

CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE

CSO

Statistical News

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Statistical work in the Office of Fair Trading
Financial Statistics in the Bank of England
Statistics in the House of Commons Library



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Government Statistical Service

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

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FRONT COVER

The cover design depicts a corner of the Government Offices in Great George Street which house the CSO.

Statistical News

**Developments in British
Official Statistics**

No. 87

November 1989

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Statistical Work in the Office of Fair Trading

Stephen Penneck, Statistician

There has been a Director General of Fair Trading since 1973. The current incumbent is Sir Gordon Borrie, and his advice to Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) ministers is crucial in determining the fate of multi-million pound merger bids and policing the economy for unfair trading practices.

The Director General publishes his advice to ministers and is accountable to Parliament. His actions attract a high degree of public scrutiny, and he is supported by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), based in London. On consumer protection work the Office works closely with local authorities' Trading Standards Departments.

The powers of the Director General stem from various Acts of Parliament including the Fair Trading Act, the Competition Act, the Consumer Credit Act, the Financial Services Act, the Restrictive Trades Practices Act and other statutes and regulations. The Office is organised into two main policy divisions, Consumer Affairs and Competition Policy, with various support services. Statistical support is part of economics branch.

Consumer Affairs Division looks after the interests of consumers. Quarterly figures are collected from Trading Standards Departments, Environmental Health Departments, Citizens Advice Bureaux, and Consumer Advice Centres on complaints made by the public. These are analysed according to type of complaint and goods or services covered, enabling trends to be studied. This helps the Office to spot problems for further investigation and action.

Through the Competition Policy Division, the Director General fulfils his duty to watch monopolies, mergers, and agreements or practices which may be restrictive or anti-competitive. He advises if mergers should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC); he can also himself refer matters to the MMC and investigate possible anti-competitive practices. He keeps a register of restrictive trading agreements and refers agreements with significant restrictions to the Restrictive Practices Court. Often, less formal action is taken.

Under the Financial Services Act, the Director General examines the rules and other arrangements of the various self-regulatory bodies which govern the management of investment business.

Statistical staff

Statistical work in the Office is conducted by Stephen Penneck (part-time statistician), Audrey Hunt (part-time consultant statistician) and Martin Uglow (senior assistant statistician). They are part of a multi-disciplinary economics branch including accountants as well as economists and statisticians. The branch has a higher policy role than is usual among equivalents in other areas of the Government Statistical and Economic Services.

Statistical needs of the office

The work of the statisticians has developed considerably over the last four years. It encompasses a wide range and requires some flexibility to cope with the uneven pressures of work. They enjoy a close working relationship with policy branches. Their small number and the way they work ensure regular contact with senior policy makers.

The Director General will invariably consult both his administrative and professional staff (economists, statisticians, lawyers, etc) when taking major policy decisions. The Office relies heavily on statistical material for its published reports. Reports such as those on motor insurance, package holidays and funerals enjoy a wide readership and not all interested parties may agree with the Office's recommendations. Statistical support in discussions with these parties is essential.

The range of statistical work

The statistical work includes commenting on the use of statistics in reports by other bodies and statistical interpretation for the economists. It also includes advice to the Office on information systems, management information and information technology. Most of this work consists of commissioning, monitoring and evaluating survey work by market research companies for Consumer Affairs Division. In recent months this has included surveys to prepare for the launch of the Office's 'Fair Deal' book, to help preparation of a consumer information strategy, to investigate the links between consumer complaints and brand loyalty, and to look at the extent of high-pressure selling techniques and selling on commission. In addition, the Office has run a number of in-house postal surveys in several areas of competition policy.

Use of statistical surveys

The Consumer Affairs Division requires its policy development and research to be rooted in sound knowledge and thorough analysis. So it attaches great importance to gathering data. There are certain areas - covering either goods and services bought by consumers, such as cars or holidays, or trading practices, such as the use of guarantees, mail order buying or consumer credit - which are of interest to the Office because of the difficulties they have caused consumers. In some of these the Office has negotiated codes of practice with relevant trade associations. It continues to monitor consumer experience in these areas, and in new areas thought to pose difficulties, so it can recommend action, or advise consumers, to reduce the problems.

This policy background, together with the Office's regular monitoring of consumer complaints, points up areas where survey research is needed. The results feed back to modify the policy of the Office.

Where there has been frequent research in the past, and the requirement is simply to update information and test for changes in consumer experience, it is usually sufficient to mount a quantitative survey of consumers, either using one of the commercially-available omnibus studies, or by commissioning an ad hoc survey. In other cases, particularly in new areas of work, it is necessary to conduct preliminary qualitative work - in the form of in-depth interviews or group discussions with consumers - before a full-scale study can be commissioned.

A number of omnibus surveys are carried out weekly or monthly by market research companies. They usually cover a large sample of adults throughout the country and offer clients such as the OFT the opportunity of 'buying in' additional questions at a modest cost. If one with a suitable target population is available and the number of questions required by the Office is not excessive, it will often be the cheapest and most efficient method of gathering data. This is particularly so where a sub-group of consumers, such as those who have bought cars in the last two years, needs to be identified. Here OFT questions can be put on succeeding weekly omnibuses until a sufficiently large sub-sample is obtained. A specially-designed ad hoc survey will be needed where an omnibus with a suitable target population is not available; where there is a more efficient route for selecting a sample rather than the methods used in omnibus surveys; and where there are too many questions or a number of them are open-ended.

The Office has made increasing use of qualitative work in recent years. This has helped considerably in designing the questionnaires for subsequent quantitative studies. It has also provided rich anecdotal evidence for careful use in published reports. It is recognised, of course, that qualitative work cannot stand by itself as giving fully representative results for individual projects.

It is, perhaps, unusual for government statisticians to be so involved in commissioning outside market research rather than collecting data themselves. Standards are maintained by following guidelines developed two years ago. These build on existing good practice to ensure the Office obtains good value for money from its research studies. As a small section in a small office, with limited clerical support, Statistics Section cannot conduct surveys in-house, except in exceptional conditions. The use of market research companies has proved very successful as a cheap and rapid way of getting results, but it has meant that statisticians and policy branches have needed to develop procedures to clarify their requirements at an early stage.

It is the statisticians' responsibility to ensure that all surveys are cleared with the Survey Control Unit of the Central Statistical Office and that the Director General is advised of all surveys going to businesses, so he can be sure that the need outweighs the potential burden of form-filling, in accordance with the Prime Minister's directive. This is one reason why the guidelines on market research insist that statisticians should be involved in all survey work conducted by the Office.

Running a survey project

Projects for possible surveys are identified by a cross-section of interested parties in the Office, including statisticians. For each one a joint team is set up with the policy division. Their first task is to produce a brief. This sets out the aims and objectives, the type of research envisaged - qualitative or quantitative - its scale, and some idea of question areas. It will also refer to related work by the Office or other published material. The statisticians will select three suitable market research companies. The aim is to try to include at least one company of which we have not had experience in the tender and to extend gradually our range of contacts.

The tenders are evaluated by the statisticians who consider the methodology proposed as well as the tender price. They need to assess the appropriate research design, including optimum sample sizes and sampling methods.

The cheapest tender is not always accepted if the methodology proposed is not thought sufficiently robust. During the research the statisticians monitor progress and discuss the findings with the market research company. They always evaluate the research and ensure the work fits the brief and contract before final payment is made. The statisticians usually produce a summary of the main findings for consideration by Consumer Affairs Division. Writing the research report is the sole responsibility of a statistician as it is vital to ensure the conclusions are independently checked.

During drafting of the final report, or shortly after publication, there will be discussions with relevant bodies, including trade associations, who will be briefed on the report's findings. Statisticians will often need to be involved as the validity of the research can be challenged. Following completion of the work appraisals are written by the statisticians for internal purposes and for the Survey Control Unit.

It is often desirable to follow up a consumer survey with a survey of traders. This is particularly so where the project includes monitoring a code of practice previously negotiated with a trade association. A survey of traders enables some of the difficulties unearthed in a consumer survey to be put to individual traders, so their practices, views and opinions can be studied. Trader studies are, however, usually more expensive to conduct, as there is seldom an easily-accessible sampling frame. Nevertheless, such surveys can give valuable information, which can be useful in subsequent discussions with trade associations about the operation of a code of practice.

While most surveys relate to consumer affairs, increasing use is being made of surveys by Competition Policy Division. Such work has included surveys of professional groups such as engineers and surveyors, as part of the Office's investigation into advertising restrictions in the professions; and a survey of large gas users. This year the statisticians conducted surveys in connection with the net book agreement and are currently conducting surveys in the financial services area.

Case Study 1: The Funerals Report

A substantial research exercise was conducted by OPCS in 1987/88 on behalf of the Office to monitor the operation of the code of practice on funerals introduced in 1979, and to learn more about consumer experiences of arranging funerals. The report was published in January 1989.

The study was prompted by continued complaints about prices charged for funerals. It posed two particular difficulties for the statisticians. Firstly, as a survey of the recently bereaved it was essential that it should be conducted with tact and sensitivity. Secondly, the sampling was intricate. It involved selecting a sample of death records held by the Registrar General, and using these to identify the person who had registered the death and hence who had arranged the funeral. Passing details of death records to market research companies proved difficult to arrange with the Registrar General. That, together with the need for sensitivity in interviewing, led us to award the contract to OPCS without tendering.

The OFT statisticians assisted OPCS in drawing the multi-stage sample and with the questionnaire design. OPCS wrote to the person who had signed each sampled death certificate asking if they had arranged the funeral and were willing to be interviewed. Around 900 interviews were completed. Only 16 per cent of those approached declined to take part.

The interviews were conducted eight months after the funeral, which was thought sufficient time for respondents to remember the details without too much trauma. The survey found that prices of funerals had risen faster than the rate of inflation since an earlier survey conducted in 1975, and that many funeral directors failed to comply with key provisions of their code of practice - mainly those requiring information to be given to the bereaved.

The Office has made a number of recommendations which are being discussed with funeral directors.

Case study 2: Consumer Credit

Under the Consumer Credit Act the Director General has a general duty to keep consumer credit developments under review. This has led to substantial research during the past two years. The results were published in the Office report 'Over-indebtedness' earlier this year.

A survey was commissioned and carried out by PAS Business Surveys Ltd in the autumn of 1987. This covered consumers' use of credit and their experiences, attitudes and problems. The random sample consisted of 2,155 adults aged 18 and

over and 103 young people aged 16 and 17. In addition, special tables were obtained from the Family Expenditure Survey (FES) on households, use of mortgages and credit for each of the years from 1982 to 1986.

The main problems for the statisticians were to reconcile and interpret data from the two surveys, which differed considerably in methodology, and to attempt to devise an objective measure of 'heavy commitment'.

The estimate of 'heavy commitment' was intended to provide an objective measure of the proportion of households which might have undertaken commitments which could prove too much for them. It was derived from FES tables by taking into account the amount of weekly payments, average household income and average household expenditure.

The results showed a substantial increase in the percentage of households with heavy credit commitments, and that a significant proportion of adults thought their credit commitments too high and/or had recent difficulty with payments.

The published report added significantly to information about the nature and consequences of the so-called 'credit explosion' in recent years. It was possibly the most comprehensive research in this area for ten years. Although it did not include proposals for policy changes, its detailed data have been widely welcomed by commentators and will inform the debate on this important economic and social issue.

In conclusion

As the statisticians can be working on up to eight major projects in any one year (some of which include several surveys) there is plenty of variety. But it is probably this variety, together with the close working with policy branches, that makes the life of this small outpost of statisticians different from a statistician's work in a larger department.

Acknowledgement

I am grateful for the comments of colleagues in the Office of Fair Trading in the preparation of this article.

References

'Funerals' published by OFT, January 1989

'Over-indebtedness' published by OFT, July 1989

Financial Statistics Division in the Bank of England

David Pennington, Staff Manager and Data Co-Ordinator

The compilation and analysis of statistics have a long history in the Bank. A summary of statistics was first published in 1932 and a separate Statistics Office was established ten years later.

The emphasis in the 1940s and 1950s lay in balance of payments statistics. The appointment of the Radcliffe Committee¹ led to a review of the statistical work of the Bank and set the course for the development of financial statistics in the 1960s, when the range and consistency of financial information collected and made available by the authorities were greatly improved. Since then the quantity of monetary and financial data needed for policy has grown further. Perhaps not surprisingly, the degree of computerisation needed to cope has grown too. At the same time, there have been significant changes in the framework within which UK financial institutions operate. The end of exchange control in 1979 is a striking example, but governments have sought at other times, too, to open the financial system to competition, while giving greater formality to prudential supervision. The statistics have had to adapt to these changes.

The history of the Financial Statistics Division (FSD)² and its predecessors since the Radcliffe Committee reflects these trends. The first issue of the Bank's "Quarterly Bulletin" (December 1960) presented monthly statistics for the London and Scottish clearing banks. Further banks' figures were incorporated in subsequent issues. Flow of funds statistics were introduced and developed at an early stage. The Bank also collected (and continues to collect) statistics from a wide range of non-bank financial institutions, as well as capital market statistics, statistics of government financial transactions, interest and exchange rates etc.

The rapid expansion of the banks' foreign currency business during the 1960s prompted the introduction of further returns as the Bank sought to monitor and analyse banks' business by geographical location. Statistics on domestic credit expansion began to be published in 1969 and measurement of the stock of money was introduced in 1970. 'Competition and credit control' - a consultative paper published in 1971 and implemented later that year - represented a move towards a more price-competitive allocation of credit. A consequence was the collection of more statistics from a wider range of banks as well as monthly returns from the banks. The first domestic monetary target was announced in 1976, and subsequently more emphasis has been placed on money aggregates as targets and economic indicators. The 1970s also saw the emergence, first of substantial financial surpluses of oil exporting countries, and then of concern at high levels of international debt. These factors focussed new attention on the international banking series. Banking statistics have also been affected by events such as the 'fringe bank' crisis in the early 1970s and the rescue of Johnson Matthey Bank

in 1984, and by the Banking Acts of 1979 and 1987, which have increased the need for statistics for supervisory purposes.

The proliferation of returns prompted a tidying up review in the early 1970s during which the concept of an integrated reporting system for banks emerged. Briefly, the main advantage of an integrated reporting system is that the information on each return is consistent with and often refers to information on other returns. Under such a system, reporters may often only need to report a particular item once, data items will be reported on a consistent basis, and, of course, data validation is made easier since items on one return can be compared on the same basis with items on another. So far as possible, the same source of information is used for supervisory and, in aggregated form, for statistical purposes.

Banking statistics were reviewed again in the early 1980s; and changes to the reporting system are currently under discussion with the banks. This is the third review in recent years and it is proving to be wide ranging. Substantial changes are being made to the supervisory information which banks report to the Bank. There are changes too, to the statistical returns, since there are areas where more or better information is needed about banks' activities in order to improve the quality of the national accounts (including the balance of payments). Coverage of the banking statistics is already high, often 100%, or close to it, of the relevant business, partly to meet supervisory requirements. This, together with a high degree of validation and checking, contributes to the quality of the aggregated data.

Structure of Financial Statistics Division

Peter Bull has been Head of FSD for two years. He is responsible to John Flemming, the Economics and Statistics Director of the Bank. The Division is part of the Policy and Markets area of the Bank of England and is not part of the Government Statistical Service. Although some staff are highly experienced in the Division, there is a good deal of interchange with other parts of the Bank. There are currently just over 100 staff, divided into four technical sub-divisions and a staff administration area.

Domestic and external banking statistics

These two sub-divisions have much in common. It is in fact intended to merge them when the Head of the External Sub-division leaves FSD in early 1990.

The main function of the two areas is to process statistical returns by the banks and to analyse and present the resulting data in aggregate form. There are about 40 form-types collected from up to 650 banks (and a number of other financial institutions), involving some 40,000 returns every year.

The data are input using custom-made inputting networks on to a mainframe computer which also collates and prepares them for interpretation. This takes up a considerable amount of clerical effort on a cyclical basis since most returns relate to end-months or end-quarters. For all returns there are validation checks and, for those within the integrated system, data comparison across forms. Validation and confirmation of the data is extensive: it generally proves to be an important part of the process.

