumstances of households. It also contains sections on historical trends; household composition; particular types of household; tenure; amenities; economic activity; social class; changes of address; country of birth; communal establishments and summary.

Other census guides already published include Britain's elderly population; Britain's children and Britain's workforce.

References

Britain's households, Census Guide No. 4 (OPCS 1986) (Price £3 net)
Britain's workforce, Census Guide No. 3 (OPCS 1986) (Price £3 net)
Britain's children, Census Guide No. 2 (OPCS 1985) (Price £1.50 net)
Britain's elderly population, Census Guide No. 1 (OPCS 1985) (Price £1.50 net). (Available from OPCS Information Branch, St Catherines House, 10 Kingsway, London WC2B 6JP)

Changing the definition of a household

This publication reports on a study by the Social Survey Division of OPCS. In the light of gradual changes in living patterns, it was felt by OPCS that the definition of a household used on the census needed to be changed for the 1981 Census. User departments were consulted and the change agreed. Wherever possible large-scale government surveys use common definitions with the census to facilitate comparability, consequently with effect from 1981 the definition was amended on most surveys carried out by the Social Survey Division so as to conform with the census definition.

This volume forms the report of a special methodological study into the extent of the discontinuity which the change in definition has introduced into survey-based time series. It discusses the nature of household definitions and the design of the study, and presents the findings in terms of the effects of the definition change on national estimates, and the characteristics of households affected by the change.

Reference

Changing the definition of a household by Jean Todd and David Griffiths (HMSO 1986) (Price £8.50 net)

Grants to the private sector for the improvement of dwellings: 1976 to 1985

A bulletin produced by the Scottish Development Department contains statistical information on trends in grants to the private sector to improve property. Trends in amenity deficient dwellings and dwellings below the tolerable standard are also examined, as well as activity in Housing Action Areas.

Further detailed definitions and statistical notes are contained in the Annex.

Any enquiries about this bulletin should be made to:

Housing Statistics and Intelligence Unit
Scottish Development Department
Room 327, St Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DD
Telephone: 031-244 2688/2687

Copies of the bulletin (price 75 pence) are available from:

Scottish Office Library
Publications Sales
Room 2/65, New St Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3TG
Telephone: 031-244 4806

Prison statistics for England and Wales 1985

This annual publication gives statistics about receptions into and discharges from Prison Department establishments, about the prison population and about offences against prison discipline and punishments awarded. Time series, generally for the past ten years, are presented together with more detailed data for the latest year. The contents of the latest issue are similar to those of previous years, but additional data has been included on these topics.

The prison population has been analysed by ethnic origin; reported on in more detail in Statistical Bulletin 17/86 (see *Statistical News* 74.34). More information has been included about life sentence prisoners. New analyses have been included of the time served in custody by adult males under sentences of different lengths.

Reference

Prison statistics England and Wales 1985 (Cmnd 9903) (HMSO September 1986) (Price £13.60 net)

Criminal statistics: England and Wales 1985

The annual publication gives statistics on notifiable offences recorded by the police, cautioning, remands, court sentencing and appeals. Detailed analyses are made of certain serious offences, eg. homicide and offences in which firearms have been used. Time series, generally for the last ten years are presented, with more detail for the year 1985.

There are five supplementary volumes providing more detailed 1985 tables for individual offences, for each police force area or Crown Court centre. The fifth volume is new this year and contains data for each petty sessional division and Commission of the Peace Area.

References

Criminal Statistics, England and Wales, 1985 (Cm. 10) (HMSO November 1986) (Price £14.20 net)

Criminal Statistics, England and Wales, Supplementary Tables 1985:

- Volume 1 — *Proceedings in Magistrates' Courts*, price £13,
- Volume 2 — *Proceedings in the Crown Court*, price £13,
- Volume 3 — *Police Force Areas and Court Areas: recorded offences, firearms offences, court proceedings, cautions*, price £11.50,
- Volume 4 — *Convictions, Cautions, specific aspects of sentencing, DPP prosecutions, appeals, Prerogative of mercy*, price £7,

The 1985 supplementary tables are available from the address given in the 'Recently available' section.

Statistics of the operation of certain police powers under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984

A quarterly Home Office Statistical Bulletin contains figures which monitor the effect of part of this Act, which came into force at the beginning of January 1986. In particular, the provisions of Sections 5, 50 and 55 are monitored, dealing with police powers of stop and search, road checks, detention for over 24 hours and intimate searches.

Reference

Home Office Statistical Bulletin No. 41/86, price £2.50. For availability see 'Recently available' section.

HEALTH

Communicable diseases

Communicable diseases statistics 1984 was published in September 1986 by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys and the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre of the Public Health Laboratory Service. It reviews the incidence of communicable disease in England and Wales in 1984. The 1984 data are issued in this volume without accompanying commentary. The commentary for 1984 will be issued later in the OPCS Monitor MB2 series.

Reference

Communicable diseases statistics 1984, Series MB2 No. 11 (MSO 1986) (Price £6.20)

Cancer statistics

The Office of Population Censuses and Surveys recently published the latest report on cancer statistics which describes cancer cases first diagnosed in 1983, particulars of which had been registered by 30 June 1986. 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. Also included are registration ratios by sex and site for metropolitan counties, and urban and rural aggregates.

Reference

Cancer statistics: registrations 1983, Series MB1 No. 15 (HMSO 1986) (Price £8 net).

Abortion statistics 1985

The latest edition of the annual publication *Abortion statistics* has now been published by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys. It gives the total number of terminations notified under the 1967 Abortion Act to residents and non-residents in England and Wales during 1985. It also provides detailed statistics on general and demographic factors, statutory grounds, procedure, complications, deaths, geographical and medical factors.

Reference

Abortion statistics 1985, series AB No. 12 (HMSO 1986) (Price £6.20 net)

Scottish Health Service annual publications

Scottish Health Statistics 1985. This twenty-eighth volume in the series is published by the Information Services Division (ISD) of the Common Services Agency for the Scottish Health Service, price £8. It includes statistics on a comprehensive range of health service topics and is an adjunct to the Scottish

Home and Health Department Annual Report - Health in Scotland 1985.

Health in Brief 1985, a pocket edition of Scottish Health statistics, (January 1987), price £1.

Scottish Hospital Inpatient Statistics 1984, gives statistics of patients discharged from Scottish hospitals (excluding mental hospitals, psychiatric units, mental handicap hospitals and maternity units). (December 1986), price £7.50 with microfiche £10.

Scottish Respiratory Tuberculosis Survey, reports 13 and 14 by V K Howie *et al*, gives information on cases notified in 1983, including clinical data. (January 1987), price £2.50

Surveillance Programme for Foodborne Infections and Intoxications, Scotland 1985 by P W Collier *et al*. This publication analyses WHO data on food poisoning outbreaks and is published in conjunction with the Communicable Diseases (Scotland) Unit. (December 1986), price £1.50.

Hospital Activity Statistics 1984, provides indicators of hospital resources and activity, including available staffed beds, waiting lists, throughput, bed occupancy, day cases and out-patient attendances. (This new publication replaces Hospital Bed Resources and Hospital Utilisation Statistics.) (February 1987), price £2.50.

These publications are available from:

Scottish Health Service

ISD Publications

Trinity Park House

Edinburgh EH5 3SQ

Telephone: 031-552 6255 Ext 2707 (GTN 2667 2707)

EDUCATION

Projections of demand for higher education in Great Britain 1986-2000

The Department of Education and Science (DES) recently published new projections of student numbers in higher education in Great Britain in a document with the above title. After a brief discussion of recent trends in higher education numbers, the document spells out the various stages in the construction of the projections and the assumptions made. The methodology used is very similar to that used for the projections published in July 1984 in the Department's Report on Education 100 and accompanying Technical Report which were updated for the Green Paper, 'The Development of Higher Education into the 1990s' (Cmnd 9524) published in May 1985.