The aggregated output is used for a wide variety of purposes. Much of the aggregated information is of interest to the banks themselves. The Domestic Sub-division headed by Colin Mann compiles and presents the monetary aggregates and credit counterparts, drawing on the banking statistics and other sources of information (notably for the business of building societies). The domestic side also assembles daily, weekly and monthly statistics of Central Government financing as an ingredient of the monetary statistics and also for use in the Bank's money-market operations. The close policy interest in the Sub-division's output gives rise to the need for speedy and accurate processing. Recently, the group responsible for the money supply figures produced a booklet³ giving long runs of monetary data. This had been long-awaited and was immediately successful. Further such exercises have been promised.

David Reid is at present in charge of the External Sub-division which is responsible, inter alia, for publishing flows in international lending and borrowing by banks in the UK. Data is supplied to the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), which compiles and publishes information on the indebtedness of individual countries for banks in all the main centres. Additionally, aggregated statistics are produced for use internally and internationally, which help monitor the growth and liquidity of international banking and capital markets. The External Sub-division also contains a small group of balance of payments statisticians, which will transfer to Colin Pettigrew's area - see below - in early 1990.

Information on individual banks which has been collected by FSD is made available solely to banking supervisors. Returns from the banks relate (among other things) to balance sheet information, a maturity analysis of certain liabilities and assets, currency exposure, and country risk. This information is in the process of being supplemented by a wide-ranging, supervisory 'core' return designed to assess the adequacy of a bank's capital (measuring among other things a bank's off-balance sheet business).

General statistics

This Sub-division, headed by Colin Pettigrew, collects statistics from certain non-bank financial institutions - investment and unit trust, securities dealers, leasing companies, etc - and these statistics and other aggregated statistics collected by the Central Statistical Office (CSO) from insurance companies, pension funds and non-bank credit companies are used to construct consolidated financial accounts for the 'other financial institutions' sector in the national accounts. Aggregate information for these institutions

is published regularly by the Bank and the CSO. The sub-division also compiles, in conjunction with the CSO, and publishes a detailed matrix of financial flows in the economy with supplementary analyses for individual sectors. It also compiles sectoral balance sheets of assets and liabilities for the financial sectors of the economy.

In recent years substantial discrepancies have emerged between the recorded financial transactions of the main economic sectors and their recorded current and capital account transactions. Improving the coherence of the national accounts is an important task in which this sub-division has a substantial role to play, including the co-ordination of work done in other parts of FSD. The sub-division has been closely involved with the CSO in an exercise to 'balance' the national accounts - allocating balancing items to remedy known gaps and imperfections in the accounts and with regard to the margin of uncertainty attached to individual series. This exercise involved other areas of FSD, notably those responsible for banking statistics and balance of payments.

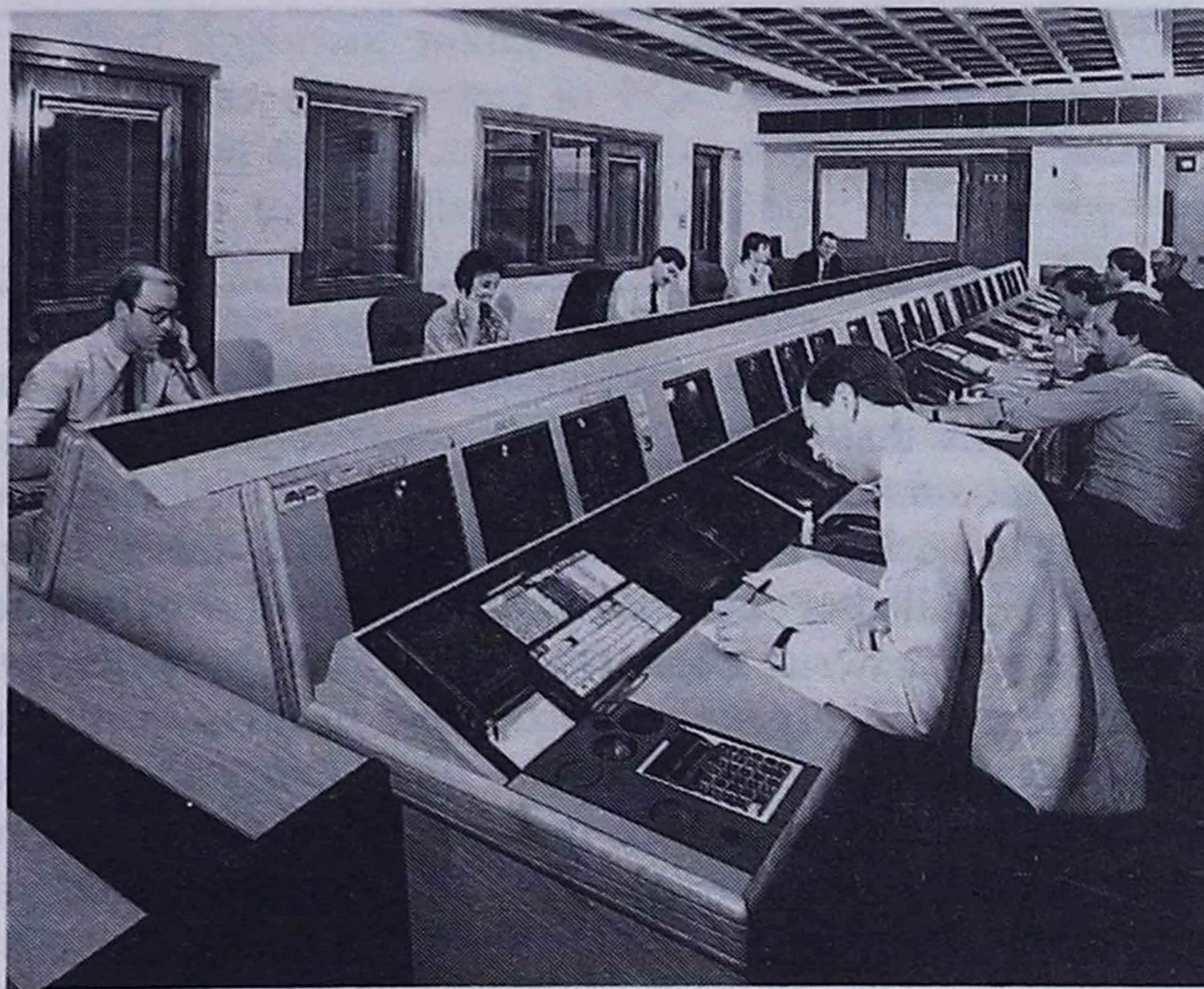
This part of the Division also collects and publishes data on certain financial markets, chiefly new capital issues, commercial paper and stock exchange activity. Finally, Colin Pettigrew has been closely involved in international discussions on the revision of the international statistical guidelines issued by the United Nations, the IMF and by Eurostat.

Mathematics and computing

This area, run by Shalom Springer, provides essential services. Mathematical Techniques Group provides mathematical and statistical support both within FSD and for the Bank as a whole. It is important for a Division like FSD to have a group of professional mathematicians who can advise on technical statistical problems. They are frequently asked to do technical work for other areas of the Bank where mathematical expertise is needed. The group is responsible for the time-yield curve on government securities which helps market areas of the Bank decide the terms of new issues (or buying-in). They have also been consulted about the effects of volatility of securities' prices and interest rates on the risk assets ratios used to supervise the banks. The group also performs the seasonal adjustment of the financial accounts and forecasts demand for banknotes.

The Systems Control Centre provides a service for computer users within FSD. The group has been especially active in the creation of a 'satellite' computer system for each area of FSD. The satellites work from the mainframe, but are dedicated to the needs of the specific areas which they service, giving the analysts and technicians on each of the groups on-line processing capacity.

Shalom Springer is also manager of a project designed to receive electronically the returns we currently get from banks - ie via a telephone line, rather than on paper. This project - known as STARS (Statistical Automated Reporting System) - should eventually have a significant impact on the number of staff we employ to process banks' returns.



Seen here are the Gilt-Edged Division Dealers

Staff administration and data co-ordination

David Pennington is responsible for managing staff resources. He has a further responsibility to ensure that published (or publishable) statistics which are produced electronically are consistent. For example, the statistical annex of the "Quarterly Bulletin" is available on tape⁴ and this must agree with the printed version as well as with the same or similar data published by the CSO. Where there are differences in the data, we must know why they occur. This is a relatively new role which represents an attempt to bridge the gap between the computer experts in charge of the systems and the statistical experts responsible for the actual data.

Publications

FSD is the source of a number of press releases - two per month and one per quarter on the money supply/domestic banking activity, a monthly release on capital issues on the UK market, one a quarter on international banking flows, and so on⁵. Additionally, we produce many statistical notices which aim to inform reporting institutions about changes in reporting and other matters. Much effort (by virtually every area in the Division) goes into the statistical annex of the "Quarterly Bulletin" which is almost entirely FSD's responsibility; and we contribute regular and occasional articles for the main body of the 'Bulletin', and to the Bank's Discussion Paper series.

Future developments

A restructuring of FSD, planned for early 1990, has already been mentioned. The purpose is to meet current priorities better, and in particular to deal more effectively with statistical issues which cross the 'domestic' and 'external' boundary and concern banking business as a whole. The development of a European financial area will no doubt strongly influence our work in the coming years.

The restructuring may also make it easier to take advantage of developments in data processing. Each of the external and domestic sub-divisions has staff inputting data to the mainframe and preparing data for publication. The STARS system should reduce the inputting work. This may coincide with a reduction in the clerical effort currently put into preparing data for publication. It is planned to take advantage of recent advances in desktop publishing software packages to greatly reduce the time and effort taken to produce our press releases and the statistical annex of the 'Quarterly Bulletin'. We have already started to produce data for press releases by extracting figures directly from the mainframe onto PCs. Once the output for the 'Bulletin' tables has been thoroughly trialled it should be possible to print the tables in camera-ready format directly from our mainframe. The savings in clerical resources, printers' costs etc could be substantial. There are plans to publish series-identifier codes similar to those published in 'Financial Statistics'; indeed, where the information is the same we are aiming to show the same identifiers. This requires a high degree of co-ordination and consistency between the individual groups within the Division. Our aim is to continue to achieve cost-effectiveness and high quality both as regards the data we publish and the way we publish it.

We expect to continue to be involved in the exercise to improve the national accounts statistics (including our contribution to the balance of payments), requiring continued close co-operation with the CSO. International banking developments will remain a focus of interest. It is also likely that strong interest in the domestic monetary scene will continue. Financial intermediaries, and especially the banks, are continually thinking up new and sophisticated ways of borrowing, lending and pricing funds. This inevitably has ramifications for the figures we collect and for the presentation of the aggregates. In changing circumstances we must aim to keep the statistics relevant to policy concerns as well as timely and accurate.

References

- 1 *The Committee on the Working of the Monetary System* (Cmnd 827). The Committee was appointed in 1957 and reported in 1959.
- 2 The Division in something like its present form dates from the mid-1970s.
- 3 The information contained in the booklet is also available on floppy diskette for £25 + VAT. Further details may be obtained from: Mr J P Curtiss, Money and Banking Aggregates Group BB-1, Bank of England, London EC2R 8AH or by phoning 01-601 5452.
- 4 Details available on request from Mr D Pennington at the address in footnote 3 or by phoning 01-601 4245.
- 5 A full set of press releases can be obtained on request by writing to Head of the Financial Statistics Division, Bank of England, London EC2R 8AH.

Statistics in the House of Commons Library

Rob Clements, Head of Statistical Section

Although the House of Commons Library dates back to at least the early nineteenth century, one of its distinguishing features, the Research Division, was only established in 1946. Among the first members of the new research service were two statisticians. They established what is now the Library's Statistical Section.

The Section is now one of five in the Research Division which between them provide an impartial and confidential research service for all Members of Parliament. Unlike the other sections, which specialise in particular subject areas, the Statistical Section covers statistics on all subjects, both for the United Kingdom and other countries. It deals with all questions from Members of Parliament when the answer is primarily numerical or involves the use of figures, but the Section nevertheless works closely alongside the other Research Sections which deal with the 'policy' aspects of MPs' enquiries.

The work of the Statistical Section

The Section provides written answers to about 2,000 enquiries a year from Members, as well as writing background papers and notes on a variety of topics of current interest. It also answers untold numbers of questions, usually instantly or with very short notice, over the telephone or face to face from MPs and their staff. Written enquiries, which form the major part of the Section's output, vary enormously. Some are brief - a comparison of unemployment rates in the G7 countries, for example - whereas others are much more extensive: a brief on changes in National Health Service provision in the last ten years, or a comprehensive statistical profile of a particular constituency.

Recent research papers have covered subjects as diverse as share ownership, the relationship between the Public Sector Debt Repayment and the national debt, changes to pensioners' incomes, and the results of the European Parliament elections. The Section also produces a regular paper when the House is sitting on recent economic statistics, which includes comparisons of the latest data with the much-requested dates of May 1979, June 1983 and June 1987. Although research papers are compiled for the benefit of MPs many of them are available to the general public, unlike our answers to specific enquiries, which are strictly confidential to the Member concerned.

The emphasis of the Section's work is different from that in, for example, a parliamentary question (PQ). The statistics we provide are often more extensive than can be obtained by a parliamentary question (for example, we can compare areas covered by more than one government department or go beyond the responsibilities of government). They are often accompanied by more explanation or interpretation, do not involve the publicity of a PQ, and can be provided without the need for a wait of some days.

We have no set rules about notice and can reply quickly, even to questions that require comprehensive briefing: this is sometimes essential as a Member will decide at the last minute to speak in a debate or ask a supplementary at Question Time, or will be called at short notice to a television studio or to reply to a ministerial statement. We naturally prefer longer deadlines, especially for more extensive pieces of work. But we appreciate that it is not always feasible for Members to give them, especially since the business of the House of Commons for the week is only announced the previous Thursday.

Our clientele consists largely of backbenchers and Opposition frontbenchers, although it is not unknown for ministers to consult us, even on matters connected with their own departments. We also work occasionally for Select Committees, especially when they are drafting reports or preparing to question witnesses. Many of our dealings are directly with the Members themselves - replies to enquiries are almost always sent directly to the Member concerned - although the growing numbers of Members' staff mean that we inevitably have considerable contact with them, too.

Statistical sources

We work from a very wide range of sources. Our principal one remains printed material and we take (and keep, indefinitely in many cases and selectively in others) all published UK official statistics (including press notices). We also take other official publications which include figures (such as the annual reports of many organisations) and a large amount of material which does not emanate from central government (for example, from trade organisations, Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) or pressure groups). As far as other countries are concerned, we take all European Community and OECD statistical publications, many publications of the United Nations and its agencies, and the general statistical abstracts of over 50 foreign countries, as well as additional publications from certain countries of particular interest. The very broad range of subjects that we cover, and enquiries we have to answer, means that our knowledge of statistical sources is probably as extensive as that of anyone in the country.

A second source of statistics, of growing importance, is computer-held data, either on-line or on disk. We make considerable use of the Central Statistical Office database and the Department of Employment's NOMIS database, and hope shortly (when the Section's planned local area network of micro-computers is complete) to make use of the Department of Trade and Industry's industrial economic indicators database. NOMIS in particular is often used to answer questions from MPs who require unemployment data down to constituency and local authority ward level. The recent expansion of NOMIS to provide non-confidential Census of Employment data is a welcome development.

A third important source of statistics for the Section is Hansard, as the answers to PQs contain a great deal of unpublished data as do papers deposited in the Library in connection with parliamentary answers. PQs - along with other parliamentary items (debates on both Houses, parliamentary papers, the stages of legislation, European Communities material etc) - are indexed on the Library's computer database POLIS (Parliamentary On-Line Information System). This includes an indication of the statistical content of the answers as well as detailed subject indexing. Some readers may be familiar with POLIS as public access is available on subscription¹.

We also frequently use a range of other parliamentary material - the Supply Estimates and Appropriation Accounts, the Public Expenditure White Paper, the Consolidated Fund Annual Accounts and so on - which forms in many cases a unique series of data essential to our work.

Replies to parliamentary questions are, interestingly, sometimes a source of work for the Section. Ministers increasingly refer to published statistics available in the Library. In the past, it was generally assumed that Members should be able to add and subtract figures but be willing to do little more to them. There has, however, been a growing tendency to refer Members to sources, rather than give a substantive answer, even when the reply to the Member's original question involves somewhat more than this (for example, ranking). These questions are often then referred to us by the Member concerned for answer. Quite often the sources referred to in the reply do not, in fact, provide the whole answer or suffer from problems of consistency. It is then up to us to fill the gaps or explain the problems.

A fourth group of information sources used by the Section includes press and journal articles and, increasingly, on-line press databases. The main daily newspapers and a range of other periodicals are indexed for items of potential use, either for references to sources which can then be acquired or for direct use in replies to Members. On-line databases are particularly useful for highly specific questions, for example on particular companies or the costs of specific advertising campaigns.

Finally, we rely a great deal on the goodwill of many statisticians throughout the GSS and others in government departments, trade associations, local authorities, universities and elsewhere, who give us help with unpublished data, mostly over the telephone. This help is much appreciated and we are glad to take this opportunity to express our thanks.

It can be seen that, unlike many government statisticians, the primary work of those in the House of Commons Library is not to collect statistics but to use them, interpret them, analyse them and present them in a form useful to MPs. We

are occasionally involved in data collection for the purposes of particular enquiries for Members (on local election results, for example, for which comprehensive data were not collected centrally until 1985), but our limited staff and heavy workload make this the exception rather than the rule.

Database developments

One of the most important recent developments in the Section has been the establishment of a local area network of micro-computers in mid-procurement at the time of writing. This will put a micro-computer on the desk of each statistician and will give access to a considerable range of centrally-held data (including previous work for Members) and the on-line databases already mentioned. Among the information we hold on the network is a database containing the full results of the 1983 and 1987 General Elections (which will be updated after the next General Election). This is used to provide a wide variety of analyses (largest and smallest majorities; 'what if one party gained 5 per cent and another lost 5 per cent of the vote across the board?'; and so on). We also have an MP database, still being developed, which can already be used to produce lists of Members ranked by length of service or age, and will (we hope) be expanded to include details of education, occupation and other characteristics. Our use of computers has naturally expanded our abilities to analyse data and to present them, especially graphically. As MPs have, over time, tended to become more information-oriented; their demands for speedier and more detailed analysis, more elaborate data and sophisticated forms of presentation have also increased.

Constituency detail

There is, unsurprisingly, considerable demand from MPs for statistics for their own (and other) constituencies. Although parliamentary constituencies are relatively homogeneous units they are not the geographical basis of many statistics. Data from the Censuses of Population are presented at constituency level, and we trust that detailed constituency level output will remain a feature of the 1991 Census. Other than the Census, only election data and statistics of employment (at a broad level of disaggregation) and unemployment (where very detailed analyses are possible) - available via NOMIS since 1983 - are available for parliamentary constituencies.

MPs have shown a great deal of interest in these unemployment figures, and for comparative unemployment rates for constituencies since they were first published. This demand led the Section to produce a series of estimated residence-based unemployment rates for constituencies using denominators derived from the 1981 Census of Population.

These rates differ conceptually from those published by the Department of Employment for travel to work areas (and larger geographical areas) which are based on the number working in an area rather than living there. By 1988 it was clear, especially for many inner urban areas, that the 1981 denominators were very out of date, so the Library

¹ Public access to POLIS is available on subscription through Meridian Systems Management Ltd, 18 Elmfield Road, Bromley BR1 1LR (01 313 0178). They operate the POLIS system, although the work of indexing etc is done within the House of Commons Library.

commissioned CACI Market Analysis Ltd to provide estimated constituency denominators for 1986 (the midpoint between two Censuses), and update estimates of unemployment rates in British constituencies have been published this year in one of the Section's background papers.

Staffing and location

The Section comprises six statisticians, all with formal training in economics and statistics (the three longest serving of whom are shown in the photograph), and six support staff, including two professional librarians who look after our substantial holdings. The statisticians specialise in particular subjects but, because of the wide range of topics covered by the Section as a whole, subject specialisation is very broad. To give an example, the author of this article could easily find himself dealing with questions on the effects of the community charge, capital punishment in the United States, North Sea oil output and defence expenditure in a single day!

At present the Section is located in the former Scotland Yard building on the Embankment, with one statistician in the Palace of Westminster, to whom Members speaking in the Chamber can have very rapid access. In 1991, however, the Section together with most of the rest of the Library will move to a newly-refurbished building in Parliament Street, part of the new complex of parliamentary buildings there. A statistical service for Members is provided throughout the parliamentary day with one statistician on duty until the House rises every day. This can be as late as 9.30 the following morning.



Seen here left to right, Robert Twigger, Richard Cracknell and Rob Clements

Summary

We hope this article has given readers an idea of the work done in the Statistical Section of the House of Commons Library. Many readers will have had contact of some sort with us and we hope that links can be developed and built upon in the future. As users from a rather unusual standpoint of a very wide range of statistics, we are always happy to be asked our views about certain publications, or particular statistical series, although these may not always correspond with those of other users!

The work that we do is both stimulating and demanding. It is also very rewarding as we often see it used, in Parliament and outside, at the front-line of policymaking. The steady increase in demand for our services which has continued since the Section was set up after the War has accelerated in recent years - especially as a result of new intakes of MPs following General Elections. This will no doubt continue in the future. We hope that we shall be able to continue to expand and improve our service to meet that very important demand.

New Surveys notified to the Survey Control Unit

June to August 1989

For further information about the survey listed, the appropriate departmental contact may be obtained from Miss J Dinehart (01-217 4340), Survey Control Unit, Central Statistical Office, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QU.

New Surveys notified June 1989 to August 1989

Title	Department	Those approached	Approximate number approached	Location	Frequency
Business and Local Authority Surveys					
Raspberry Root Rot Survey	DAFS	Horticulturists	100	S	AH
Questionnaire On "Drug Misuse and the Workplace"	DEM COI	Employers	1200	GB	AH
Graduates and the North East Labour Market	DEM	Employers	NK	E	AH
Additionality in Section Four (S4 Tourism) Projects	DEM	Employers	40	E	AH
Tourism and Leisure Industries: Image Survey	DEM	Employers	300	GB	AH
Two Local Labour Market Studies Bristol & Leeds/Bradford	DEM	Employers	3000	E	AH
Effects on Inward Investment in the Northern Region Labour Market	DEM	Finance	30	N	AH
Trends in Payments Systems	DEM		250	UK	AH
New Financial Regime for Local Authority Housing: Housing Revenue Account	DOE	Local Housing Authorities	367	E	AH
General Development Control Return(s) (County)	DOE	Planning Departments	156	E	Q
Final Evaluation of Enterprise Zone Experiment	DOE	Employers	5000	UK	AH
Survey of Floorspace and Investment in Construction in Enterprise Zones	DOE	Firms and Planning Authorities	NK	EW	A
Employer Booklet Research	DSS COI	Employers	84	UK	AH
Open Systems Standardisation	DTI	Suppliers and Users of IT	75	GB	AH
Examination of Potential Demand for Purchasing & Supply Consultancy Initiative	DTI	Service Sectors	300	GB	AH
Study of Non-Applicants for Regional Enterprise Grants	DTI	Various Industries	1000	GB	AH
Uses of Spectrometers: Needs & Skill Requirements of the Small/Medium user	DTI	Manufacturers	170	GB	AH
Managing into the 90s Audience Survey	DTI	Employers	250	UK	AH
UK Business Experience in China	DTI	Exporters	100	UK	AH
Technical Help to Exporters (THE)	DTI	Exporters	353	UK	AH
Drinking and Driving: Who is doing What?	DTP TRRL	Road Safety Officers and Probation Services	118	EW	A
HGV/PSV Testing: Sample Survey	DTP VIEA	Commercial Vehicle Operators	NK	GB	AH
Survey of First Registration enquiries	DTP DVLC	Used Car Dealers	1000	GB	AH
PSV (Bus & Coach) Operators in London - Second phase	DTP TRRL	Travel Operators	300	SE	AH
Questionnaire for Visitors to Insurance Services	ECGD	Exporters	1200	UK	AH
Insurance Services Customer Telephone Survey	ECGD	Exporters	1000	UK	AH
A Study into Age as a Barrier to Employment	ES DTI	Employers	150	EM	AH
Unemployment & Labour Market Flexibility: Employers' Perceptions & Attitudes	ES	Employers	120	E	AH
Scottish Electricity Privatisation - Opinion Leaders	IDS	Investors, Analysts & Journalists	150	ES	AH
Scottish Electricity Privatisation - Employees	IDS	Scottish Electricity Boards	7600	S	AH
Healthcare and Biotechnology Companies in Scotland	IDS	Companies	285	S	Y3
Small Workspace Review	IDS SDA	Employers	700	S	AH
Scottish Software Community Database-Internal Computing Department Phase	IDS SDA	Organisations with Computer Facilities	150	S	Y2
Marketing of Organically Produced Food	MAFF	Organic Farmers	245	GB	AH
Vineyard Register	MAFF	Farms	806	EW	A
Set Aside Postal Questionnaire	MAFF	Farms	1800	UK	AH
Socio-Economic Study of Set-Aside in England and Wales	MAFF	Farms	225	EW	AH
English Environmentally Sensitive Areas Low Level Evaluation	MAFF	Farms	250	E	AH
Nitrate Sensitive Areas Scheme: Agricultural Survey	MAFF	Farms	150	E	AH
Manpower and Training in the Poultry Industry	MAFF ATB	Poultry Industry	375	GB	AH
Source of Design of Electronic Equipment	NEDO	Manufacturers	50	UK	AH
Employment in the Clothing Industry	NEDO	Clothing Industry	550	UK	AH
Survey of Printers	OFT	Printers	63	UK	AH
Survey of Financial Intermediaries	OFT	Financial Advisors	2184	UK	AH
Building Societies Attitudes to Polarisation under the Financial Service Act 1986	OFT	Building Societies	25	GB	AH
Post-School Placement of Children and Young People with SEN	SED	Local Education Authorities	1000	S	AH
Revaluation Survey	SO	Local Authority Assessors	10	S	AH
Tourism Training Study	STB IDS		100	S	AH
Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs) Awareness Research	TA COI	Employers	400	GB	AH
Skills Monitoring Survey 1989	TA	Employers	5000	GB	AH
TTI Newsletter Readership Survey	TA	Tourism & Leisure Businesses	5100	UK	AH
Employment Training Employers Tracking Research 3 Stages 1989-90	TA COI	Employers	1200	GB	AH
Technical & Vocational Education Initiative (TVEI) 'Insight' Research	TA COI	Local Education Authorities	40	E	AH
Tourism Education at Further and Higher Levels of Education in Wales	TA	Further Education Colleges	339	W	AH
Management Development: a Framework for Improved Business Performance	TA	Manufacturers	330	GB	AH
North Dyfed Information Technology Project (3-Stage Study)	TA	Agricultural Service Sectors	450	W	AH
New Financial Regime for Local Housing: "Line of Ring Fence"	WO	Local Housing Authorities	37	W	AH
GCSE in Wales	WO	Schools	265	W	AH
Household and Individual Surveys					
Passport Office Information Video	FCO COI	Adults	100	E	AH
Nursing Tracking (1989/90) Two Stages June and September	DH COI	Adults	2600	E	AH
Drugs 1989/90 Strategy Research	DH COI	Adults	85	GB	AH
Monitoring of First Class Mail (Premium Bond Repayments)	DNS	Customers	1020	UK	AH
Quality of Postal Service	DNS	Customers	NK	UK	AH
Evaluation of National Savings Colour Press Advertising Campaign	DNS	Adults	2400	GB	AH
Monitoring of Outgoing Rebate Mail (Premium Bond Prizewinners)	DNS	Adults	1000	UK	AH

Title	Department	Those approached	Approximate number approached	Location	Frequency
Household and Individual Surveys (continued)					
Large Scale Voluntary Transfers of Local Authority Housing	DOE	Tenants	2500	E	AH
Right to Buy Tenant Survey 1989	DOE	Tenants	1250	E	AH
Evaluation of Space in New Homes	DOE BRE	Adults	500	E	AH
A Pilot Survey of Disturbance from Environmental Noise	DOE BRE	Adults	4500	GB	AH
Investigation of Use and Safety Aspects of Alternating Tread Stairs	DOE BRE	Households	100	E	AH
Follow Up Survey of Public Attitudes to the Environment	DOE	Adults	2500	EW	AH
Recreation and Nature Conservation in Richmond Park (London)	DOE	Visitors	NK	SE	AH
Interactive Public Information System Assessment	DSS COI	Adults	400	SE	AH
Claimants Form (AGI) Development Research	DSS COI	Claimants	60	GB	AH
Family Credit Callback Research	DSS COI	Adults	57	GB	AH
A422 Alcester - Stratford improvements	DTP	Drivers	15000	E	AH
M62 widening (junctions 11-19)	DTP	Drivers	8000	WM	AH
Traffic Survey Origin and Destination (Roadside Interviews) for proposed A30 Indian Queens/Fraddon By-Pass with St Columb Road By-Pass	DTP	Travellers	1600	SW	AH
A58 Wigan, Hindley and Westhoughton By-Pass	DTP	Drivers	20000	N	AH
A303 Ilminster-Marsh Trunk Road Improvement Scheme Roadside Interview Survey	DTP	Drivers	750	SW	AH
A46 Pennsylvania to M4 improvement	DTP	Drivers	10000	SW	AH
A41 Aston Clinton Roadside Interview Survey	DTP	Drivers	10000	SE	AH
A43 Geddington By-Pass Northants Traffic Survey	DTP	Drivers	3000	EM	AH
M18/Junction with B6094 Cockhill Lane Roadside Interview O&D Survey	DTP	Drivers	15000	YH	AH
A30 Honiton-Exeter	DTP	Travellers	NK	SW	AH
A259 Rye and Winchelsea By-Passes	DTP	Drivers	10000	SE	AH
A36 West Wellow By-Pass-Traffic Surveys	DTP	Drivers	2700	SE	AH
1991 London Area Transport Surveys: 1989 Pilot Cordon Crossing Diary Survey	DTP	Travellers	6200	SE	AH
1991 London Area Transport Surveys: 1989 Pilot Household Survey	DTP	Households	2300	SE	AH
A595 Duddon Bridge improvement. Roadside Interviews (1989)	DTP	Drivers	3000	N	AH
A550 Ledsham-M53 Improvement. Roadside Survey	DTP	Drivers	14000	NW	AH
Jobclub Provision for People with Disabilities	ES	Disabled	146	UK	AH
Home Audit Stage 3 - Smoke Alarm Acquisitions	HOME COI	Adults	100000	GB	Q
Home Audit Stage 4 - Smoke Alarm Acquisitions	HOME COI	Households	40000	EW	Q
1989/90 Crime Prevention Campaign Research	HOME COI	Adults	75	E	AH
Electoral Registration Campaign Evaluation 1989	HOME COI	Adults	2400	E	AH
Impact of Sporting Shooting (Individuals)	IDS SDA	Customers	NK	S	AH
Scottish Electricity Privatisation-General Public	IDS	Adults	20000	GB	AH
Attitudes & Preferences Towards the Options for the Future of Humberside	LGBC DOE	Humberside Residents	5000	YH	AH
Time and Temperature Conditions During Consumer Handling of Chill Foods	MAFF	Householders	150	SW	AH
Public Attitude to Food and Food Safety	MAFF COI	Adults	63	E	AH
Royal Navy Ratings Recruitment (Advertising Research)	MOD COI	Youths	46	E	AH
Regular Army Creative Development Research	MOD COI	Youths	30	E	AH
Army Tracking 1989/90 (Stages I & II)	MOD COI	Youths	1200	EW	AH
Returners to Teaching	SED	Teachers	544	S	AH
Provision and Take-Up of School Board Training	SED	Training Co-Ordinators & Board Members	1100	S	AH
The Needs of Mature Entrants to Higher and Further Education	SED	Students	100	S	AH
Measuring the Benefits of Youth Work	SED	Youth Organisations	1000	S	AH
Safer Edinburgh Household Survey	SHHD	Adults	3000	S	AH
Experimental Byelaws Forbidding Consumption of Alcohol in Designated Public Places	SHHD	Adults	1500	S	AH
Differential Charges at Sports Centres (Surveys at Six Centres)	SSC	Adults plus Children over 14	10000	S	AH
Youth Training Name Research	TA COI	Parents	600	GB	AH
Glasgow Local Labour Market Survey (Testart Claimants)	TA NGOV	Unemployed	400	S	AH
ET-A Quantitative Interview Survey of Trainees with Follow-up 6 months Subsequently	TA	Trainees	1500	GB	AH
100% Follow-Up Survey of Leavers from Employment Training	TA	Adults	180000	GB	AH
Effectiveness of Government Response to Redundancies at Devonport Dockyard	TA	Unemployed	1060	SW	AH
Employment Training-A Qualitative Survey of Individuals	TA	Trainees	75	E	AH
Traffic Nuisance Prediction (part 2)	TRRL DTP	Residents	675	E	AH
Parking in Nottingham	TRRL DTP	Drivers	2200	EM	AH
Traffic Danger and the Behaviour of Children	TRRL DTP	Travellers	2400	E	AH
Interdisciplinary System for Accident Sampling - Pilot	TRRL DTP	People Involved in Accidents	2500	SE	AH
Motorcyclists Attitudes (a Syndicated Survey Amongst Motorcyclists)	TRRL DTP	Cyclists	600	UK	AH
Driver Infringement Survey (Manchester)	TRRL DTP	Drivers	800	E	AH
Driving Offence Rating (Brunel)	TRRL DTP	Drivers	150	GB	AH
Unlawful Driving Behaviour	TRRL DTP	Drivers	960	GB	AH
Motorway Chevron Markings	TRRL	Drivers	2000	GB	AH
Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC) Bus Questionnaire Survey	TRRL DTP	Passengers	200	SE	AH
Ramped Crossings for Pedestrians - Midsummer Boulevard	TRRL DTP	Pedestrians	600	SE	AH
Monitoring of Community Charge Public Information Programme	WO	Adults	1600	W	AH
North East Clwyd Traffic Study	WO	Drivers	NK	W	AH
Tourist Impact of Llandridnod Wells Victorian Festival: Accommodation	DBRW WO	Visitors	NK	W	AH
Tourist Impact of Llandridnod Wells Victorian Festival: Local Residents	DBRW WO	Residents	500	W	AH
Tourism Impact of Llandridnod Wells Victorian Festival: (on Street Survey) Visitors	DBRW WO	Visitors	500	W	AH
Mid-Wales Tourist and Day Visitor Survey (Retail Expenditure)	DBRW WO	Visitors	500	W	AH
Mid-Wales Tourism Flows 1989 (Rail Survey)	DBRW WO	Travellers	NK	W	AH
Survey of Visitors to Tourist Information Centres 1989	WTB	Visitors	2000	EW	AH