Two new projections are shown. The lower one is based on the assumption that the latest observed values of the various indices of demand for higher education will remain constant. Since these latest values are a little higher than the previous values the new lower projection shows slightly higher numbers

than previously. However it still shows a substantial decrease in the early 1990s, when the numbers of 18 and 19 year olds in the population will fall dramatically. Student numbers are projected to fall from 700,000 full-time equivalents in 1989 to 616,000 in 1996 before rising by some 17,000 by the end of the century.

The higher projection shown also starts with the latest observed values of the indices of demand but it is assumed that these values will increase, partly in line with recent trends but also to take account of known policy initiatives which are likely to increase demand for higher education. In particular it is assumed that policies to improve standards in schools will lead to an increase in the numbers achieving two or more A level passes (the traditional qualifications for entry to higher education) and that changes resulting from the establishment of the National Council for Vocational Qualifications, extensions to the Youth Training Scheme, and continuing education initiatives will lead to more entrants with vocational qualifications. The second projection shows an increasing proportion of young people, especially women, entering full-time higher education and also increasing numbers of older entrants until the early 1990s. It also incorporates assumptions that postgraduate numbers and numbers of students from abroad will increase. Overall it shows increasingly greater numbers than the first projection, although it also shows a decrease in numbers in the early 1990s. It projects an increase for the next few years to 726,000 full-time equivalent students in 1990 falling to a trough of 691,000 students in 1996, only just below current numbers.

The Department is committed to regular reviews of the projections in the light of the most recent trends in demand and any other relevant research results. In particular, results from the survey the Department commissioned from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys on young people's intentions regarding higher education will soon be available and the Department will be considering the assumptions incorporated in the projections in the light of these.

Enquiries about the contents of this publication should be made to Michael Hart, DES, Room 2.31, Elizabeth House, York Road, London SE1 7PH, Telephone: 01 934 9094.

Reference

Projections of Demand for Higher Education in Great Britain 1986-2000, published by the Department of Education and Science, November 1986. Available free, from: Department of Education and Science, Publications Despatch Centre, Honeypot Lane, Canons Park, Stanmore, Middx.

Welsh education statistics bulletins

Since 1976 the Welsh Office has prepared an annual publication, *Statistics of Education in Wales* (Price £4 net), presenting statistics on all aspects of education in the Principality. Nursery, primary, secondary and special education, Welsh medium teaching, school services, higher and further education, adult education, teachers and education finance in separate sections, are covered in a volume of over 150 pages.

The occasional series, 'Welsh Education Statistics Bulletin', complements the statistical information. These Bulletins are not issued on a regular basis but rather as a companion to the main publication when appropriate data become available.

The first issue of the Bulletin, published in April 1986, presented results of a survey of maintained secondary schools in Wales carried out in 1984. The purpose of this was to provide information concerning school staff and the teaching they undertook. The Bulletin gave details of the age, sex, qualifications, types of appointment, length of teaching experience, major responsibilities and timetabled tuition of teachers.

The second issue of the Bulletin was published in December 1986. It provided further analyses of data from that survey giving details of curriculum and class sizes, together with additional analyses of the qualifications and deployment of teachers.

The third issue of the Bulletin is now available. It presents the results of a survey carried out in Spring 1986, of the use of microcomputers in maintained primary and secondary schools in Wales. Details are given of the numbers of microcomputers and types of ancillary hardware and software used in schools; the type of accommodation provided for computing facilities; the degree of support - in terms of computer maintenance, funding and information - which schools received; the extent to which staff were using, and had been trained to use, microcomputers; the extent of use by pupils; and the major curricular areas in which microcomputers were utilised.

Copies of the Bulletins (which are free), are available from Economic and Statistical Services Division (3), Welsh Office, Crown Building, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NQ (Tel: 0222-823519)

Scottish education statistics

Staying-on rates

This statistical bulletin provides details of staying-on rates in Scottish schools, outlines changes in recent years (1978 to 1985) and describes variations with sex, age within stage and region/division/island area. It looks at the variations in staying-on rates with social class, family size, qualifications held and includes comparisons with England.

School leavers' qualifications

This statistical bulletin provides details of the Scottish Certificate of Education qualifications held by pupils who left Scottish schools in 1984-85 and some earlier sessions. Information on school leaver numbers for sessions 1976-77 to 1984-85 was published in bulletin No. 8/E2/1986 in October 1986.

Autumn enrolments of students in advanced and non-advanced further education

Information on the enrolment of students in advanced and non-advanced further education in Autumn 1985 is contained in this statistical bulletin which provides a comparison with figures for the years 1981 to 1984.

For price and availability of these bulletins see the 'Recently available' section.

MANPOWER AND EARNINGS

Labour Market quarterly report

The November 1986 Labour Market quarterly report was published by the Manpower Services Commission on 9 December 1986. In addition to commenting on the latest labour market trends, the unemployment rates amongst different ethnic groups were also analysed. A special feature discussed the preliminary results from the second survey of the England and Wales Youth Cohort Study monitoring the transition between school and work. The path of 1984 school leavers between September 1984 and February 1986 is presented.

For further information contact Miss Delyse Atkins, Telephone: Sheffield (0742) 704208.

Copies (free) may be obtained from:

Mr T Shaw

Manpower Services Commission

Room W815

Moorfoot

Sheffield S1 4PQ

Telephone: Sheffield (0742) 753275

New Earnings Survey 1986

The results of the 1986 survey giving information on the earnings and hours of work of employees in April 1986 are being published in six parts.

Part A was published on December 4 and includes streamlined analyses giving selected results for full-time employees in particular wage negotiation groups, industries, occupations etc, and key results for particular wage negotiation groups. Details of the other parts are given as follows:

Part B Further streamlined analyses giving combined results for full-time adults of both sexes; Summary analyses for broad categories of employees irrespective of their particular industries, occupations etc;

Other results for particular wage negotiation groups; description of survey method, classifications, terminology etc.

Part C Earnings and hours for particular industries.

Part D Earnings and hours for particular occupations.

Part E Earnings and hours in regions, counties and age groups.

Part F Hours; earnings and hours of part-time women employees; size of organisation.

It is planned to publish parts B to F in early 1987.

References

Employment Gazette, December 1986 (HMSO) (Price £3.25 net)

New Earnings Survey 1986 (HMSO in six parts) (Price £8.95 net each or subscription for the whole set of six £52.50 including postage)

Recent trends in redundancies in Great Britain

An article in the December *Employment Gazette* gives details of recent trends in redundancies.

The total number of confirmed redundancies in 1985, at 235,000, was slightly lower than in 1984, continuing, albeit more gradually, the declining trend in the level of confirmed redundancies which began in mid-1981. The redundancy rate also fell slightly from just under twelve per thousand employees in 1984 to just over eleven per thousand in 1985.

Reference

Employment Gazette, December 1986 (HMSO) (Price £3.25 net)

1984 Census of Employment

The results from the September 1984 Census of Employment were published in the January 1987 issue of the *Employment Gazette* in an article which included tables giving a detailed breakdown of employment in Great Britain by industry headings and by regions. The article also compares the 1984 census results with the previously published estimates for September 1984 and with the results of the 1981 census of employment.

At whole economy level the census results are broadly consistent with the previously published estimates: the estimated number of employees in employment at September 1984 is reduced by 32,000 or 0.15 per cent. The revised quarterly estimates for the whole economy therefore show a pattern very similar to that shown by the previous estimates, with the Employed Labour Force increasing continually since March 1983, by a total of 1,044,000 to June 1986.

The census results have however led to appreciable changes in employee estimates for some industries. This is discussed in the *Employment Gazette* article which also describes the methods used to derive employee estimates, consistent with the 1984 census results, for non-census dates.

Revised monthly and quarterly estimates of employees were presented in the Labour Market Data section of the January edition of *Employment Gazette*. Revised overtime and short-time series and indices of hours, are published in the February edition. Longer time series are included in a supplement to be published with the February issue of *Employment Gazette*.

Reference

'1984 census of Employment results and revised employment estimates for GB', *Employment Gazette*, February 1987 (HMSO) (Price £3.25 net)

Job generation in the United Kingdom by size-bands 1982-84

A consistent pattern of small firms as net generators of jobs and large firms as net losers is shown in a study (described in *British Business* 17 October 1986), of job generation in the United Kingdom by size-bands of firms in the period 1982-84.