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Location		Departments	
E	England	ATB	Agricultural Training Board
EM	East Midlands	BRE	Building Research Establishment
ES	England and Scotland	COI	Central Office of Information
EW	England and Wales	DAFS	Department of Agriculture & Fisheries for Scotland
GB	Great Britain	DBRW	Development Board for Rural Wales
N	North	DEM	Department of Employment
NW	North West	DH	Department of Health
S	Scotland	DSS	Department of Social Security
SE	South East	DNS	Department for National Savings
SW	South West	DOE	Department of the Environment
UK	United Kingdom	DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
W	Wales	DTP	Department of Transport
WM	West Midlands	DVLC	Driving and Vehicle Licensing Centre
YH	Yorkshire & Humberside	ECGD	Export Credit Guarantee Department
		ES	Employment Service
		FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office
		HOME	Home Office
		IDS	Industry Department for Scotland
		LGBC	Local Government Boundary Commission for England
		MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
		MOD	Ministry of Defence
		NEDO	National Economic Development Office
		NGOV	Non Government
		OFT	Office of Fair Trading
		SDA	Scottish Development Agency
		SED	Scottish Education Department
		SHHD	Scottish Home and Health Department
		SO	Scottish Office
		SSC	Scottish Sports Council
		STB	Scottish Tourist Board
		TA	Training Agency
		TRRL	Transport and Road Research Laboratory
		VIEA	Vehicle Inspectorate Executive Agency
		WO	Welsh Office
		WTB	Welsh Tourist Board
General		Frequency	
ET	Employment Training	A	Annual
HGV	Heavy Goods Vehicle	AH	Ad hoc
NK	Not Known	Q	Quarterly
O&D	Origin & Destination	Y2	Every 2 years
PSV	Public Service Vehicle	Y5	Every 5 years
SEN	Special Educational Needs		
TTI	Tourism Training Initiative		

Recently available statistical series and publications

The following publications containing social statistics have recently, or will soon become available during the October to December quarter of 1989. 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 Social Security

The Department of Social Security produces regular monthly and quarterly statistical series on such topics as unemployment benefit, child benefit and sickness and invalidity benefits. Extracts and summaries for these series are published in *Social Security Statistics*. Further information can be obtained from:

Mr W J Graham
Department of Social Security
Room 31M
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE98 1YX
Telephone: Tyneside (091) 2797373 (GTN 5222)

Department of Health

DSS Tax/Benefit Model Tables, April 1988, price £3.30, available from:

Mr R Pike
Department of Social Security
Room A526
Alexander Fleming House
Elephant and Castle
LONDON SE1 6BY

The following statistical series and publications are available:

- Bulletin 4/3/89 *Ophthalmic Statistics, England 1977-1987* Price £2.00
- Bulletin 3/4/89 *Provision for Mentally Ill People in England 1977-1987*. Price £2.00
- Bulletin 4/5/89 *Statistics from General Practitioners in England and Wales 1977-1987*. Price £2.00

Statistical Bulletins referred to above may be purchased from:

DSS Leaflets
PO Box 21
Stanmore
MIDDLESEX HA7 1AY
Telephone: 01-972-2022

Scottish Education Department

Scottish Education Department Statistical Bulletins on the following subjects:

School leavers
Scottish higher education statistics
Student enrolments in non-advanced further education in Scotland 1980/81-1987/88
Teachers - key statistics on demand and supply

The Social Work Services group of the Scottish Education Department has published the following bulletins:

Staff of Scottish social work departments
Residential accommodation 1988
Children in care or under supervision as at 31 March 1988
Home care services, day care establishments and day services 1988
Community services by offenders 1986
Referrals of children to reporters and children's hearing 1988

Copies of the above bulletins may be purchased (price £1 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 7188)

Industry Department for Scotland

The following Research Papers have now been published (price £5): *Area Initiatives Evaluation Handbook*: report prepared by PIEDA, Planning and Economic Consultants (Research Paper No. 16).

Young People's Routes into the Labour Market: Andy Furlong and David Raffe, Centre for Educational Sociology, University of Edinburgh (Research Paper No. 17).

The following additional bulletins are now available (price £1.00):

D1.2 *The rebased index of production and Construction for Scotland*.
E1.5 *Offshore employment in the northern North Sea in 1988*

Copies of research papers and statistical bulletins may be obtained from:

Scottish Office Library
Official Publications Sales
Room 1/44
New St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH EH1 3TA
Telephone: 031-244 4806 (GTN 7188)

Office of Population Censuses and Surveys

Population Trends 58 Winter 1989 (HMSO) (Price £6.50)

OPCS Monitors -

(available from OPCS Information Branch, St Catherines House, 10 Kingsway, London WC2B 6JP. Telephone enquiries 01 242 0262 ext 2243).

Deaths from accidents and violence: 1988 registrations

(DH4 89/2)(Price £1.00)

Fatal accidents occurring during sporting and leisure activities, 1988 registrations (DH4 89/4) (Price £1.00)

Infant and perinatal mortality 1988: DHAs (DH3 89/1) (Price 1.50)

Legal abortions 1988: residents of regional and district health areas (AB 89/4) (Price £1.00)

Mid-1988 population estimates for England and Wales (PP1 89/1)(Price £2.50)

Reference volumes -

Mortality statistics: area, 1986 (Series DH5 No. 13)

Social Survey Reports -

OPCS surveys of disability in Great Britain:

Report 6: Disabled children: services, transport and education by Howard Meltzer, Malcolm Smyth and Nikki Robus

Smoking among secondary school children in 1988

by Eileen Goddard

Mature students' incomings and outgoings by Bob Redpath and Nikki Robus

Living standards during unemployment by Patrick Heady and Malcolm Smyth

Volume 1: the results, volume 2: technical issues

Survey manual -

Women's experience of maternity care - a survey manual by Val Mason

Welsh Office

1987 Based Population Projections for the Counties of Wales

Welsh Transport Statistics No 5 1989

Welsh Hospital Waiting List Bulletin 1989 No 2

Welsh Housing Statistics No 9 1989

Welsh Agricultural Statistics No 11 1989

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

Housing and Construction Statistics, Great Britain, 1978-88
Housing and Construction Statistics, Part 1 No. 38 June Quarter 1989

Housing and Construction Statistics, Part 2 No. 38 June Quarter 1989

Local Housing Statistics, England and Wales, No. 90 April 1989 - housebuilding and renovations figures for 1988 and 1989 first quarter

Local Government Financial Statistics England 1989

Housing Trailers to the 1981 and 1984 Labour Force Surveys

UK Blood Lead Monitoring Programme 1984-7: Results for 1986 (Pollution reports, No 26)

The above publications are available from Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

Statistical Bulletin (89) 1 : *Air Quality*

Statistical Bulletin (89) 2 : *Water Quality*

Statistical Bulletin (89) 3 : *Radioactivity*

Statistical Bulletin (89) 4 : *Noise, Waste, Landscape and Nature Conservation, and Supplementary*

The above annual bulletins provide additional detailed tables for most of the chapter topics in the Department's *Digest of Environmental Protection and Water Statistics* published recently by HMSO.

Land Use Change in England, Statistical Bulletin (89)5 - figures for 1988

1985 Based Estimates of Numbers of Household in England, the Regions, Counties, Metropolitan Districts and London Boroughs 1985-2001

Housebuilding in England by Local Authority Areas 1980-1987

The above publications are available from:

Department of the Environment

Publications Sales Unit

Victoria Road, Ruislip

MIDDLESEX HA4 0NZ

Telephone: 01-841 3425

The following information is issued in press notices or bulletins on a regular basis:

Monthly: *Housebuilding, construction new orders, building new orders, building materials and components, brick 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

LGS, Room P1/001

2 Marsham Street

LONDON SW1P 3EB

Telephone: 01-276 4003

Scottish Home and Health Department

The following statistical bulletins are available:

No 1/1988 *Recorded Crimes and Offences Involving Firearms, Scotland 1986*

No 2/1988 *Recorded Crime in Scotland 1987*

No 3/1988 *Penalties Imposed by Criminal Courts in Scotland 1986*

No 4/1988 *Children and Crime, Scotland 1987*

No 5/1988 *Motor Vehicle Offences in Scotland 1986*

- No 6/1988 *Recorded Crimes and Offences Involving Firearms, Scotland 1987*
 No 7/1988 *Prison Statistics Scotland 1987*
 No 8/1988 *Criminal Proceedings in Scottish Courts, 1987*
 No 1/1989 *Recorded Crime in Scotland 1988*
 No 2/1989 *Penalties Imposed by Criminal Courts in Scotland 1987*
 No 3/1989 *Motor Vehicle Offences in Scotland 1987*

Copies of the above bulletins may be purchased (price £1 post paid) from:

The Library
 Official Publication Sales
 Scottish Office
 Room 2/65
 New St Andrew's House
 EDINBURGH EH1 3TG
 Telephone: 031-244 4806 (GTN 7188)

Scottish Development Department

The following statistical bulletins are available:

- HSU No. 3 - *Housing Trends in Scotland Quarter ended 31 March 1988*
 HSU No. 4 - *Annual Estimates of Households Scotland 1981-1987*
 HSU No. 5 - *Housing Trends in Scotland Quarter ended 30 June 1988*
 HSU No. 6 - *Housing Trends in Scotland Quarter ended 30 September 1988*
 HSU No. 7 - *Housing Trends in Scotland Quarter ended 31 December 1988*
 HSU No. 8 - *Scottish Household Projections - 1985 Based*
 HSU No. 9 - *Sales of Public Sector Dwellings in Scotland*

Copies of the above bulletins may be purchased (price £1.00) from:

The Library
 Official Publication Sales
 Scottish Office
 Room 2/65
 New St Andrews House
 EDINBURGH EH1 3TG
 Telephone: 031 244 4806 (GTN 7188)

Department of Education and Science

The following statistical bulletins are now available:

- No. 3/89 *Participation in Education by Young People aged 16 and 17 in each Local Education Authority and Region: England 1983-84 to 1987-88*
 No. 4/89 *Student Numbers in Higher Education Great Britain 1975 to 1987*
 No. 5/89 *Pupil/teacher ratios for each LEA in England January 1988*
 No. 6/89 *First known destination of first degree graduates 1983/1987*

- No. 7/89 *Pupils under five years in each LEA in England January 1988*
 No. 8/89 *Statistics of schools in England January 1988*
 No 9/89 *Student/Staff Ratios and Unit Costs at Polytechnics and other Higher and Further Education Establishments in England*
 No.10/89 *Survey of Information Technology in Schools*
 No.11/89 *Students from abroad in Great Britain 1973 to 1987*
 No.12/89 *Students in Higher Education in England excluding Universities*

Copies of these publications may be obtained from:

The Department of Education and Science
 Statistics Branch
 Room 1/28, Elizabeth House
 York Road
 LONDON SE1 7PH
 Telephone: 01-934 9038 (GTN 2914-9038)

The following annual publications are available:

- Statistics of Education: School Leavers CSE and GCE 1987*
Statistics of Education: Further Education Student/Staff Ratios 1986-87
Statistics of Education: Schools 1988
Statistics of Education: Further Education Student/Staff Ratios 1987-88

Copies (price £12.00) may be obtained from:

Department of Education and Science
 Room 0100
 Mowden Hall
 Staindrop Road
 DARLINGTON DL3 9BG

Home Office

The following statistical bulletins are now available:

Issue No.	Title	Price
20/89	<i>Notifiable offences recorded by the police in England and Wales, first quarter 1989 and notifiable offences in which firearms were reported to have been used: 1988</i>	£2.50
21/89	<i>Cautions, court proceedings and sentencing 1988</i>	£2.50
22/89	<i>Statistics of domestic proceedings in Magistrates' Courts, E & W 1988</i>	£2.50
23/89	<i>Control of immigration statistics, first quarter 1989</i>	£2.50
24/89	<i>Statistics of the time taken to process indictable cases in Magistrates' Courts February 1989</i>	£2.50
25/89	<i>Refugee Statistics, United Kingdom, 1988</i>	£2.50
26/89	<i>Statistics on the operation of the prevention of terrorism legislation - second quarter 1989</i>	£2.50

27/89	<i>Criminal careers of those born in 1953, 1958 and 1963: variations in sentencing with the number of court appearances</i>	£2.50
28/89	<i>Statistics of breath tests, England and Wales, 1988</i>	£2.50
29/89	<i>Notifiable offences recorded by the police in England and Wales, second quarter 1989</i>	£1.50
30/89	<i>Statistics of the misuse of drugs: seizures and offenders dealt with, United Kingdom, 1988</i>	£2.50
31/89	<i>Control of immigration statistics, second quarter 1989</i>	£2.50
32/89	<i>Criminal and custodial careers of those born in 1953, 1958 and 1963</i>	£2.50
33/89	<i>Summary probation statistics, England and Wales, 1988</i>	£2.50
34/89	<i>Offences relating to motor vehicles, England and Wales, 1988</i>	£2.50

Copies of these bulletins are available from:
 Statistical Department
 Home Office
 Lunar House
 CROYDON CRO 9YD
 Telephone: 01-760 2850, or by personal application to:

Publications Officer
 Home Office Library
 50 Queen Anne's Gate
 LONDON SW1H 9AT

The following Home Office Statistical Publications were issued in the period July-September 1989:

<i>Control of Immigration Statistics, United Kingdom 1988 Cm 726 (HMSO)</i>	£11.80
<i>Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals, Great Britain, 1988. Cm 743 (HMSO)</i>	£7.50
<i>Statistics of the misuse of drugs, seizures and offenders dealt with, 1988. supplementary tables</i>	£2.50
<i>area tables</i>	£2.50
<i>Offences Relating to Motor Vehicles, 1988 supplementary tables</i>	£4.00

Available from:
 Statistical Department
 Home Office
 Room 1834
 Lunar House
 Wellesley Road
 Croydon
 SURREY CRO 9YD

Cheques should be made payable to 'The Accounting Officer Home Office'.