Other conclusions are:

1. The only size-band which was a creator of jobs was the smallest, with 1-19 employees.
2. At best, all other size-bands merely held their own.
3. In the 1-19 category, for every 100 jobs held at the beginning of each year, at least three had been created by the end of that year.
4. In the firms employing 1000-plus, for every 100 jobs held at the beginning of each year, six had been lost by the end of that year.
5. New births, and firm expansions from the smaller cohorts, created the new jobs in the economy.

This study was supported by the Department of Employment, Small Firms and Tourism Division.

Copies of the full report of this work are available, price £5 net, from:

Professor Colin Gallagher
Department of Industrial Management
Newcastle University
Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE1 7RU

Reference

British Business (Department of Trade and Industry) (Price £1.25 net)

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Agricultural Statistics United Kingdom 1985

This volume which incorporates 1985 data is the latest in a long series of similar publications recording for reference purposes the main figures from the annual agricultural censuses and regular surveys of agricultural prices.

Figures for one or more countries of the United Kingdom are given in many tables. Selected items for each English county are given in a separate section. Most tables give the latest year or a five-year run of figures.

Reference

Agricultural Statistics United Kingdom 1985 (HMSO 1986) (Price £10.20 net) ISBN 0 11 242780 4

Agricultural censuses and surveys

Cereals stocks survey - England and Wales

The results of the sample surveys of on-farm stocks and disposals of home grown wheat and barley for June and July 1986 were published in MAFF Statistics Notice STATS 232/86 on September 30 1986. Those for September were published in MAFF Statistics Notice STATS 267/86 on November 18 1986.

Pig survey - August 1986

Results for England and Wales combined with those for the United Kingdom were published in MAFF Statistics Notice STATS 238/86 on October 8 1986.

Estimates of cereal production - September 1986

Provisional results of the September 1986 cereals production survey for England and Wales based on estimates given by farmers in the middle of September 1986 were published in MAFF Statistics Notice STATS 243/86 on October 17 1986.

Final results of the September 1986 cereals production survey for England and Wales were published in MAFF Statistics Notice STATS 270/86 dated November 20 1986.

Estimates of crop production - minor crops

The latest 1986 harvest estimates for minor agricultural crops in England and Wales were published in MAFF Statistics Notice STATS 275/86 on November 27 1986.

The above Statistics Notices may be obtained free of charge from: Publications Section, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Government Buildings, Epsom Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 2LD. Telephone: Guildford (0483) 68121 exts. 577/520 (GTN 2089)

INDUSTRIAL

DTI databanks to be made publicly available

In response to the government's initiative on tradeable information the Department of Trade and Industry expect to make two databanks available to the public on a commercial basis.

The first, to be published by the Business Statistics Office (BSO), will comprise two data sets:

- i. quarterly time series of sales by United Kingdom manufacturers, analysed by commodity and industry (these data are published by HMSO in Business Monitors PQ2100 to PQ4959 inclusive)¹ and

- ii. monthly indices of sales per week by retailers, analysed by kinds of business (published in Business Monitor SDM28²).

In total these comprise over 10,000 series and if the databank proves successful the BSO is likely to add new data sets.

The second databank is Statistics 1 Division's Industrial Economic Indicators database (IEI). The IEI covers all of the production industries (Divisions 1 to 4 of the Standard Industrial Classification) down to the 4-digit Activity Heading (AH) level. The series to be made available include exports, imports, sales of principal products, overseas trade performance ratios, employees in employment, index of production, producer price indices, and a number of series taken from the Annual Census of Production. Some 2,500 short period time series will be made available. The length of each series generally extends back beyond those which are found in HMSO publications.

Both databanks will be marketed in the form of computer files on magnetic tape which will be passed to an agent to market the data and to handle distribution to hosts who will provide computer bureau and value added services. The agency role for both databanks was advertised in *British Business* towards the end of last year.

It is envisaged that both of the services will commence during the middle of 1987.

Inquiries should be addressed as follows:

BSO Databank M R Vaughan
BSO, Room 1.276
Department of Trade and Industry
Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
Newport, Gwent NP9 1XG

IEI Database Miss L Calf
Department of Trade and Industry
Room 2009, Millbank Tower
Millbank
London SW1P 4QU

References

1. Business Monitors PQ series (HMSO) Annual subscription, £9.75 per year
2. Business Monitor SDM28 (HMSO) Annual subscription, £16.50 per year.

Size analyses of United Kingdom businesses in 1986

The latest Business Monitor in the PA1003 series was published in December 1986. It is based on the register maintained by the Business Statistics Office and the publication provides counts of businesses as at mid-1986.

Two sets of tables are included which cover legal units (the businesses registered for VAT) for the whole economy and local units (factories and sites) within the manufacturing industries.

For industries other than the manufacturing, legal unit analyses are by turnover, VAT trade code and status (company, sole proprietorship etc). Within manufacturing, similar analyses are provided but classified by Activity Heading of the Standard Industrial Classification (Revised 1980).

The local unit tables provide estimates of employment as well as counts of units. The Activity Heading is used as the classification and analyses are produced by employment and by region or county.

A summary legal unit table appeared in *British Business* on 14 November 1986. A more detailed size analyses of United Kingdom businesses is due to appear in Spring 1987 in Business Monitor PA1003. This will include tables showing far greater industry detail and breakdown by form of organisation (company/partnership/sole proprietorship etc).

Further details can be obtained from:

Business Statistics Office
Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
Newport
Gwent NP9 1XG
Telephone: 0633-222991 (GTN 2411)

Reference

Business Monitor PA1003 *Size Analyses of United Kingdom businesses 1986* (HMSO) (Price £10.50 net).

British Business (Department of Trade and Industry) (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 of 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 updated from 1970 to 1980.

The latest extension of the exercise, to end-1985, 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
Central Statistical Office
Great George Street
London SW1P 3AQ
Telephone: 01-270 6084

References

- Economic Trends*, number 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) (Price £2.25 net).

Business Monitors

The following Business Monitors have recently been published by HMSO for the Department of Trade and Industry:
SDM6 *Credit business of finance houses and other specialist credit grantors*, obtainable by annual subscription of £16.50.
SDM8 *Credit business of retailers*, obtainable by annual subscription of £16.50.

SERVICE INDUSTRIES

Statistics of the Service Industries: recent developments

A note on current developments in the February 1986 issue of *Statistical News* (page 72.43) set out a scheme for strengthening and extending the service trades inquiry, to be implemented with the inquiry in respect of 1985. The 1985 inquiry has now been successfully conducted and the results should be published by mid-1987.

Ministers have recently approved a further extension to the service trades inquiry to cover certain additional professional and scientific services on an annual basis starting with the inquiry for 1986. The areas being brought into the inquiry for the first time are legal services, certain private health services (opticians, private hospitals, clinics and nursing homes), some private education services (mainly business schools, language schools and correspondence colleges) and a miscellaneous category of technical service activities. The inquiry results will be used to improve the national accounts compiled by the Central Statistical Office.

Information on turnover and capital expenditure will be collected from all areas brought into the inquiry. In addition, for some of the activities, subsidiary questions will be asked. In particular, a question of conveyancing turnover will be included on the form addressed to businesses providing legal services; some broad disaggregation of turnover sought from opticians; and a question on student numbers will be asked of educational establishments. In total the scheme involves mailing an additional 3,100 forms a year.

At the present time investigation of other sources or approaches are taking place for a number of other professional services not yet covered by the inquiry. Should these prove inadequate for national accounts purposes, then it is possible that the inquiry will be extended further in the 1987 or subsequent inquiries.

Business Monitor: Computing services

The Department of Trade and Industry has conducted a quarterly inquiry into computing services since 1969, the results of which are published in the Business Monitor SDQ9. The figures in the Monitor are based on returns from a panel of voluntary contributors and are intended to indicate developments in the industry rather than measure total billings by the industry.