Lord Chancellors Department
Judicial Statistics 1988 Annual Report CM 745 (HMSO July 1989) Price £10.10.

Available from:
 Statistics Branch
 CSI Division
 Lord Chancellors Department
 Southside
 105 Victoria Street
 LONDON SW1E 6QT

Department of Employment

Employment Gazette, which is published on Thursday towards the beginning of each month, regularly contains recent data and time-series on employment, unemployment, earnings, prices, family expenditure, tourism and other indicators. In recent months there were special features on International Human Resource Development Week. (August 1989); Guaranteed Loans, (August 1989); Measures of Unemployment: Claimant Count and Labour Force Survey, (August 1989); Confronting The Skill Shortage, (September 1989); Post-graduate Education and Training Survey of 1980 Graduates and Diplomates, (September 1989); 1987 Census of Employment and Revised Employment Estimates (Provisional) (October 1989).

Employment Gazette is published monthly by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, price £3.80 per issue, Annual subscription inclusive of postage is £39.50.

Department of Employment
 Caxton House
 Tothill Street
 LONDON SW1H 9NF

Department of Transport

Recent Statistical Publications by the Department of Transport:

Transport Statistics Great Britain 1978/88 (HMSO, Annual, price £18.95)
Road Accidents of Great Britain 1988 - The Casualty Report (HMSO, price on request)
Merchant Fleet Statistics 1988 (HMSO, Annual, price £7.10)
Road Traffic in Great Britain - Review of Estimates (HMSO, Ad hoc, price £3.95)

Port Statistics 1988 (BPA/DTp, price £30.00)

Available from:
 British Ports Federation,
 Victoria House,
 Vernon Place,
 LONDON WC1B 4LL
 Telephone: 01 242 1200

The following Department of Transport statistical bulletins are issued on a regular basis:

- Monthly: *New motor vehicle registrations, Great Britain* (Price £3.00 per copy, annual subscription £30.00)
- Quarterly: *Road goods vehicles on roll-on-roll-off ferries to mainland Europe* (Price £5.00 per copy)
Road Casualties Great Britain (Price £4.00 per copy)
Quarterly Transport Statistics (Price £5.00 per copy, annual subscription £12.00)
Traffic in Great Britain (Price £8.00 per copy, annual subscription £27.00)

Department of Transport statistical bulletins are available from:

Publication Sales Unit
Building 1, Victoria Road
South Ruislip
MIDDLESEX HA4 0NZ
Telephone: 01-841-3425

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

Directorate of Statistics
Department of Transport
Romney House
43 Marsham Street
LONDON SW1P 3PY
Telephone: 01-276-8513

Department of Trade and Industry

The weekly publication *British Business* ceased publication with effect from 29 September 1989.

The CSO have introduced a service which makes statistical information available by means of *Business Bulletins*. The information contained in the bulletins appear as the statistics are published so that they are an extremely timely and effective means of keeping abreast with statistical news.

Business Bulletins available at an annual subscription of £75.00 or individually:

CSO Library
Cardiff Road
NEWPORT
Gwent NP9 1XG

From whom further details and an application form may be obtained.

Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food

The following Statistical Notices are available:

- April 1989 Pig Survey: England & Wales and UK 110/89.
April 1989 Cereal Production Survey: England & Wales 127/89.
August 1989 Cereal Production Survey: England & Wales 173/89.

June 1989 Agriculture Returns (provisional): England and UK 155/89.

- Monthly sample survey of Grain Fed to Livestock: England & Wales 81/89, 111/89, 112/89, 138/89.
Monthly sample survey of Cereal Stocks: England & Wales 103/89, 123/89, 124/89, 142/89, 180/89.

MAFF Statistical Notices are available free from:

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Publications Section
Room A615, Epsom Road
Guildford GU1 2LD

The following are available on a regular basis:

- Weekly: *Agricultural Market Reports: England & Wales*. The report is published in three parts and contains price, quantity and quality information on selected cereals, livestock, horticultural produce and other agricultural products.
- Monthly: *Agricultural Price Indices* (in a Statistical Notice).

The above are available (on subscription for the Market Reports) from:

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Room 509
Epsom Road
GUILDFORD GU1 2LD

Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture

Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture, 1988

This publication, price £10.00, will be available in early March from:

Department of Agriculture
Economics and Statistics Division
DANI, Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
BELFAST BT4 3SB

Scottish Office

Scottish Local Government Financial Statistics 1987-88, published mid-April, price £4.00.

Scottish Abstract of Statistics 1988, No 17, price £15.50.

These publications can be obtained from:

The Library
Official Publications Sales
Scottish Office
Room 1/44
New St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH EH1 3TT
Telephone: 031 244 4806 (GTN 7188)

Central Statistical Office

Regional Trends 24 (HMSO July 1989) price £19.50 net.
United Kingdom National Accounts 1989 edition (CSO Blue Book) (HMSO September 1989) price £11.95 net.
United Kingdom Balance of Payments 1989 edition (CSO Pink Book) (HMSO August 1989) price £9.95 net.

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 (OPCS), was published in September (Number 57) and contains the following articles:

OPCS statistics for management by Mrs Terry Banks, Registrar General for England and Wales and Director of OPCS

This article is based on a talk given at the annual conference of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy in June 1989. It describes how OPCS produces, from its many data sources, statistics which assist managers to plan and target services and to monitor and evaluate policies. It also outlines future plans for collecting more data, making more use of them and making them more widely available. The article concludes by stressing the wider uses of OPCS statistics, both in the public and private sector, and the need to safeguard accuracy, objectivity and confidentiality.

Families and households of the ethnic minority and white populations of Great Britain by John Haskey, Demographic Analysis and Vital Statistics Division, OPCS

The family and household composition of the different ethnic minority populations are examined in this article, in terms of the numbers of persons per household, dependent children per family, families by type - including lone parent families - and the demographic characteristics of heads of families. Some results are also presented for each ethnic group of the extent to which multi-family households are effectively extended families. On all these topics, corresponding results are presented for the White and total populations.

Live births in 1988 by Gillian Dollamore, Demographic Analysis and Vital Statistics Division, OPCS

This article presents the latest annual figures for live births (1988) and conceptions (1987) in England and Wales, with summary results for the United Kingdom, Great Britain, Scotland and Northern Ireland. There were 694 thousand live births in England and Wales during 1988, 2 per cent more than in 1987. The total period fertility rate (the average number of children who would be born per woman given current age specific fertility rates) was 1.82 in 1988 compared with 1.81 in 1987. Over 25 per cent of all births in England and Wales during 1988 occurred outside marriage.

The sex ratio at birth in England and Wales by Chris Shaw, Demographic Analysis and Vital Statistics Division, OPCS
After a period of around forty years where the sex ratio at birth in England and Wales remained roughly constant at around 106 male births for every 100 female births, there has been a decline during the 1980s and the 1988 ratio of 104.8 male births per 100 female births is the lowest figure recorded

since 1933. The causes of variation in the sex ratio at birth are still largely unknown although associations have been found with a number of variables, both medical/biological and demographic. Sex ratios are lower, for example, for births to overseas-born mothers and for maternities resulting in multiple births. However, neither the growing ethnic minority population nor the increase in the number of multiple births in recent years can account for the overall decline in the sex ratio.

The criteria for revising constituency boundaries by G P Barnes, late Secretary and R McLeod, Secretary, The Boundary Commission for England, OPCS

The Boundary Commission for England are a permanent body constituted under the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986. The Act requires the Commission to keep the parliamentary constituencies in England under review and periodically (every 10-15 years) to conduct a general review of all the constituencies in England at the same time. The Commission have similar responsibilities for the European parliamentary constituencies in England. Such a general review - the fourth - will probably begin in 1991 and this article explains the historical background, sets out the rules to be followed, and discusses some of the practical considerations which arise.

Post censal surveys in Great Britain by R Barnes, Social Survey Division, OPCS

This article looks at the various kinds of surveys carried out in Great Britain after each census since 1961. They have been used to evaluate the census and to take advantage of the census as a sampling frame. The latter have raised issues of confidentiality and proper use of census data, which have resulted in the requirement for Parliament to be informed before such enquiries can be carried out in future. The article looks at the ethical and technical problems that have arisen and points out that the lessons learned from previous experiences should help to ensure that past difficulties are avoided in any future post censal surveys.

Updates

This issue also contains the most recent statistics on population, births, marriages, divorces, migration and abortion. The tabular section includes a brief commentary on these latest statistics and a number of charts and diagrams.

Reference

Population Trends 57 HMSO £6.50 net ISBN 0 11 6912596.

Mortality statistics: area 1986

This volume, published recently by OPCS, contains tables on death rates by sex and 10 year age-groups, and standardised mortality ratios by cause of death for England, Wales, standard regions, Greater London, metropolitan and non-metropolitan counties, and regional health authorities. The table on deaths by cause, sex and age-group is presented on thirteen microfiche and gives detailed statistics for each local authority and for each health area.

Reference

Mortality statistics: area 1986 (Series DH5 No. 13) HMSO £9.50 net ISBN 0 11 691249 9

Population statistics Scotland

Population estimates (Scotland)

Estimates of the population of Scotland for mid-1988, by sex, age and standard areas, have been published in '*Population Estimates, Scotland, 1988*' (HMSO, 1989, £1.80).

Projected Population (Scotland) (1987 based)

The 1987 based population projections for Scotland by sex, age and standard areas have been published in '*Population Projections, Scotland, (1987 Based)*' (HMSO, 1989, £1.80).

Tabulations containing more detail than is shown in the above booklets are available on paper, floppy disk or magnetic tape. For further information on formats available and charges please contact:

Population Statistics Branch
General Register Office for Scotland
Ladywell House
Ladywell Road
EDINBURGH EH12 7TF
Telephone: 031-334-0380 ext 301

Vital statistics (Scotland)

Tables relating to the first quarter of 1989 appeared in the Registrar General's Vital Statistics Return, Weeks 21 to 24.

The Registrar General's Annual Report was published on 16 August and contains details of births, deaths, stillbirths, marriages, divorces and adoptions in Scotland in 1988. This is available from HMSO, at a cost of £15.50.

SOCIAL STATISTICS

Home Office

Local government elections

The second annual Home Office Statistical Bulletin on local government elections was published in October 1989. The tables in the first section give statistics of the elections held in May 1989 which were confined to the counties. For each area the tables give numbers of registered electors, councillors returned unopposed, councillors elected, electors in contested areas, valid votes counted and percentage turnout. Historical tables give, for 1973 onwards, summary information for counties, districts and London boroughs.

In English counties overall turnout dropped by 2.5 percentage points compared with 1985, the last time these elections were held. There was little change in the turnout in Welsh counties.

Reference

Local Government Elections, England and Wales 1989, (Home Office Statistical Bulletin Issue 35/89) (price £2.50 net)

Prison Statistics for England and Wales, 1988

This publication presents statistics on the population, receptions and discharges of Prison Service establishments in England and Wales. It also contains details of the numbers held in police cells and of the reconvictions of inmates released in 1985. In addition to the detailed data presented for 1988, time series are also given, generally for the years 1978 to 1988.

The content of the publication is similar to earlier years - this volume is the twelfth in the present series. However, the information on life sentence prisoners has been expanded and occupies a separate chapter this year and data on offences against prison discipline and the punishments awarded, previously contained in this volume, are to be published in a separate statistical bulletin from now on.

References

Prison statistics, England and Wales, 1988 Cm 825 (HMSO 1989) (price £16.00 net)

Criminal careers of those born in 1953 and 1963

Variations in sentencing with the number of court appearances

A Home Office Statistical Bulletin on the variations in sentencing, with the number of court appearances for those born in 1953 and 1963, was published in August 1989. This presented further results from a study of the criminal careers of persons born in 1953, 1958 and 1963.

The fine was the most frequently used disposal at early court appearances, but its use declined in later court appearances, when some form of immediate custodial sentence was the most frequent disposal. Immediate custodial sentences were used more frequently for male offenders under the age of 21 than for those aged 21-31; for example, at their fourth court appearance, 30 per cent of the former age group received a custodial sentence as opposed to 13 per cent of the latter. There was a reduction in the use of immediate custody for juveniles between those born in 1953 and those born in 1963, amounting to 12 per cent at fourth court appearances. By the sixth court appearances and above the various forms of immediate custody accounted for one-third of the sentences received by young adult males born in 1953 and convicted of a violent offence or theft but accounted for over half of the sentences received by those convicted of burglary.

Reference

Criminal careers of those born in 1953 and 1963: Variations in sentencing with the number of court appearances (Home Office Statistical Bulletin Issue 27/89) (price £2.50 net)

Criminal and custodial careers of those born in 1953, 1958 and 1963

A Home Office Statistical bulletin was published on 15 September on the criminal and custodial careers of those born in 1953, 1958 and 1963.

One in three males born in 1953 had acquired a conviction for a more serious offence before the age of 31. However, a relatively small number of offenders accounted for most of the convictions: the seven per cent of males with more than five convictions between them acquired nearly two thirds of the convictions of the group. Six per cent of males born in 1953 had experienced custody before the age of 31. Males under 21 were most likely to have been convicted for theft (other than from shops or of a motor vehicle) or burglary. Males who were first convicted before the age of 14 were twice as likely to be convicted again within the next 10 years as males who were first convicted at 20.

The conviction rate for females was far lower, with only seven per cent of those born in 1953 having been convicted before the age of 31. Females under 21 were most likely to have been convicted of shoplifting or theft (other than of a motor vehicle).

Reference

Criminal and custodial careers of those born in 1953, 1958 and 1963 (Home Office Statistical Bulletin Issue No. 32/89, price £2.50 net)

Statistics of breath tests, England and Wales 1988

This bulletin gives statistics on drivers required to supply breath for a screening breath test and on those required to provide samples of breath, blood or urine for the purposes of evidence in court. In 1988, 443,000 screening breath tests were reported, 11% more than in 1987; 23% were positive and 2% refused. The number of positive tests after accidents fell by 5%, despite a rise of 15% in tests after accidents, suggesting a general reduction in drinking and driving levels.

Reference

Statistics of breath tests, England and Wales 1988 (Home Office Statistical Bulletin Issue 28/89, price £2.50 net)

Offences relating to motor vehicles, England and Wales 1988

This bulletin gives summary statistics on the enforcement of motor vehicle legislation. In 1988, 8.7 million alleged offences were recorded, five per cent more than in 1987. Most of the increase was in fixed penalty notices which rose six per cent to 6.2 million. The enforcement of vehicle defect offences, speeding, neglect of traffic directions and seat belt offences increased markedly between 1985 and 1988 as a result of the introduction of fixed penalties for these offences in October 1986. At court, there were 119,000 findings of guilt for drink drive offences in 1988, three per cent more than in 1987. In total in 1988, 34,400 custodial sentences were imposed for offences relating to motor vehicles, 900 more than in 1987. More detailed figures for the year are given in a companion volume of supplementary tables.

Reference

Offences relating to motor vehicles, England and Wales 1988 (Home Office Statistical Bulletin Issue 34/89, price £2.50 net
Supplementary tables price £4.00)

Control of immigration: Statistics - second quarter 1989

The quarterly Home Office statistical bulletin on the control of immigration was published on 14 September 1989. This contains information on acceptances for settlement in the United Kingdom, on entry clearance applications for settlement made in the Indian sub-continent and on persons dealt with under enforcement powers as illegal entrants or under the deportation process. A total of 50,200 persons were accepted for settlement in the 12 months ending 30 June 1989, some 3,400 more than in the previous 12 months but still considerably less than in 1985 and earlier years. 3,700 persons were removed from the United Kingdom under enforcement powers in the latest 12 months, a considerable increase on the 2,400 in the previous 12 months, reflecting more effective enforcement procedures.

Reference

Control of immigration: Statistics - second quarter 1989 (Home Office Statistical Bulletin Issue 31/89) (price £2.50 net)

Scientific procedures

The annual figures of scientific work (called 'scientific procedures' from 1987 and 'experiments' in earlier years) on living animals were published in July 1989. About 3.5 million procedures were started in 1988, some four per cent fewer than in 1987. The number has fallen for 12 years in succession.