Because the computing services industry is subject to rapid growth and change, the Department needs to review the inquiry periodically to ensure that it remains as representative of the industry as possible.

The latest review, which took place in 1986, comprised two stages:

1. a recruitment drive which increased the number of contributors from 170 to 220 companies and
2. the introduction of a simplified questionnaire designed to ease the reporting burden on companies, with headings revised to reflect more accurately the range of services currently provided by the industry.

The results for the first half of 1986 will shortly be published in Business Monitor SDQ9, and are shown in broad outline in the table that follows. These show that the new panel accounts for a lower level of billings than the old, partly the result of changes in the organisation of some major contributors. However, total industry billings are continuing along an upward trend, being some 18 per cent higher in the second quarter of 1986 compared with the same quarter of 1985. This reflects growth in all of the major headings. The 1985 figures based on the new panel have been calculated retrospectively and are published alongside the 1985 'old panel' figures.

Business Monitor subscription inquiries should be addressed to: HMSO, PO Box 276, London SW8 5DT, Telephone: 01-211 8667/8.

Any companies requiring more information on the computing services inquiry or interested in becoming a contributor should contact Mike Hurley, Statistics 1A, Department of Trade and Industry, Room 1907, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QU, Telephone: 01-211 4408.

Computing Services: total billings to clients for work done

£ million

	Old panel figures		New panel figures				
	1985	1985	Q2/85	Q3/85	Q4/85	Q1/86	Q2/86
Section A: Bureau Services	398	305	76	73	80	81	80
Section B: Software	479	445	105	114	129	131	134
Section C: Hardware	362	283	66	73	91	80	80
Section D: Other professional services	292	293	67	73	83	71	76
Total billings	1531	1326	315	333	383	364	371

TRANSPORT

New motor vehicle registrations (Great Britain): October 1986.

A Department of Transport statistics bulletin states that over the twelve months to October 1986 registrations of:

1. new cars were 1,878,000, which is three per cent higher than the same period the previous year,
2. new motorcycles were 14 per cent lower than the same period in the previous year,
3. goods vehicles stayed at the same level as the same period in the previous year and
4. Public transport vehicles were 33 per cent up compared with the previous year.

Other statistical data is portrayed in four tables and there are supporting bar charts and graphs showing seasonally adjusted data and trends.

More detailed registration statistics can be obtained from:

Department of Transport
STD Division
Room B640, Romney House
43 Marsham Street
London SW1P 3PY
Telephone: 01-212 6463

This statistics bulletin (86)41, price £2, can be obtained from the address given in the Recently Available section.

Commuting into Central London by British Rail

The Department of Transport published in November a statistics bulletin giving summary results of British Rail's Origin and Destination Survey of the London and South East area, carried out in 1981/82. British Rail was entirely responsible for conducting this survey but the Department of Transport shared the cost and was involved at the planning stage. The report covers British Rail commuting into Central London by broad area of origin, and limited information about the origin and destination of other rail passengers in the South East. Other topics include journey purpose, time of arrival, mode of transport from station, socio-economic group, age and sex, and car availability. The report, called British Rail Origin and Destination Survey : London and South East 1981/82 (Department of Transport Statistics bulletin (86)42), is available (price £3.50) from:

Department of Transport
Publications Sales Unit
Building 1
Victoria Road
South Ruislip
MIDDLESEX HA4 0NZ
Tel: 01-845 1200

Enquires about this publication to Frances Sly, Railways A Division, Department of Transport (Tel: 01-212 8644)

Transshipment of United Kingdom Deep-Sea Trade

Transshipment of United Kingdom Deep-Sea Trade 1976-1984 shows that an increasing proportion of United Kingdom deep-sea trade was routed through ports in north west continental Europe (transhipped) between 1976 and 1984. The report is

the work of the Port Statistics Branch of the DTp and is mainly an analysis of data obtained from the customs statistics of Belgium and the Netherlands.

While United Kingdom imports from deep-sea countries fell by more than 55 per cent between 1976 and 1984 (from 111 million tonnes (mt) to 49mt), the percentage of traffic transhipped over the same period quadrupled, from 4 per cent (3.1mt) to 15 per cent (7.5mt). The corresponding transshipment figures for exports were 0.7mt (6 per cent) in 1976 and 2.6mt (8 per cent) in 1984.

The report also shows that ports in the Netherlands and Belgium were by far the most important European ports for transshipment of United Kingdom trade. Of Belgian ports only Antwerp had significant levels of transshipment traffic.

In 1984 4.4mt (16 per cent) of deep-sea non-fuel imports were transhipped in the Netherlands or at Antwerp - up from 2.8mt (9 per cent) in 1976. 2.1mt (21 per cent) of deep-sea non-fuel exports were transhipped in the Netherlands or at Antwerp - up from 0.6mt (6 per cent) in 1976.

Also in 1984 2.5mt (39 per cent) of United Kingdom imports from the United States of America were transhipped in the Netherlands and 0.2mt (3 per cent) at Antwerp. Significant quantities of imports from Australia and the Far East were transhipped.

Reference

Transshipment of United Kingdom Deep-Sea Trade 1976-1984 is published jointly with the British Ports Association, from whom copies are available at : Commonwealth House, 1-19 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DZ, price £25 including post and packing.

Enquiries about this work may be made to Bruce Oelman, Department of Transport, Room A202, Romney House, 43 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3PY (Telephone 01-212 0149).

Crime on the Underground

This HMSO publication (November 1986) reports on one of a number of initiatives put in hand by the Department of Transport following the Prime Minister's crime prevention seminar on 8 January 1986. Its purpose was to investigate the scale, nature and incidence of crime on the Underground and to identify effective preventive measures.

The report contains a detailed analysis of reported crime on the Underground during 1985, as well as an examination of the trends over the last decade compared with those for the rest of the Metropolitan Police area. The report looks in detail at the areas of particular concern - robbery, violence against person, indecent assault and theft from person. A large number of charts and maps showing frequency and location of offences are contained in a statistical appendix. These were produced using the computer graphics package TELL-A-GRAF having the advantages of high quality production and ease of modification during the drafting stage of the report.

The report also covers public attitudes to the risks of crime, based on recent research carried out by London Underground Ltd.

In all, some 50 recommendations are included in the report, comprising measures designed to improve the organisation of those responsible for tackling crime on the Underground and to improve the facilities at their disposal. Regular statistical monitoring should also be established.

Reference

Crime on the Underground (HMSO) (Price £7.80 net) ISBN 0 11 550805 8

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 publishes each year a sector classification which divides the economy into institutional sectors with reference to economic organisation as displayed by control and ownership. The latest version - Sector Classification for the National Accounts, No. 5 - was published in January 1987.

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 Parliament in November 1986. The document included outline plans for public expenditure for 1987-88 to 1989-90 and a departmental breakdown of estimated outturn for the current and previous financial years. Departmental figures including local authority spending and nationalised industries' external finance were shown. Departmental figures for nationalised industries' external finance and local authority

expenditure relevant for Rate Support Grant were also separately identified, and the external finance limits for 1987-88 for the nationalised industries were given. The statement included the short-term forecast which the Treasury is required to publish by the Industry Act, proposed changes in National Insurance Contributions and a 'ready reckoner' for the effects of various Ministerial tax changes on receipts of taxes in 1987-88 and 1988-89.

Reference

Autumn Statement 1986 Cm. 14 (HMSO November 1986) (Price £4.80 net)
ISBN 0 10 100142 8

The Government's Expenditure Plans 1987-88 to 1989-90

The Government's detailed spending plans for the period 1987-88 to 1989-90 are contained in the 1987 public expenditure White Paper which was published in January 1987.

Volume I of the White Paper gives a summary of the new plans. It gives an analysis of public spending by Departments, shows a breakdown of how the money will be spent by central government, local authorities and public corporations and gives a broad indication of what money will be spent on.