The publication was substantially revised for the 1987 statistics when new legislation controlling the work came into force. It presents scientific procedures analysed by species and genetic status of animal, primary purpose and type of procedure, legislative or other reason for procedure, use of anaesthesia, type of technique and concern with neoplasia (tumours). Historical tables, covering the period 1978 to 1988, show experiments for 1978 to 1987 and scientific procedures for 1987 and 1988. The latest publication includes several new charts. An appendix describes the system of control and the work of the Home Office Inspectorate.

Reference

Statistics of scientific procedures on living animals, Great Britain 1988 (Cm 743) (HMSO July 1989) (price £7.50 net)

Misuse of drugs: Seizures and offenders dealt with

The annual Home Office Statistical Bulletin on seizures of controlled drugs and drug offenders dealt with in 1988 was published in September 1989. In 1988 the number of seizures and the number of drug offenders in the United Kingdom increased to the highest levels ever recorded. Cannabis, which accounts for over 90 per cent of all drug seizures and offenders, was responsible for most of the increase. The number of seizures rose by 23 per cent to 37,700 and the number of offenders rose by 12 per cent to 29,500.

The bulletin gives details of seizures by type of drug (in terms of number and weight), type of place and area. A new table gives average drug purities for the main drugs. Offenders are analysed by age, sex, type of offence and drug, and action taken. Several new charts are included. Further information is given in separate area and supplementary tables (price £2.50 each) obtainable from the address on the next page.

Reference

Statistics of the misuse of drugs: Seizures and offenders dealt with, United Kingdom, 1988 (Home Office Statistical Bulletin Issue 30/89) (price £2.50 net)

Refugee statistics 1988

The annual Home Office Statistical Bulletin on refugee statistics was published on 20 July 1989. This contains detailed information analysed by nationality on applications for refugee status in the United Kingdom, and on decisions reached. 1988 figures are provisional. Applications in 1988 are estimated at around 5,100, about the same as in 1987, a little below the peak of 5,400 in 1985 but 3,500 more than in 1979. Over 1979-88 as a whole, 39,000 applications for refugee status were received. About 3,800 decisions were reached in 1988, only a little less than the peak in 1986 and substantially more than the 950 in 1979. Within this, there was a noticeable increase in grants of refugee status in 1988, to 960, the highest figure since 1983, largely reflecting a higher number of grants to people from Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan and Afghanistan. Grants of exceptional leave, at about 2,200, were the same as in 1987 while refusals of refugee status or of exceptional leave, at 650, were rather lower than in 1987. Over the period 1979-88 as a whole, 9,600 people were granted refugee status. In addition, 20,500 South East Asian refugees were accepted for settlement, together making about 30,000 given leave to remain in the United Kingdom as a refugee over this period. Also, a further 12,000 people were granted exceptional leave. 6,400 people were refused.

Reference

'Refugee statistics United Kingdom 1988' (Home Office Statistical Bulletin Issue 25/89) (price £2.50 net)

Enquiries on Home Office Statistical Bulletins and publications should be made to:

Home Office Statistical Department
Common Services (Room 1834)
Lunar House
Wellesley Road
Croydon CRO 9YD
Telephone: 01-760 2850

HEALTH

OPCS surveys of disability in Great Britain: Report 6

Disabled children: services, transport and education

Reports 3, 4 and 5 were reviewed in the August issue of *Statistical News*.

The 6th and final OPCS report of the results from the surveys of people with disabilities in Great Britain was published in July. The OPCS surveys of disability were commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Security and carried out by Social Survey Division OPCS between 1985 and 1988. The four separate surveys covered adults in private households, children in private households, adults in communal establishments and children in communal establishments.

This report describes the circumstances of disabled children living in private households in 1985 and in communal establishments in 1988. These include: use of services, use of equipment and adaptations, mobility and the use of

transport, education, social activities, visitors and holidays, effect on the family of those living in communal establishments.

The complete set of six reports are:

Report 1 - The prevalence of disability among adults by Jean Martin, Howard Meltzer and David Elliot, HMSO £10.70 net, ISBN 0 11 691229 4

Report 2 - The financial circumstances of disabled adults living in private households by Jean Martin and Amanda White, HMSO £11.50 net, ISBN 0 11 691235 9

Report 3 - The prevalence of disability among children by Margaret Bone and Howard Meltzer, HMSO £10.60 net, ISBN 0 11 691250 2

Report 4 - Disabled adults: services, transport and employment by Jean Martin, Amanda White and Howard Meltzer, HMSO £15.50 net, ISBN 0 11 691257 X

Report 5 - The financial circumstances of families with disabled children living in private households by Malcolm Smyth and Nikki Robus, HMSO £9.00 net, ISBN 0 11 691264 2

Report 6 - Disabled children: services, transport and education by Howard Meltzer, Malcolm Smyth and Nikki Robus, HMSO £14.30 net, ISBN 0 11 691266 9

Smoking among secondary school children in England in 1988

The main purpose of this survey was to continue to monitor trends in the prevalence of regular cigarette smoking (defined as usually smoking at least one cigarette a week) among secondary school children in the first to fifth form inclusive. It is the fourth national survey of teenage smoking carried out by OPCS on behalf of the Department of Health.

A new feature of this latest survey was introduced to allow some validation of self-reported smoking data and to provide a measure of exposure to tobacco smoke. This involved obtaining saliva specimens from half the sample and analysing them for the presence of cotinine, a metabolite of nicotine. As expected, the saliva testing encouraged more honest reporting of current smoking and led to higher estimates of smoking among those tested.

Some key findings of the survey were that in 1988 about seven per cent of boys and nine per cent of girls regularly smoked at least one cigarette a week; among those who do smoke, boys continue to be heavier smokers than girls; about one fifth of regular smokers - two per cent of all pupils covered by the survey - had smoked an average of at least ten cigarettes a day during the preceding week; a quarter of all children had tried to buy cigarettes in a shop in the past year, and of these over 90% had been successful the last time they tried; among those smoking ten or more cigarettes a day, saliva cotinine levels were very similar to those found in other studies among adult smokers, suggesting that children who

smoke are just as likely to inhale as are adults; and the effects of parental smoking were reflected in the saliva cotinine concentrations of children who were not smokers themselves.

Reference

Smoking among secondary school children in England in 1988 by Eileen Goddard, HMSO, £9.00 net, ISBN 0 11 691267 7

Survey manual on maternity care

Detailed guidance on how to carry out local surveys of women's experience of maternity services was published recently in an OPCS survey manual.

The survey manual is part of a package developed by OPCS for the Department of Health to assist health authorities in monitoring the views of users of local maternity services. The package will help to improve the quality of the data from local surveys and will reduce the resources and amount of survey expertise needed locally to carry out such surveys. By using this standardised survey method the results from these surveys will permit comparison of services in different districts.

The survey manual is a detailed step-by-step guide on how to carry out local surveys of women's experience of maternity services. It includes two model questionnaires designed for postal self-completion. The antenatal questionnaire is intended for completion in late pregnancy (34-36 weeks) and covers the confirmation of pregnancy, care in hospital-based and local antenatal clinics, antenatal classes, women's views about their information needs, and women's opinions about their care as a whole. The postnatal questionnaire is for completion, by a different sample of women, a few weeks after the birth. The questions cover antenatal care, labour and delivery care, postnatal care in hospital and at home, and women's views about the information that they had about pregnancy and birth.

The survey manual contains detailed advice on the planning and management of the survey, on selecting a sample, on the practical organisation of the postal survey, on coding and checking of data and on the computing and analysis. It gives help with estimating the costs likely to be incurred and suggests how the survey design could be adapted to meet local needs. The analysis can be carried out using either a main-frame or a micro-computer and the manual provides instructions for analysing the data using a commonly-used statistical package for data analysis, SPSSX.

The package also includes an introductory pamphlet prepared by Jo Garcia of the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, which discusses how the survey manual can be used; a set of printing masters of the questionnaire forms; and a computer programme on floppy disk to help with processing the survey information.

Reference

Women's experience of maternity care - a survey manual by Val Mason, HMSO, £10.50 ISBN 0 11 691246 4

EDUCATION

Students in higher education in England excluding universities

The purposes of this bulletin (No. 12/89) are:

- 1 to provide some benchmark statistics about institutions within the new Polytechnics and Colleges Funding Council (PCFC) sector of higher education (HE); and
- 2 to indicate relativities between that sector and the remainder of HE outside the universities, namely the local authority sector and institutions that continue to be directly funded by the Department of Education and Science.

Some relativities with the university sector are also presented.

The information given is based, for HE and further education (FE) outside the universities, on the 1987 Further Education Statistical Record (FESR) and on the coverage of the PCFC (PCFC sector institutions and PCFC-funded courses in the local authority sector of HE) as at 1 April 1989.

Overall there are some 340,000 HE students enrolled in PCFC sector institutions and 110,000 in the rest of HE outside the universities. Excluding the Open University and the University of Buckingham, this compares with some 270,000 students in the universities.

Enquiries about its contents should be addressed to Pat Griffith at the address below. (Telephone: 01-934-9014.)

The bulletin may be obtained from:

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

Survey of mature students' incomings and outgoings

The results of an OPCS survey of mature students' income and expenditure was published recently. This is the first government-sponsored survey to report in detail the characteristics and financial circumstances of mature students. The survey was carried out in 1988 by the Social Survey Division of OPCS for the Department of Education and Science in connection with the Governmental Student Support Review.

The survey covered a sample of mature students, defined as aged 26 years or older, who were attending a full-time degree (or equivalent) course or a Post Graduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) at 60 higher education institutions in Great Britain.

The survey compared the levels of incomings and outgoings between first year and subsequent year students and found that the patterns and levels for first year students were not typical. The main analysis was restricted to findings for second and subsequent years' students.

The report compares annual incomings and outgoings according to the household composition, social class of the father, type of accommodation, marital status and sex. It assesses the main sources of incomings, such as awards, earnings, money from family and other relatives, credit, state benefits and other sources. It also examines the amounts spent on all expenditure items. Some of the survey findings are compared with other statistical sources on undergraduates of younger ages.

Reference

Mature students' incomings and outgoings by Bob Redpath and Nikki Robus, HMSO £11.50 net, ISBN 0 11 691269 3

Statistics of education: Further and higher education student: Staff ratios and unit costs

This annual volume presents data collected from the Department's Annual Monitoring Survey and Further Education Revenue Account Survey (FERAS). The AMS covers staff and student numbers and class contact hours in further and higher education in England. The data are split into three discipline groupings; laboratory/workshop; art and design and classroom-based subjects. The discipline groups are split between further and higher education. This volume reports the academic year 1987-88 results for 423 establishments (including 18 voluntary and direct grant establishments). The volume also collects data from the FERAS. This survey collects for all LEAS in England, expenditure and non-grant income data for their maintained establishments. FERAS data are used, together with AMS student full time equivalent numbers, to calculate unit costs for individual establishments.

Enquiries about its content should be addressed to:

Mr P Jackson
Department of Education and Science
Elizabeth House
York Road
LONDON SE1 7PH
Telephone: 01-934-9132

Copies can be obtained (price £12.00) from:

Department of Education and Science
Room 0100
Mowden Hall
Staindrop Hall
DARLINGTON DL3 9BG

Scottish education statistics

School leavers

Published annually, this bulletin gives information about the numbers of pupils leaving school in Scotland in 1976-77 (the

first for which the current school leaving arrangements applied), 1979-80 and 1982-83 to 1987-88. A separate bulletin will be published later giving details of the SCE qualifications held by school leavers.

Student enrolment in non-advanced further education in Scotland 1980/81 - 1987/88

This bulletin contains information on student enrolments in non-advanced further education for the session 1987/88. It also attempts to provide comparative figures for the sessions 1980/81 - 1987/88.

Teachers - Key statistics on demand and supply

This bulletin brings together a number of tables relating to the characteristics of teachers, and to their flow into and out of the profession. The information is drawn from a number of sources including the annual school census, the teacher flow returns from the education authorities and teacher information supplied by the colleges of education.

The assisted places scheme

This bulletin No. 6/C5/1989 contains information about the number of children participating in the assisted places scheme during school sessions 1981/82 to 1988/89, the amounts of fee remission and other assistance obtained, and the total costs of the scheme. Additional information and statistical notes are contained in the annex.

The following main points emerge -

Currently 41 schools throughout Scotland participate in the scheme

During 1987/88 and 1988/89, around 2,670 children obtained fee remission through the scheme, 13 per cent of private sector secondary pupils

Over 50 per cent of the assisted pupils attended education authority schools immediately prior to taking up an assisted place

Total expenditure under the scheme for school year 1988/89 is expected to be £5.85 million, an increase of £0.54 million from the previous year.

The scheme has been in operation since school session 1981/82. It supplements the 'placing requests' arrangements in respect of education authority schools as a means of widening parental choice of school, by enabling parents, who might not otherwise afford to do so, to send their children to fee-paying schools.

Copies of this bulletin (price £1) may be obtained from the Scottish Office Library (address on next page).

Scottish higher education statistics

This bulletin draws together information from various sources in order to present a statistical description of the main aspects of higher education in Scotland. Most of the tables are similar in layout to the tables of statistical information contained in the Report of the Scottish Tertiary Education Advisory

Council published in 1985 (Cmnd 9676, HMSO Edinburgh). Data relating to individual education establishments have not, however, been included. The figures in the bulletin cover the period up to session 1987/88.

The tables contain many facets of student numbers in higher education, including factors such as sector of education (university, central institution, etc), mode of attendance, student entrants, populations and outputs, level of qualification, subject of study, sex, participation indices, and first destination after qualifying. In the final table the statistics have been placed on a comparable basis to the higher education projections for Scotland published last year.

The term 'higher education' means courses at degree or postgraduate level, or generally other courses requiring three Highers or equivalent for entry. An annex describes the sources of data and defines the terminology used.

Copies of bulletins may be obtained from:

The Library
Official Publication Sales
Scottish Office
Room2/65
New St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH EH1 3TG
Telephone: 031-244 4806 (GTN 7188)

MANPOWER, EARNINGS AND PRICES

Changed working practices

This article in *Employment Gazette* for August 1989 is by Michael Kirosingh, Department of Employment, and looks at how some companies have changed working practices and work organisation to improve efficiency and competitiveness. Tight job demarcations are disappearing. Greater weight is being given to competence to do the job and multi-skilling. Changes such as these have become increasingly common in the 1980s and have contributed to productivity growth in manufacturing industry.

Increased functional flexibility - broadly, the change to more flexible working practices - is one element in a wider process of change to a more flexible use of labour which has contributed to improving UK manufacturing productivity growth in the 1980s.

Changed economic circumstances have given impetus to the need for more flexible working practices. These include the increased in-competitive pressures faced by many companies, the introduction of new technology, organisational change and industrial relations changes.

Formal agreements to increase flexibility arise from specific flexibility negotiations and from negotiations on other issues. The available evidence suggests the number of such agreements is increasing. They nonetheless represent just a fraction of the changes in working practices that have taken place.

The most successful agreements appear to be those properly planned. They recognise the particular needs of a plant, and tailor an agreement to them. Common elements discernible in many agreements include a commitment to sufficient training; greater co-ordinated working; greater worker responsibility; a changing role for supervisors; changes in pay structure; and changes in industrial relations.

Most progress has been made in the introduction of increased flexibility in trades. Some agreements have sought to remove barriers unrelated to skills, while others have concentrated on increasing the degree of overlap between trades, up to the development of workers with the capacity to undertake the work of more than one craft. There have also been significant agreements involving greater flexibility among semi- and unskilled workers, among white collar staff, and within and between other occupational groups.

Reference

Employment Gazette, August 1989 (HMSO) (price £3.80 net)

Companies' role in charitable job creation

This article in the September issue of *Employment Gazette* by Hilary Metcalf, Richard Pearson and Ron Martin of the Institute of Manpower Studies assesses the growth in the 1980s in 'economic localism' or economic policies aimed at individuals and individual areas. It particularly focuses on the role of businesses in Enterprise Agencies and Enterprise Trusts. The article summarises some of the main findings of a recent study which examined the nature and reasons for corporate involvement in job creation, the needs of the job creation agencies and the lessons for the future for companies, agencies and recipients. The research, funded by the Joseph Rowntree Memorial Trust, involved surveys of more than 400 companies and 200 agencies believed to be contributing, and case study interviews with 40 of them. The main field work was conducted at the end of 1987 and in early 1988.