Volume II of the White Paper has been further developed this year. Part 2 has been expanded to give an explanation of the measurement of public expenditure and related concepts and provides more detailed figures than Part 1 and a range of additional analyses, including a new section on historical trends in public spending. Part 3 has twenty separate chapters which set out in detail the spending plans for the main departments, including indicators of output, performance and value for money. Part 4 summarises the spending plans carried out by local authorities. The capital requirements and financing requirements of each of the nationalised industries are set out in Part 5, and Part 6 gives information on the other public corporations. Part 7 is a glossary of terms.

Reference

The Government's Expenditure Plans 1987-88 to 1989-90 Cm. 56I and 56-II (HMSO 1987)
(Price, Volume I £5.20: Volume II £22) ISBNs 0 10 100562 8 and 0 11 100563 6

Companies' rates of return

British Business 10 October 1986 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 (seventeenth) issue of *Business Monitor MA3*, which gives 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 (Department of Trade and Industry) (Price £1.25 net)
United Kingdom National Accounts 1986 Edition, the CSO Blue Book (HMSO September 1986) (Price £12.95 net)
Business Monitor MA3 Company Finance (HMSO) (Price £9 net)

Insurance companies: balance sheet at end 1985

An article was published in *British Business*, 28 November 1986, giving details of the balance sheet for insurance companies at the end of 1985. It shows the total market value of financial assets held by insurance companies to have been £162.0 billion at end-1985, compared with £143.8 billion at end-1984. Of this, £131.4 billion was held by long-term funds and £22.6 billion in the other than long-term funds. £8.1 billion represented the net value of direct investment in other companies. The main feature in 1985 was the substantial increase (over 20 per cent) in the value of assets held in the form of United Kingdom company securities, largely due to increases in share prices.

Tables show end-year holdings and net investment during the year for both long-term and other than long-term funds for the years 1980 to 1985.

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 1985 inquiry can be obtained from:

Department of Trade and Industry
Room 330, Sanctuary Buildings
20 Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3DB
Telephone: 01-215 6211/6617

References

British Business (Department of Trade and Industry) (Price £1.25 net)
Business Monitor MQ5 Insurance companies' and pension funds' investment (HMSO quarterly) (Price £9.75 net).

Investment intentions survey, 1987 and 1988

An article in *British Business*, 12 December 1986 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 6 per cent in the volume of investment by the manufacturing, construction, distribution and selected service industries in 1987 and a similar increase over the 1987 level during 1988.

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 description of the surveys is given in a report entitled, *Report of the review of the biannual survey of the investment intentions of the manufacturing industries and of the distribution, construction and service industries*.

Copies are available from:
Business Statistics Office
Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
Newport, Gwent NPT 1XG

Enquiries regarding the survey may be made to:

Department of Trade and Industry
Telephone: 0633-222149/222215 (GTN 2411)

Reference

British Business (Department of Trade and Industry) (Price £1.25 net)

OVERSEAS FINANCE AND TRADE

Import penetration and export performance for the calendar year 1985

An article in *British Business*, 10 October 1986, states that in the calendar year 1985 imported manufactured products are estimated to have accounted for 34.5 per cent of United Kingdom demand, whilst United Kingdom manufacturing sales for the same period to overseas markets are estimated at 30.4 per cent, 2 per cent up on calendar year 1984. 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.

Enquiries 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 (Department of Trade and Industry) (Price £1.25 net)

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Annual review of research and development

Recently published is the factual material assembled by the Department of Trade and Industry for the fourth Annual Review of Government Funded R&D carried out during 1986 by the Science and Technology Secretariat.

The objectives of the annual review of R&D are to bring together the various elements of Government R&D in order that the overall balance can be examined, overlaps and duplications identified and omissions recognised.

The Review presents outturn and estimated outturn expenditure figures for Government Departments' R&D programmes for the years 1983/84-1985/86, and planned expenditure for the years of the 1986 PES, 1986/87-1988/89, analysed by main areas of activity and by the sectors carrying out the work. Each main programme is classified by the primary purpose for which it is carried 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.

This year, for the first time, a facts card has been produced containing a digest of the statistical information contained in the 1986 Review. The card is available free from the Science and Technology Secretariat, Cabinet Office, 70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS.

Reference

Annual Review of Government Funded R&D 1986 (HMSO) December 1986 (Price £10.50 net) ISBN 0 11 630941 5

INTERNATIONAL

International comparisons of profitability 1955-84

An article in *British Business*, 7 November 1986, gives comparisons for 1984 and updates the comparisons for 1955-83 given in the 1 November 1985 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. A table gives data on net rate of return to fixed capital and net profit shares for the United Kingdom and some other countries for non-financial corporations, industry plus transport and manufacturing industry. 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 (Department of Trade and Industry) (Price £1.25 net)

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Handbook of Industrial Statistics, 1986 (Sales No. E/F.86.II.B.3) (Price \$38.00)

Published in both English and French, the *Handbook of Industrial Statistics, 1986* is a compilation of internationally comparable statistics for over 120 countries, 28 industries and more than 100 manufactured commodities. The data appearing in the *Handbook* has been collected from both national and international sources and supplemented through field work by UNIDO statisticians.

Information concerning major fields of industrial performance and industrial development can be found in the *Handbook*. These include measures of industrial growth and related long-term trends, indicators of structural change for both the manufacturing sector and individual industries, evidence regarding patterns of employment, wages and salaries, value added, gross output, patterns of consumption for specific manufactured commodities and related trends in trade in manufactures.

In compiling the data and indicators described above, UNIDO statisticians have given priority to the development of indicators which are internationally comparable both among countries and across industries. The data to be found in the *Handbook* is also constructed at the most detailed level possible. The results of this work will be a valuable source of information on world industry for both researchers and decision makers.

United Nations publications may be obtained from bookstores and distributors throughout the world, or by ordering by title and sales number from one of the following:

Sales Section
United Nations Office
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Sales Section
United Nations
New York, New York 10017
United States of America

HMSO may also be able to supply the book.

1987 version of the UNIDO Data Base of Industrial Statistics
UNIDO has just updated its *Data Base of Industrial Statistics* and a new tape is available. The information contained therein includes additions that extend the time series up to 1985 as well as substantial updates and revisions to the data as they appeared in the 1986 version of the tape. The comparative table, below, documents the coverage in the two latest versions of the tape.

	1986 tape	1987 tape
Total countries	153	152
thereof coverage up to 1985	—	78
Period	1963—1984	1963—1985
ISICs:		
Total	286,201	299,870
Value added	56,234	58,809
Gross output	56,185	58,921
Wages and salaries	56,067	58,439
Employment	59,669	62,548
Production indexes	58,046	61,153

The price of the tape remains unaltered: \$2,000 for secondary disseminators (e.g. commercial firms) and \$500 for universities, research institutions and government agencies. Tapes will be blocked fixed-length record format, one record per ISIC. Users may, however, specify a maximum block size and choose from the following physical characteristics.

Labels = No label/IBM OS Standard

Code = EBCDIC/ASCII

Density = 1600/6250 BPI 9 tracks

For a more detailed description of coverage and data items on the tape please contact the Industrial Statistics and Quantitative Analysis Section, UNIDO, P.O. Box 300, A-1400 Vienna, Austria.

International publications

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

United Nations. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs.

Population Division

Population bulletin 1985 (irregular), price £9.50 net.

United Nations. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs.

Statistical Office

Construction statistics yearbook 1983, price £30 net.

Energy statistics yearbook 1984, price £45 net.

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

Foreign trade statistics of Asia and the Pacific, Vol. 17, 1981-84, series B.X, price £13.50 net.

Statistical papers, series M, 34 (Rev 3), *Standard International trade classification, revision 3* (correction sheet inserted), 1 volume, price £12.50 net.

United Nations. Economic Commission for Europe
Annual bulletin of coal statistics for Europe 1985, price £11 net.

Annual bulletin of general energy statistics for Europe 1984, price £15.50 net.

Annual bulletin of housing and building statistics for Europe, Vol. 29, 1985, price £12.50 net.

Annual bulletin of steel statistics for Europe, price £11 net.

Statistics of world trade in steel 1985, price £8.50 net.

Customs Co-operation Council

Correlation tables between the Harmonized System and the 1978 version of the CCCN (Customs Cooperation Council Nomenclature), price £10 net.