The survey found support for a wide range of agencies and state initiatives, covering agencies solely concerned with job creation and those with wider remits. Eighty-four per cent of companies were affiliated to Business in the Community (BIC) or Scottish Business in the Community (SCOTBIC), and 74 per cent gave help direct to Enterprise Agencies or Trusts. In addition 17 per cent supported other agencies whose main aims were job creation activities and eight per cent supported Co-operative Development Agencies.

While all companies assisted job creation through agencies or the public sector, a minority, 32 per cent, also channelled support direct to final recipients, by-passing intermediary agencies. The types of jobs helped through direct support were similar to those helped through agencies, except a larger proportion of companies gave direct support to community businesses and co-operatives.

The article also examines the benefits to companies of participating in job creation activities.

Reference

Employment Gazette, September 1989 (HMSO) (price £3.80 net)

Post-graduate education and training - Survey of 1980 graduates and diplomates

This article in *Employment Gazette*, September 1989, by John Clarke and Andrew Rees of the Economics Branch of the Department of Employment presents further information from a national survey, undertaken in 1986, about the early employment, education and training experiences of some 9,000 graduates and higher diplomates¹ who qualified in 1980.

The September 1988 issue of *Employment Gazette* (reviewed in *Statistical News* issue 83, November 1988) contained a special feature which presented some initial results from the Survey of 1980 Graduates and Diplomates. In this article further aspects of the sample's work histories are considered; specifically, the employer-provided training and employer-sponsored further study that graduates and diplomates undertook in the early part of their careers. The main parts were:

- Just over half the graduates and diplomates in the survey received no formal training from their employer in their first job after graduation.
- Typically, in their first year in the job, respondents spent seven and half days away from work on training courses.
- Respondents working in the gas and electricity production and supply industries, and in occupations such as the armed forces, police, prison and fire services, as well as computing and financial work, were the most likely to receive formal training.
- Graduates and diplomates in computing, engineering, physics and mathematics were the most likely to enter jobs where training was given. Graduates in 'arts other than history and languages' were least likely to have received formal training from their employers.
- Some 18 per cent of respondents had received sponsorship from their first employer to undertake a course of further study. Professional qualifications accounted for nearly 70 per cent of all qualifications sought, and nearly two-thirds of them were in subjects associated with business studies and accountancy.

¹ People who had studied for qualifications below degree level, but requiring at least two years' full-time study post A-level.

Reference

Employment Gazette, September 1989 (HMSO) (price £3.80 net)

Measures of unemployment: Claimant Count and Labour Force Survey (LFS)

This article which appears in the *Employment Gazette* for August 1989 uses preliminary results from the 1988 Labour Force Survey and is one of an annual series. Similar comparisons using results from the 1987 Labour Force Survey

were published in the October 1988 issue of *Employment Gazette* and reviewed in *Statistical News* for November 1988 - issue 83.

In spring 1988 the international measure of unemployment from the LFS was 2.37 million in Great Britain, similar to the average unadjusted claimant count of 2.41 million during the survey period.

The 1988 LFS showed a fall in the ILO/OECD measure of unemployment similar to that of the official monthly count, a little over half a million since spring 1987.

Since 1984 the international survey measure of unemployment has been on a downward trend though it remained level between 1985 and 1986. In contrast, the claimant count carried on rising until 1986. Since 1986 both measures have fallen substantially.

In spring 1988 an estimated 790,000 or 33 per cent of claimants were not unemployed by the international definition, compared with 750,000 unemployed on the international measure but not claiming benefits.

The sharpest falls in claimants between 1987 and 1988 occurred among those seeking work.

A relatively high proportion of claimants in the South were not unemployed. In London this proportion was 44 per cent, averaged over the period 1985-88, compared with the corresponding national proportion of 32 per cent.

The proportion of ILO/OECD unemployed who were not claiming benefits was also relatively high in the South, averaged over the years 1985-88, the highest being in the South East outside London, where the proportion was 39 per cent. The national average proportion was 29 per cent and the lowest nationally was in the North region, at 23 per cent.

Changes between 1987 and 1988

Both the ILO/OECD measure of unemployment and the claimant count fell sharply, by some ½ million, over the period from spring 1987 to spring 1988. The claimant count fell by about 540,000 while the ILO/OECD measure fell by just over 500,000. The marginal difference of nearly 40,000 in these movements between 1987 and 1988 was the net result of a fall of nearly 120,000 or 13 per cent among claimants not unemployed on the ILO/OECD definition and a fall of over 80,000 or 10 per cent among the unemployed not claiming benefits. However, the decrease in both these groups was much less than among those people common to both measures of unemployment (in other words, claimants identified as unemployed in the survey); these fell by some 420,000 or 21 per cent between the two survey periods.

Trends 1981-88

The period 1981-88 can be broadly divided into three parts as follows:

Spring 1981 to 1984: The claimant count increased more sharply than unemployment as measured by the LFS. Over this period the former labour force measure of unemployment

increased by about 430,000 while the claimant count increased by some 680,000 (unadjusted) and by about 740,000 using the current consistent seasonally adjusted series (which relates to those aged 18 and over).

Spring 1984 to spring 1986: The claimant count carried on rising, but the LFS had begun to show a fall in unemployment. Over this period the claimant count rose by 190,000 (unadjusted) or 220,000 on the consistent seasonally adjusted basis, while the ILO/OECD measure showed a fall of nearly 130,000.

Spring 1986 to spring 1988: Both measures showed a fall, the claimant count by 750,000 (some 700,000 on the seasonally adjusted basis) and the ILO/OECD measure by about 600,000.

Note: Unemployment can be measured in different ways and there are two basic approaches to collecting the information. First, by surveys of individuals asking about whether they have a job or would like work and the steps they have taken to find work. Second, by counting people registered as unemployed at government offices.

This article compares the results of the monthly claimant count with the survey-based measure of unemployment using the ILO/OECD definition, which follows international guidelines. Preliminary results from the 1988 LFS are incorporated and some comparisons are made with previous years. Further details of the definitions are given in the technical notes. These also describe the method used for reconciling the LFS and claimant data.

Reference

Employment Gazette, August 1989 (HMSO) (price £3.80 net)

Labour Force Survey - New service from Quantime Ltd

Access to Labour Force Survey (LFS) statistics is now available through a partnership between the Employment Department and the private sector.

A link between the Department's Statistics Division and the commercial bureau Quantime Ltd enables customers to gain access, through their interactive package Quanvert, to basic LFS data and to produce tables to meet their own particular needs in three ways:

- subsets of the data are available on floppy disk for use on their own micro-computers;
- they can use dial-up facilities to link into Quantime's mainframe computers; or
- Quantime can run tables on request.

The subject areas covered by the LFS include employment and unemployment, based on internationally agreed definitions, and characteristics such as age, occupation, hours of work, ethnicity, etc. Data are available from surveys conducted each year since 1985.

Further information is available from Quantime's Labour Force Survey Support Department, 67 Maygrove Road, London NW6 2EG (telephone: 01-625-7111).

Survey of living standards during unemployment

The results of a survey of the living standards of unemployed people and their families in Great Britain was published recently in an OPCS report.

The survey involved two interviews with a sample of about 3,000 families whose breadwinners started to sign on in 1983 and were aged between 20 and 60. The first interview took place in the August of 1983, after they had been signing on for three months. The second interview took place a year later, in autumn 1984 - 15 months after they had started to sign on. The survey was designed to see how living standards changed over the first 15 months of unemployment, and to compare the circumstances of families whose breadwinner continued to sign on with those whose breadwinner returned to work.

The survey's methods are described in *Volume 2: Technical Report*. An important aspect of the method was the way in which a large number of specific items of information were combined into three summary scales measuring 'domestic capital', 'current consumption' and 'leisure consumption'. The ways in which these scales were arrived at is described in Chapter 6 of the Technical Report.

Reference

Living Standards during unemployment by Patrick Heady and Malcolm Smyth, Volume 1: The results, HMSO, £10.60, ISBN 0 11691271 5; Volume 2: Technical issues, HMSO, £8.95, ISBN 0 11691272 3

New Earnings Survey 1989

The results of the New Earnings Survey 1989 are, as in previous years, being published in six parts (A-F). Part A was published on 28 September 1989 with subsequent parts following at two-week intervals.

Information for the survey was again obtained from employers about the earnings and hours of a one per cent sample of employees for a pay period in April.

There has been some rearrangement of tables between Parts A and B this year. In particular, all the streamlined and summary analyses now appear in Part A, along with the description of the survey, while all the detailed analyses by agreement are now together in Part B.

The main contents of the six parts of the report and their publication dates are:

- | | | |
|--------|---|--|
| Part A | — | Streamlined analyses of key results by collective agreement, industry, occupation, age, region and summary analyses of distributions of earnings; a description of the survey (September 1989) |
| Part B | — | Analyses of earnings and hours by major collective agreement (mid October 1989) |

- Part C — Analyses of earnings and hours by industry
(late October 1989)
- Part D — Analyses of earnings and hours by occupation
(early November 1989)
- Part E — Analyses of earnings and hours by region and county, and by age group
(late November 1989)
- Part F — Distributions of hours of work; earnings and hours of part-time women employees
(early December 1989)

Reference

New Earnings Survey 1989 (HMSO, in six parts, £9.75 each net or £56.00 by subscription for the whole set, including postage)

Tourism and the tourist industry

The latest trends in UK tourism and the tourist industry are summarised in an article in the August 1989 *Employment Gazette*. The article is one of an annual series which, among other topics, reviews statistics of overseas visitors, domestic tourism and employment in tourism-related industries.

The British tourist industry is a rapidly expanding provider of wealth and jobs. In 1988 the total turnover of the industry was estimated to have been £19,000 million compared with £18,000 million in 1987. This represented over four per cent of the total UK Gross Domestic Product.

The statistics used in the article are drawn from the Department of Employment's International Passenger Survey and the quarterly employment survey, from surveys of domestic tourism run by the British Tourist Authority, and from the Central Statistical Office's Catering and Allied Trades Inquiry.

Reference

Employment Gazette, August 1989 (HMSO) (price £3.80 net)

TRANSPORT

Transport Statistics 1978-1988

The 1989 edition of Transport Statistics Great Britain, the major statistical publication of the Department of Transport, was published in September. This edition, which spans the period 1978-1988, contains 235 pages of text, tables and charts relating to all modes of transport and related matters.

Also included in the publication are two articles on access to household cars and travel by elderly people based on the 1985/86 National Travel Survey. A third article entitled *Revisions to traffic data* explains why traffic figures have been revised and compares the revisions with earlier series.

Transport Statistics Great Britain is designed to assist informed discussion of transport developments and policies, and provides a wide ranging and comprehensive source of information which is of interest and importance to anyone working or studying in the field of transport. For those requiring a more specialised knowledge, a list of statistical publications on specific transport matters is printed on the inside front cover.

Further details can be obtained from:

Department of Transport
STB Division
Romney House
43 Marsham Street
LONDON SW1P 3PY
Telephone: 01-276-8513

Reference

Transport Statistics Great Britain 1978-1988 (HMSO) price £18.95, ISBN 0 11 550934 8

Road traffic in GB: Review of estimates

The Department of Transport has introduced an improved method of estimating total traffic flows, and a revision to the figures for earlier years. Full details of the changes are given in a report¹ published in September. The change of method has been made to increase the quality, reliability, and range of data which can be produced. The revision to past figures stems partly from the discovery of shortcomings in the previous (1983) revision of the 1973 census on which later estimates were based and partly from analysis of the larger number of sample counts taken on minor roads since 1985.

The total effect of the revision over all road classes is to increase the estimated level of vehicle mileage by about 10 per cent throughout the period from 1973 to 1987. However, for major roads - which carry about two thirds of all traffic - the revisions are small. The main impact is on the estimated level of traffic on minor roads which is increased by 17 per cent in 1973 rising to 28 per cent in 1987.

For both major and minor roads there is little change in estimated rates of traffic growth, particularly in the 1980s. Between 1980 and 1987 growth is now put at 32 per cent compared with the previous estimate of 33 per cent for major roads, and 23 per cent instead of 20 per cent for minor roads. Over all roads the revised figures show a growth of 30 per cent in this period as against 28 per cent in the earlier series.

¹ Road traffic in Great Britain: *Review of estimates*, *Transport Statistics Report*, HMSO price £3.95

Port Statistics 1988

The latest edition of the annual series *Port Statistics* compiled by the Department of Transport, was published jointly by the Department and the British Ports Federation in October. This is the ninth such publication since the closure of the National Ports Council, but the first to include full freight statistics on a United Kingdom basis (for 1988 data only - previous years' data remains largely on a GB basis).

Port Statistics 1988 provides details of the total of foreign and domestic tonnage through the principal ports of the United Kingdom by mode of appearance, ie disaggregated into bulk, container, roll-on/roll-off, semi-bulk and conventional traffic. Some commodity detail is given for bulk traffic. Other statistics include container and roll-on traffic by numbers of units as well as by tonnage, international passenger and passenger vehicle movements, port manpower, port finance, international trade by volume and value (from the Overseas Trade Statistics database), and ship arrivals.

Port Statistics 1988 is available from the British Ports Federation, Victoria House, Vernon Place, London WC1B 4LL (telephone: 01-242 1200), price £30 including postage.

INDUSTRIAL

Business Monitors

Introduction of New Business Monitor - MM22 for Producer Price Indices

Following the closure of *British Business* detailed information on Producer Price Indices is now being published in the form of a Business Monitor - MM22.

The opportunity of the introduction of the new Monitor is being taken to expand the current spectrum of published figures to a rolling period of between 13 to 24 months, plus the annual average.

A specimen copy is available on request. Part 1 of the Monitor shows the index values with a unique reference number against each set of figures. Part 2 consists of a list of index titles for each of the six tables with the appropriate reference number.

Further details can be obtained from:

Central Statistical Office
Room 1.158
Cardiff Road
Newport
Gwent NP9 1XG
Telephone: 0633-812106

Business Monitor PA1003 - Size Analyses of United Kingdom Businesses 1989

The latest Business Monitor in the PA1003 series will be published shortly. Based on the register maintained by the Central Statistical Office, the publication provides counts of businesses as at mid-1989.

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

Legal unit analyses are by turnover and status (company, sole proprietor etc) with detailed analyses by VAT trade code except for the manufacturing industries where analyses are by activity heading of the Standard Industrial Classification (Revised 1980). Legal unit analyses by county and region are provided for the first time this year.

The local unit tables provide estimates of employment as well as counts of units. The SIC activity heading is used as the classification and analyses are produced by employment and by region or country.

A summary legal unit table appeared in *British Business* on 1 September 1989.

Further details can be obtained from:

Central Statistical Office
Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
Newport
Gwent NP9 1XG
Telephone: 0633-812105

Annual Census of Production 1987

Readers of *Statistical News* are made aware of the results of the 1987 Census of Production as the Business Monitors become available.

The following table lists the monitors published since notification in the last number of *Statistical News*.

Business Monitor Number	Description	Standard Industrial Classification 1980 Group
PA111	Coal extraction and manufacture of solid fuels	111
PA140	Mineral oil processing	140
PA243	Building products of concrete, cement or plaster	243
PA247	Glass or glassware	247
PA255	Paints, varnishes and printing ink	255
PA256	Specialised chemical products mainly for industrial and agricultural purposes	265
PA320	Industrial plant and steelwork	320
PA328	Miscellaneous machinery and mechanical equipment	328
PA351	Motor vehicles and their engines	351
PA353	Motor vehicle parts	353
PA361	Shipbuilding and repairing	361
PA364	Aerospace equipment manufacturing and repairing	364
PA411	Organic oils and fats	411
PA413	Preparation of milk and milk products	413
PA451	Footwear	451

All 112 monitors in the series have now been published. Copies of these Business Monitors are available on standing order from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 276, London SW8 5DT (telephone: 01-622-3316) or through any Government Bookshop.

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

Mr J Dowsell
Central Statistical Office
Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
Newport
Gwent NP9 1XG
Telephone: 0633-812455

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

The Librarian
Central Statistical Office
Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
Newport
Gwent NP9 1XG
Telephone: 0633-812973

Business Monitor PO1007-UK: Directory of Manufacturing Businesses 1989

The UK Directory of Manufacturing Businesses is now available. It has been compiled from the register of businesses in the United Kingdom maintained by the Central Statistical Office, primarily for conducting statistical inquiries. A similar directory was published in 1984 as the 'Classified List of Manufacturing Businesses' (HMSO, Business Monitor PO 1007).