The harmonized commodity description and coding system: explanatory notes, (four looseleaf binders, not sold separately; contents Vols. 1-4, chapters 1 to 97), price £150 net.

European Conference of Ministers of Transport

Statistical trends in transport 1965 - 1983, price £9.50 net.

Eurostat

Carriage of goods 1984: inland waterways, price £7.70 net.

Earnings in agriculture 1984, price £5.70 net.

Electricity prices 1980-1986 (manuscript completed in July 1986), price £7.20 net.

External trade: analytical tables - Nimex, 1985: (imports and exports). Available as a complete set, price £266 net.

Industry statistical yearbook 1985, price £8.90 net.

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

Economic and social development papers, 60: *Guidelines for the computation of selected statistical indicators*, price £4 net.

FAO fertilizer yearbook, Vol. 35, 1985, price £12 net.

FAO production yearbook, Vol. 39, 1985, price £17 net.

Fisheries series, 25: Yearbook of fishery statistics 1984: catches and landings, Vol. 58, price £24 net.

Fisheries series, 26: Yearbook of fishery statistics 1984: fishery commodities, Vol. 59, price £18 net.

Food aid in figures, 3: 1985, price £4.75 net.

International Monetary Fund

International financial statistics yearbook 1986, price £25 net.

The Fund's international banking statistics, Joslin Landell-Mills, price £5 net.

Wage determination and incomes policy in open economies, Anne Romanis Braun, price £18.50 net.

National Health Service Training Authority

Data protection in medicine: proceedings of a national meeting, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, 18 February 1986, N G L Harding (Editor), price £7.95 net.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
Revenue statistics of OECD member countries 1965-1985, price £15.50 net.

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

PUBLICATIONS

Annual Abstract of Statistics No. 123 1987 Edition

The 1987 edition, the one hundred and twenty-third *Annual Abstract*, was published in January 1987. The Abstract contains 348 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 1975 to 1985 where available: and some give monthly data to early 1986. 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.

'The Hundred Year Table' has been examined and contains figures for 1871 and 1885 compared with those for 1985. The 1871 and 1885 figures are taken mainly from the *Statistical Abstract for the United Kingdom for 1871 to 1885*, published in 1886. Additional subjects are transport, trade, agriculture and industry.

Reference

Annual Abstract of Statistics No. 123, 1987 edition (HMSO) (Price £17.50 net) ISBN 0 11 620245 9.

Economic Trends Annual Supplement

The 1987 edition of *Economic Trends Annual Supplement* was published in January 1987. This twelfth 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 25 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. 12 1987 Edition (HMSO) (Price £11.50 net) ISBN 0 11 620226 2.

Economic Trends (HMSO monthly) (Price £9.25 net, annual subscription including Supplement £110).

Monthly Digest of Statistics Annual Supplement

The 1987 *Annual Supplement* will be published shortly. This edition replaces the one published in March 1986. The definitions relate to the tables as they appear in issue No. 493 of the *Monthly Digest* for January 1987. 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 £5.50 net, annual subscription including Supplement £60).

Monthly Digest of Statistics Supplement of Definitions and Explanatory Notes 1987 Edition (HMSO) (Price £2.50 net) ISBN 620277 7

Financial Statistics and Explanatory Handbook

The 1987 edition of *Financial Statistics Explanatory Handbook* will be published with the February issue of *Financial Statistics*. 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*.

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 third year running the cost of both publications has been reduced making them even better value for money.

References

Financial Statistics (HMSO monthly) (Price £7.25 net, annual subscription including Handbook £85).

Financial Statistics Explanatory Handbook 1987 Edition (HMSO) February 1987 (Price £6.75 net) ISBN 0 11 620252 3

CSO Databank, enquiries to WEFA Ltd, Ebury Gate, 23 Lower Belgrave Street, London SW1W 0NW, Telephone: 01-730 8171 (See first note under the 'Government Statistical Service' heading.)

Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin

In addition to regular articles commenting 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:

Banking and monetary statistics: a change in reporting dates

This note sets out the background to the recent change (to the end of calendar months) in the reporting dates for banking and monetary statistics and examines the implications of the change for the measurement of monetary and liquidity aggregates and for the timing of published statistics. The note also includes a calendar monthly series for the main monetary and liquidity aggregates constructed from the end-month returns provided since mid-1982 by the 90 or so largest banks.

Financial change and broad money

In the first Loughborough University Banking Centre lecture in finance, the Governor examines the reasons why broad

money has grown faster than expected in recent years and the implications of this rapid growth for inflation. The fundamental aim of monetary policy is to squeeze out inflation progressively and create a strong and growing economy. The targeting of broad monetary aggregates is an intermediate objective towards this end, predicated on the assumption of a reasonably stable relationship between the rate of growth of broad money and that of nominal incomes. However, this relationship in the United Kingdom has become increasingly unpredictable since 1980. In analysing the reason for this development, the Governor identifies a number of ways in which the changing behaviour of financial intermediaries is likely to have contributed to more rapid broad money growth without necessary adverse implications for inflation and raises the question of whether, in these circumstances, a broad money target continues to serve a useful purpose.

Life assurance company and private pension fund investment, 1962-84

This article uses integrated stock-flow data, produced in the Bank, for life assurance and pension funds to describe the development of the portfolios of funds in the private sector over the period 1962-84. The growth of total assets of the two types of funds is reviewed and the changing balance of different types of asset is examined in more detail.

New issue costs and methods in the United Kingdom equity market

This article sets out the results of an exercise conducted in the Bank to establish the costs of various types of new issue methods, both for companies coming to the equity market for the first time and for existing companies making secondary issues. Costs are examined in terms of the expenses incurred and, for initial offerings, estimates are derived of the degree of underpricing. It finds that, for initial offerings, placings offer significantly lower expenses than offers for sale; tenders are more accurately priced than fixed-price offers for sale, but a significant amount of underpricing is still usual.

North Sea oil and gas

The development and exploitation of United Kingdom oil and gas reserves and the implications for the economy were analysed in an article in the March 1982 *Bulletin*. This article updates and modifies that analysis and compares subsequent developments with what was expected in 1982. Some of the macroeconomic implications of the North Sea endowment and of changes in oil prices are also examined.

Distribution of the national debt: end-March 1986

This article, which continues an annual series, analyses the national debt by instrument and by holder: it also includes a reconciliation between the central government borrowing requirement over the 1985/86 financial year and the change in the market's holdings of national debt over the same period.

Other items

The December *Bulletin* also reprints four recent speeches: the Governor's Mansion House speech, in which he reviews briefly the problems encountered in pursuing monetary targetary in present conditions; two further speeches by the Governor, one on the impact and implications of the structural changes taking place in the provision of housing finance and the other on issues facing the London Metal Exchange; and a speech by Mr David Walker, an executive director of the Bank, on the relationship between City and industry and the fostering of long-term development.

The Bank's *Quarterly Bulletin* (Price £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 edition of the *National Institute Economic and Social Research (NIESR) Review* includes the following items:

Medium-term projections on alternative policy assumptions

In this note assumptions are given about developments in the rest of the world. The NIESR model is used to explore how the British economy might develop over the medium-term under alternative economic policies. In the first part of the note it is assumed that policies are broadly unchanged. In the second part it is assumed that new policies are introduced along the lines of the programme of economic expansion advocated by the Labour Party.

Macroeconomic policy in Italy and Britain

This is the third and last in a series of articles comparing macroeconomic policy in the United Kingdom and in its largest European neighbours. The article by Andrew Britton, Fiona Eastwood and Robin Major, begins by outlining in chronological order the successive stages of economic policy in Italy since the post-war period. This is followed by a section on the operation of fiscal and monetary policy. A brief account is given of the structure of the Italian economy, concentrating on the labour market and trade, and the article ends with a discussion of the lessons one might draw from Italian experience.

The British economy in the long-term

This article looks ahead to the 1990s. It explores questions normally begged in short-term modelling and forecasting. These include the adequacy of world supplies of energy and raw materials, the potential for economic growth in the United Kingdom, the division of the resources created by growth between consumption and investment and between public and private sectors, long-term trends in industrial structure, and finally the prospects for a faster growth of actual output than potential output and hence for a fuller utilisation of the supply of labour.

Reference

National Institute Economic Review No. 118, November 1986, available from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, 2 Dean Trench Street, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HE (Price: annual subscription £45 net or £12.50 net per single issue.)

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)

Environmental health

Environmental health is a diverse function covering a range of activities from 'air pollution' to 'wastes monitoring'. The services comprising the 'core functions' covered in this survey aim to prevent the breakdown of public health and safety. In performing this duty, local authority expenditure during 1985-86 is estimated to have been £248.8 million. This represents an average net expenditure per head of population of £4.98 in England and Wales.

A concise definition of environmental health and the 'core' functions included in this survey is given on page seven of the publication.

Reference

Environmental Health Statistics 1985-86 Actuals, price £16

Waste collection

There is a steady increase in the number of councils using private contractors to collect household waste. Whereas, only 48 out of the 403 in England and Wales employed contractors last year this is nevertheless double the number five years ago. During this same period (1981/82 to 1985/86) the expenditure on contractors' services has more than doubled in real terms from £2.1 million to £15.4 million.

Reference

Waste Collection Statistics 1985-86 Actuals, price £20 (£100 on floppy disc). Prices given are to non-Statistical Information Service subscribers. For further information contact Phillip Ramsdale, CIPFA, 3 Robert Street, London WC2N 6BH, Telephone: 01-930 3456.

CONFERENCES

Institute of Statisticians

International conference on statistical forecasting and decision-making

The Institute's 1987 conference addresses the theme of how statistical forecasting may be applied effectively to decision making processes in science, commerce, industry and government. It aims to cover the 'state of the art' on all the main forecasting methodologies. Some emphasis will be given as to how these can be applied to practical problems. Various types of computer software for statistical forecasting will be demonstrated.

The conference will be held at King's College, Cambridge, on 28-31 July 1987.

Correspondence relating to the conference or requests for application forms should be addressed to:

Mrs L Butterworth
The Institute of Statisticians
36 Churchgate Street
Bury St. Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 1RD
Telephone (0284) 63660

Institute of Statisticians residential course - multivariate analysis -

Lancashire Polytechnic at Preston, 6-10 April 1987

A working knowledge of elementary statistical methods, including simple tests of significance, is all that will be expected of delegates. Particular emphasis will be placed on practical applications and considerable use will be made of computer packages for analysis of the data.

For an application form please contact Mrs L Butterworth whose address is given above.

GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL SERVICE

A note on the CSO Databank

Databank is the service offered by the Central Statistical Office (CSO) to users of macro-economic time series data who wish to obtain information in computer-readable form. Databank contains the main economic data prepared by CSO, other government departments and the Bank of England.

Under new arrangements starting from April 1987 the CSO will be providing copies of Databank tapes direct to subscribers, whether they are host bureaux or end users. An on-line facility will still not be available from the CSO and users requiring on-line access will need to continue to obtain it through a host bureau.

There will also be some changes made to the content and structure of the Databank. At present the Databank is organised into the following datasets:

1. Main economic series
2. National accounts quarterly article
3. Balance of payments quarterly article
4. Index of production and cyclical indicators
5. Employment and earnings
6. RPI/TPI and producer prices index
7. Financial statistics and PSBR.

It is intended to revise and augment the Databank coverage as follows:

- i. The CSO intend to withdraw the main economic series dataset and replace it with an *Economic Trends* (ET) dataset from April 1987 onwards. This will provide a monthly update of *Economic Trends* in machine-readable form. Subscribers to the ET dataset will have the option of also receiving the *ET Annual Supplement* in machine-readable form each year.
- ii. The CSO will consider whether it will be possible to produce datasets giving the annual series in the CSO publications Pink Book and Blue Book; a further announcement about this will be made in due course.
- iii. Some reorganisation and enhancement of datasets 5 and 7 will be undertaken prior to April 1987; no changes are envisaged in the content of the remaining datasets.

These changes will improve the Databank coverage, and will enable the CSO to extend the present system whereby CSO

publications show the Databank identifier of each series, as a four letter code at the top of each column of figures.

At the same time some rationalisation of existing codes has been undertaken and a detailed note on these changes is available on application to the CSO.

As a further service to Databank users, CSO Press Releases will, wherever possible, also show the Databank identifiers of series.

Further information on all these changes or answers to general queries on the Databank itself, can be obtained from CSO Branch 9, Room 52B/4, Government Buildings, Great George Street, London SW1P 3AQ. Telephone: 01-270 6386.

Reviews of regular surveys

New Earnings Survey

The Department of Employment and the Survey Control Unit of the Central Statistical Office have recently completed a review of the New Earnings Survey (NES). The review formed part of the general programme of examining all regular surveys to businesses on a five year cycle. (Further details were given in Statistical News 61.33.) The report of the review has been approved by the responsible Minister.

The NES is the only regular comprehensive source of information on the structure and distribution of earnings in Great Britain. It covers hours of work, the composition of earnings and general characteristics of the employee such as age, occupation, industry, place of work and collective bargaining arrangements. Information is obtained from employers in respect of a one per cent sample of individual employees, although the returns are anonymous and treated as strictly confidential. In 1986 approximately 190,000 individuals were identified in the sample. Summary results from the NES are published in the Autumn each year in the *Employment Gazette* with full results published separately in five parts.

The NES is regularly used by government departments as a major source of reference for questions involving pay statistics, for monitoring and briefing about pay settlements and for all labour market questions in which pay is a relevant factor. The Confederation of British Industry and the Trade Union Congress also make use of the NES and regard it as an important source of information. The NES is used extensively in pay negotiations by businesses, local authorities and public corporations. It is also used for making international comparisons and for the European Community.

The recommendation of the report was that the NES should continue in its present form on an annual basis.

Copies of the report (price £5 for each of the six parts) and further information on the review can be obtained from Statistics A2, Department of Employment, Level 3, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NF.

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

EC farm structure survey

Mr A Stewart
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland
Chesser House
Gorgie Road
Edinburgh EH11 3AW

Car and commercial vehicle production

Mr R D Bailey
Department of Trade and Industry
Room 1920
Millbank Tower
Millbank
London SW1P 4QU

English Tourist Board hotel occupancy survey

Mrs C M Lakin
Department of Employment
Branch A, Caxton House
Tothill Street
London SW1H 9NF

Quarterly survey of company profits

Mr J I T Pascoe
Inland Revenue
Statistics Division
Somerset House
London WC2R 1LB

Flour millers monthly return

Flour millers annual return

Oatmeal millers return

Purchases of British corn in England and Wales

Registration of seed multiplication contracts in the non-EC countries

Straw disposal survey

Cereal and potato survey

Monthly return of grain receipts and stocks

Annual return of grain receipts and stocks

Mr A J Barnett
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Room 714W, Whitehall Place
London SW1A 2HH

Welsh Tourist Board hotel occupancy survey

Mrs M A J Gronow
Welsh Office
Room 2044, Cathays Park
Cardiff CF1 3NQ

II Local Authorities

Capital payments return

Local authority capital forecast return

Capital receipts summary return

Capital payments return supplementary report on police courts and probation service

Mrs M A J Gronow
address as above.

Appointments and changes



Mrs G T Banks was appointed Registrar General for England and Wales and Director of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (a grade 2 post) on 1 December 1986.

Mrs Banks read politics, philosophy and economics at Oxford University, and in 1955 joined the Colonial Office as an Assistant Principal. She and her husband went to India in 1960. On return she took the first year of a mathematics honours degree course at London University, and in 1966 joined H M Treasury where she worked in the Management Accounting Unit. She moved to the Department of Health and Social Security (DHSS) in 1972, on promotion to Assistant Secretary, to establish a programme budget for Health and Personal Social Services. This linked spending to service provision and objectives for different client groups, making extensive use of statistical and financial information. This led to jobs on Health Service finance and planning, and she also worked for two years on national insurance contributions.

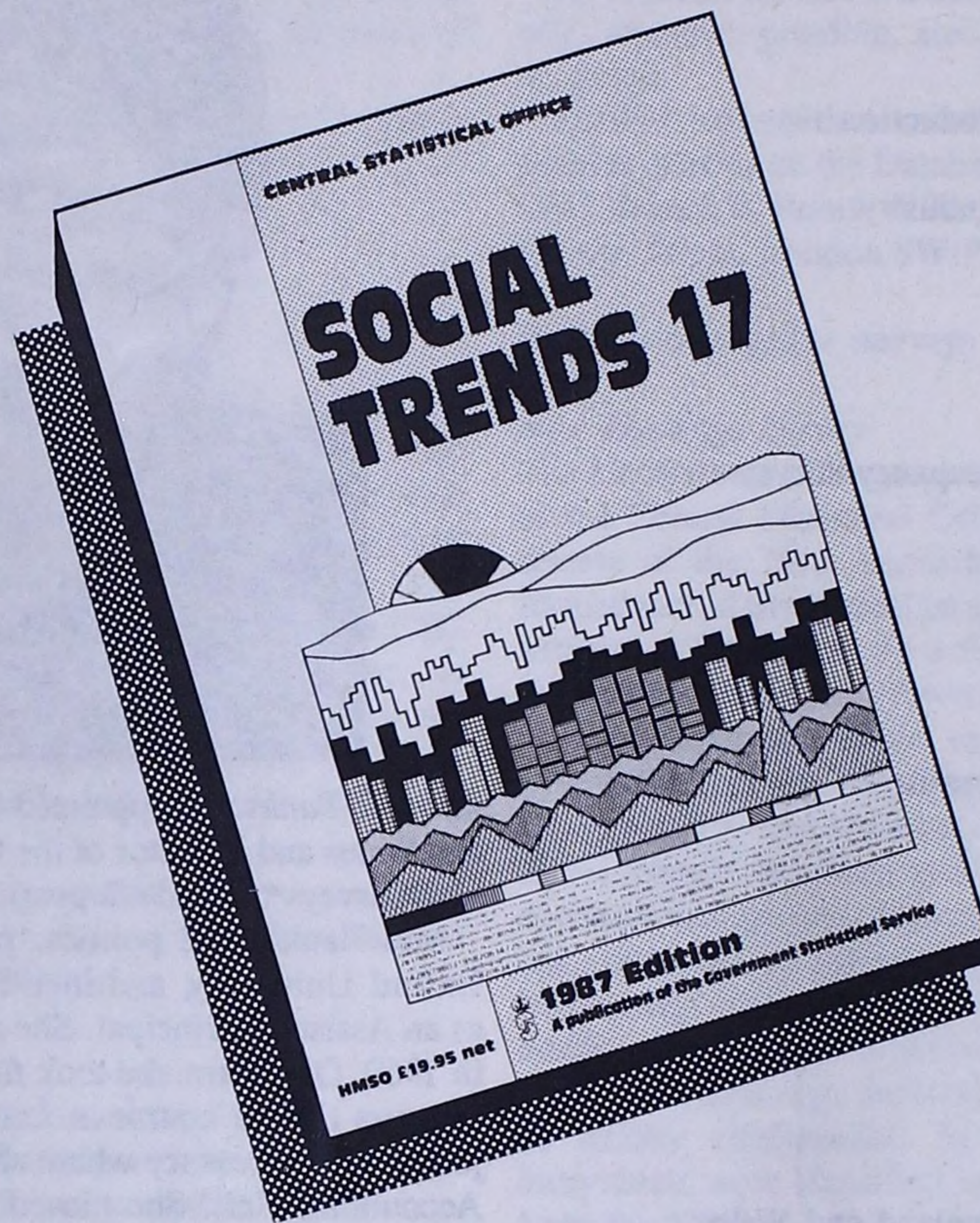
In 1981 she was promoted to Under Secretary responsible for public expenditure on Health Services, and contributed to the development of financial information for Health Services management. When in 1985 the National Health Service Management Board was established in the DHSS, she became Director of Health Authority Finance.

Mr T J Orchard, Statistician, Home Office, was promoted to Chief Statistician, Department of Health and Social Security on 1 December 1986.

Mr B H Mahon, Chief Statistician, Department of Health and Social Security, transferred to the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys on 1 December 1986.

Miss J H Thompson, Chief Statistician, Office of Population Censuses and Surveys retired in December 1986.

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Articles in recent issues of *Statistical News*

No. 69 May 1985

The Scottish Office—centenary
 State figures
 Changing from a manual to a computer system—the lessons from aid statistics
 Manpower forecasting for Royal Navy Officers—a microcomputer solution
 Non-official statistics—the findings from the Report of a Survey
 Trade Association statistics

Andrew Burnside
 Sir John Boreham and Sir Claus Moser in conversation
 Brian Hammond
 Malcolm Bryant
 Dr. D. Mort
 Miss J.M. Hynard

No. 70 August 1985

The Home Office Statistical Department
 The General Household Survey: its policy uses by Government
 The development of a new register of businesses
 Statistics of domestic proceedings in magistrates' courts, England and Wales, 1983

Rita Maurice
 Maureen Bennett
 John Perry
 Lawrence Davidoff

No. 71 November 1985

The Overseas Development Administration
 The Tenth Conference of Commonwealth Statisticians
 A comparison of the census characteristics of respondents and non-respondents to the 1981 General Household Survey (GHS)
 The use of statistical publications in the public library
 Exposing Britain's industrial performance
 Statistics at OECD—a view from the Economics and Statistics Department
 A 1983/84 survey of house renovation grants in Wales

R.M. Allen
 Deo Ramprakash

 Irene Rauta
 Alec Gallimore
 Tony Buxton
 Derek Blades
 John Kinder and Susan Stansfield

No. 72 February 1986

Statistical work in the Department of the Environment
 Using the Family Expenditure Survey
 Family Expenditure Survey: a second study of differential response, comparing Census characteristics of FES respondents and non-respondents
 The Institute of Public Finance Ltd - providing 'customised' statistical research services
 Seychelles - an opportunity overseas
 Using microcomputer graphics to project births in Scotland
 The Statistics Users' Conference on financial statistics
 Statistical 'stagiaires' in the EC

David Wroe
 Bruce Buckingham, Michael J. Janes and Bernard Reeves

Bob Redpath

Phillip Ramsdale
 Tony Williams
 David Salmond
 John Alexander
 George Clarke

No. 73 May 1986

The Department of Employment - labour market statistics 100 years on
 The International Labour Office Bureau of Statistics
 Monitoring the effects of compulsory seat belt wearing
 One hundred years ago
 The Digest of Welsh Historical Statistics

Paul Dworkin
 Ralph Turvey
 Philip Hathaway
 Tom Griffin
 Owen Hooker

No. 74 August 1986

General Register Office of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Scotland
 The Channel Fixed Link
 Statistics of trade and industry - a bicentennial review
 Pilot Register of Local Authority Research and Surveys:
 a Practical Application of Information Technology
 World crude oil prices - the statistical problems
 Key Data: A new GSS publication

Charles Glennie
 Geoff Reed
 Fiona Deuchars

Roger Sellwood
 Philip Rice
 Tom Griffin

No. 75 November 1986

The headquarters divisions of the Department of Trade and Industry
 The BBC Domesday Project
 Input-output: Eighth International Conference, and proposals for the 1984 United Kingdom Tables
 Department of the Environment (DOE) Household Projections
 Performance Indicators for the National Health Service
 The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Archive - The Practice of Data Ecology

Neil Harvey and Peter Stibbard
 Howard Newby

Robin Lynch
 Shekhar Nandy
 Antonia Roberts

Eric Tanenbaum

Copies of the above and earlier articles and also of Economic Trends articles may be obtained from: Central Statistical Office, Room 72/3, Great George Street, London SW1P 3AQ, on payment of £1.50 per copy to cover postage and handling. The appropriate remittance should accompany each order. Cheques, etc., should be made payable to HM Treasury Votes Cash Account.

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