The directory lists by activity heading individual local units (factories or sites) with manufacturing activity operated by businesses in the UK. Non-manufacturing units, in particular units which are offices, are omitted from the directory: this means that the head office of a business may not be included. Names have been included only where permission to do so has been granted. Each SIC activity heading also shows the estimated coverage that the number of units represents.

Information can be obtained from:

Central Statistical Office
Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
Newport
Gwent NP9 1XG
Telephone: 0633-812991

Changes in the collection of industrial statistics

Two articles entitled, 'Statistics: less of a burden and better' and 'Statistics 2: the rationale behind the changes' by Roger Norton, Deputy Director of the Business Statistics Office, appear in *British Business* for 14 July 1989 and 21 July 1989.

The DTI review was set up in July 1988 'to examine the arrangements for the collection of economic statistics by DTI and consider whether these procedures strike a satisfactory balance between minimising the burdens placed on business providing the information required and meeting the needs for which the data are to be used by government and other customers'. It was carried out by Alan Armstrong, a senior lecturer at the University of Bristol, and David Rees of DTI.

The first article outlines the objectives and results of the Review and the second details other amendments and outlines the general approach to the review which prompted the changes.

Reference

British Business (Department of Trade & Industry) (price £1.40)

VAT registrations and deregistrations of UK businesses: 1980-88

An article in *British Business* dated 25 August 1989 provides information on the number of business registered for VAT in the UK for the period 1980-88. This is the latest in a series of articles using VAT information to monitor changes in the size of the UK business population from 1980 onwards.

Although the estimates include businesses of all sizes, the vast majority of registered businesses are small, so that the figures are a good guide to trends in the size of the UK small business population.

The last article, in the issue of 9 June 1989, gave a detailed analysis of figures broken down by region and industry for the period 1980-1987.

This article presents figures for 1988 - for the first time, preliminary estimates for the region and industry breakdown are published at the same time as the national estimates - and revised estimates for 1987. The analysis was prepared by the Employment Department's statistics division, based on VAT data held by the Central Statistical Office.

Inquiries and requests for information should be addressed to:

Michael Daly
Employment Department
Steel House
Tothill Street
LONDON SW1H 9NF

Reference

British Business (Department of Trade & Industry) (price £1.40)

Analysis by turnover size

An article appears in *British Business* for 1 September 1989 which shows the number of records for the United Kingdom held on the register which the Central Statistical Office maintains largely from information obtained by Customs and Excise in the administration of value added tax. This is one of a series of annual articles which have been appearing since 1981. A more detailed size analysis of UK businesses is due to appear before the end of the year in Business Monitor PA 1003 1989. This will include tables showing greater industry detail and breakdown by form of organisation (company/partnership/sole proprietor etc) and for the first time will include analyses of companies etc by region and county.

The counts of businesses in the table are at mid-1989 but, except for new businesses, the turnover relates mainly to a 12-month period ending in spring 1988. The VAT registration threshold of £21,300 applied over that period. Records showing turnovers beneath that threshold (consisting of voluntary registrations, units not trading and units for which no turnover measure is available) have been excluded. In total these exclusions represent around 239,000 register records.

The analysis produced from the CSO's VAT-based register provides information for the greater part of the economy about the size structure of industry consistently in terms of one

economically meaningful unit - the legal unit (which equates to the individual company in the corporate sector and, for example, to the sole proprietor for unincorporated businesses).

Further details can be obtained from:

Central Statistical Office
Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
Newport
Gwent NP9 1XG
Telephone: 0633-812105

Reference

British Business (Department of Trade & Industry) (price £1.40)

Nationalised industries cash limits

A White Paper giving provisional figures for cash limited expenditure, running costs and the external financing limits of the nationalised industries in 1988-89 was published in July 1989. The White Paper also included information on changes to cash limits and running costs limits 1988-89 and revised outturn for cash limits and running costs limits in 1987-88. The original cash limits for central government voted expenditure and non-voted expenditure in 1988-89 and the original running costs limits for 1988-89 were published in the *Summary and Guide to the Estimates 1988-89*.

Reference

Cash Limits 1988-89 Provisional Outturn (and 1987-88 Outturn), CM 746 (HMSO) (price £7.30 net) ISBN 0 10 10746 2

Supply Estimates 1988-89 Summary and Guide, CM 633 (HMSO) (price £8.10 net) ISBN 0 10 1063326

Information technology

An article in *British Business* for 29 September 1989 entitled 'Computing Services Success in 1988' shows that the computing services industry, as represented by the panel of contributors to the quarterly computing services inquiry, had a successful year in 1988. Billings and employment continued to increase.

Industry output rose by 12 per cent in 1988 compared with an average growth rate of 6.8 per cent over the period 1985 to 1987.

Total billings by panel contributors rose to more than £2.4bn in 1988. Exports of computing services, as measured by billings to foreign clients, were reported to be £169m in 1988, a decrease of £58m compared with 1987. Employment increased by nine per cent. The growth in employment combined with the relatively slower growth in total billings, resulted in billings per head increasing by eight per cent to £55,000.

DTI has conducted a quarterly inquiry into computing services since 1969, the results of which are published in *Business Monitor SDQ9*. The figures in the monitor were originally based on voluntary contributions but in 1988 the inquiry became statutory, which has resulted in a decrease in the number of respondents but a considerable increase in the size of the company replying to the inquiry. This has resulted in

a sizeable increase in the number of billings. The results in the increase in the size of panel have been backdated in order to provide a comparison between the data for 1987 and 1988.

Reference

British Business (Department of Trade & Industry) (price £1.40)

THE ENVIRONMENT

The Scottish Office has issued recently two statistical bulletins, one on the change in land use in Scotland and one on environmental monitoring.

Land Use Change (1 (E) 1989)

The land use change bulletin details the results of the third and fourth years (1987 and 1988) of a seven year trial project on changes in land use in Scotland. The trial, which is underway throughout Great Britain, is based on information recorded by Ordnance Survey surveyors in the course of their day-to-day work on map revision.

Environmental Monitoring (2 (E) 1989)

The environmental monitoring bulletin contains a summary of the environmental monitoring for radioactivity carried out in Scotland, over the period 1983 to 1987, as part of the statutory procedure for ensuring the safety of radioactive waste disposals from nuclear facilities. The bulletin draws together the results of the monitoring and presents the principal conclusions. It also considers the procedures underlying the monitoring.

Copies can be obtained from:

Scottish Office Library
Official Publications Sales
Room 1/44
New St Andrews House
Edinburgh EH1 3TA
Telephone: 031 244 4806 (GTN 7188)

COMPANY FINANCE

Companies in 1988-89

The annual publication *Companies in 1988-89* is a report to Parliament on matters within the Companies Act 1985 for the financial year ending 31 March 1989, prepared by the Department of Trade and Industry. It contains information on developments in company law, the work of Companies House and Companies Investigation Branch (CIB).

Since the 1987-88 issue the report has included an extended set of statistical tables on companies drawn from a number of sources. These are divided into nine sections:

- The size of the company register, including changes over time and analyses by region of registered office, by period of incorporation and by accounting reference date
- New company registrations during the year by type of company and by nominal capital

- Removals from the register and liquidations, including an industrial analysis of liquidations
- Legal proceedings under the Companies Acts, including types of offences and types of business investigated, disqualification orders, prosecutions and civil proceedings in the High Court for failure to deliver annual returns and accounts
- Accounts and accounting ratios for large and small companies, and size distributions by capital employed, turnover, trading profit and employment
- Changes over time in the number of companies registered for VAT by region and industrial sector, distribution of turnover by industry and comparison of turnover with other VAT units
- Numbers of foreign-based companies, limited partnerships and other types of business administered by Companies House
- Documents filed and searches carried out at Companies House, analysis of accounts filed by type and compliance rates for annual returns and accounts
- Income and costs of DTI Companies Division.

Reference

Companies in 1988-89 (HMSO) (price £11.50)

Cross-border acquisitions and mergers: Second quarter figures

An article appears in the 15 September 1989 issue of *British Business* which details cross border acquisitions and mergers.

The summary analysis shows that cross-border acquisitions and mergers by UK companies continued to run at a high level, exceeding acquisitions and mergers by overseas companies in the UK in the three months to June 1989. Both in value and in number, UK acquisitions overseas continued to far exceed foreign acquisitions and mergers in the UK, although the latter continued to increase.

Tables 2 to 6 give figures showing an area analysis and type of transaction.

Reference

British Business (Department of Trade and Industry) (price £1.40 net)

Company liquidity in the second quarter of 1989

The liquidity of large industrial and commercial companies, on a seasonally adjusted basis, fell slightly during the second quarter, as estimated from the quarterly survey of company liquidity. At the end of the second quarter the liquidity of both manufacturing companies and non-manufacturing companies was slightly lower than at the end of the first quarter.

An article which provides statistics showing ratios and assets and liabilities appears in *British Business* for 1 September 1989.

Reference

British Business (Department of Trade and Industry) (price £1.40)

OVERSEAS FINANCE AND TRADE

United Kingdom Balance of Payments 1989 Edition

The CSO Pink Book

The 1989 edition of the CSO Pink Book, containing detailed balance of payments figures for the last eleven years and summary figures from 1967, was published on 23 August. The Pink Book contains revisions to previously published figures reflecting mainly the incorporation of later information, although some changes result from improvements in the methods of estimating certain series.

The Pink Book presents more complete information than is published elsewhere and is the sole source for estimates of United Kingdom transactions with the countries and institutions of the European Community and the overseas earnings of United Kingdom financial institutions ('City' earnings). It also includes estimates of the levels of identified United Kingdom external assets and liabilities and discusses their significance. The annual transactions data are consistent with the quarterly series published in the September issue of *Economic Trends*.

As in previous years the Pink Book is divided into sections eg visible trade, services, transfers, transactions in United Kingdom external assets and liabilities, etc, with each section containing explanatory notes on the series covered and the sources of the data.

The data in the Pink Book, and where available those for earlier years not covered in this publication, are obtainable in computer-readable form as a CSO Databank Dataset. To help use this Dataset the appropriate CSO Databank identifiers are included in the Pink Book tables.

Reference

United Kingdom Balance of Payments, 1989 Edition (HMSO) (price £9.95 net) ISBN 0 11 620393 5

Overseas earnings from royalties net £24m in 1987

An article appears in the 15 September issue of *British Business* which outlines overseas earnings.

Net overseas earnings from royalties and similar transactions by UK companies were £24m in 1987. This estimate includes a number of significant changes. Figures for the transactions of oil companies operating in the UK have been included from 1984 onwards. In addition, a more extensive survey was conducted in 1987 and the methods used to prepare estimates for all concerns were reviewed. The estimates previously published from 1984 onwards have been revised to take account of these changes.

This article presents figures of overseas royalty transactions in 1987 obtained for the invisibles account of the UK balance of payments from the Department of Trade and Industry's (now the Central Statistical Office's) overseas transactions inquiry for that year.

Estimates reflect a number of important changes from those made in earlier years. The inquiry from which the estimates were made was conducted on a wholly statutory basis instead of, as previously, a partly statutory but largely voluntary basis. Also, additional concerns were approached in order to obtain better based overall estimates and estimates of receipts and payments by country. Hitherto, the country estimates have been only on a returns received basis. Also, the royalty transactions for oil companies operating in the UK have been included in the figures. Thus the estimates for 1987 now conceptually cover all concerns in the UK.

Reference

British Business (Department of Trade & Industry) (price £1.40)

New financial information on securities dealers

New statistical returns for securities dealers were introduced by the Bank of England at the end of March 1989. The returns cover an analysis of balance sheet assets and liabilities at end-quarter and details of transactions in securities and acquisitions of tangible fixed assets.

A more detailed analysis of balance sheet holdings of securities is provided annually at end-December. Also, annual income and expenditure information will be obtained from 1989. This information will significantly improve the coverage of securities dealers' transactions in the national financial accounts, including the balance of payments.

The new returns cover a panel of around 70 members of The Securities Association (TSA), accounting for about four fifths of the assets of all non-bank TSA members. The information is being used to improve progressively the estimates in various aspects of the financial accounts eg see article on balance of payments figures for the second quarter of 1989 in *Economic Trends* for September 1989.

A *British Business* survey of work by UK construction consultants overseas

Consultants are among Britain's major invisible earners and are to be found working on a wide range of projects around the world. An article in *British Business* for 29 September 1989 summarises some of the current and recent overseas work of British architects, consulting engineers and surveyors.

The amount of overseas business being won by Britain's consulting engineers is growing. New work recorded last year by members of the Association of Consulting Engineers (ACE) was worth £9.708m - a 19 per cent increase.

The capital value of projects under way abroad at the end of 1988, or completed during the year, is estimated to be £32.8bn.

The scale of British engineering consultants' activities around the world, reflects the profession's long history of taking its skills to wherever they are needed.

The current issue of the ACE's annual survey of overseas work entrusted to its members points out that while new work in the Middle East in 1988 remained relatively low, the value

of new commissions in Africa increased significantly; and the number of new commissions in the Far East almost doubled compared with 1987.

Reference

British Business, (Department of Trade and Industry) (price £1.40 net)

PUBLICATIONS

Input-output tables for the United Kingdom 1985

Input-output tables for the United Kingdom for the year 1985 have been compiled and are available from the Central Statistical Office. The tables are an update of the benchmark input-output tables for the year 1984¹. These benchmark tables were based on the 1984 inquiry into purchases of materials and fuels for the production industries.

There was no corresponding detailed inquiry into the purchases of materials and fuels for 1985, and the purchasing structures of industries for 1984 were used in the compilation of the input-output tables for 1985, apart from the industries most affected by the coal strike of 1984/85.

The tables for 1985 are consistent with the national accounts estimates for that year as published in the 1988 edition of the *United Kingdom National Accounts* (the Blue Book). The 1985 tables publication contains only the tables as published for 1984, without accompanying notes, and should not be used without consulting the explanatory notes, classifications etc of the 1984 publication.

The 1985 tables publication price is £9.95, and the set of two floppy disks containing all the data held in the publication costs a further £20. As for 1984, a set of industry by industry tables can also be obtained as hard copy and on disk at an extra cost of £10. For copies of the publication and disks, and any inquiries regarding the tables, contact:

The input-output section
Branch C1
Central Statistical Office
Great George Street
London SW1P 3AQ
Telephone inquiries: 01-270-6062

Reference

Input-output tables for the United Kingdom 1985 (HMSO 1988, price £19.95) ISBN 0 11 620299 8

The Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin

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

Company profitability and finance

This article, which continues an annual series, reviews the performance of UK industrial and commercial companies in 1988. The rapid increase in demand during the year was reflected in a further strong increase in company profits - indeed ICCs' profitability was at its highest level for 25 years. Investment was also exceptionally strong. However, as a result

of buoyancy of capital expenditure and rising dividend payments, companies moved into financial deficit and their net liquidity fell very rapidly - though their holdings of bank deposits continued to rise.

A survey of interest rate futures

This article, one in an occasional series of background articles for the general reader explaining how different financial markets and other parts of the financial system work, surveys the development of interest rate futures in the context of the internationalisation of world financial markets. The article provides a basic description of the various types of interest rate futures and their traditional uses and users and offers some statistics of trading, broken down by exchange, geographical area and instrument. Some of the economic factors underlying the growth of interest rate futures are described and some explanations offered for the successes and failures of individual contracts.

Invisible earnings of the UK commodities and financial futures markets

This short article describes the findings of an enquiry, conducted by the Bank earlier this year, to measure the extent of invisible earnings by the UK commodities and futures markets. This enquiry, part of a wider programme of work to improve the quality of balance of payments statistics against the background of large positive balancing items over recent years, was designed to obtain a simple but updated estimate of the contribution of these markets to UK invisibles earnings, a contribution which had not been measured reliably for more than ten years.

The Single European Market: Survey of the UK financial services industry

In February 1988, the City Liaison Committee commissioned a survey by the Bank of England on preparations of the Single European Market, with a view to raising awareness within the industry of the planned completion of the internal market and promoting a dialogue about it between financial institutions and the authorities. This article, which summarises the Bank's report on the survey, concentrates on the major themes that emerged from it and is mainly a synthesis of market views, supplemented by a Bank assessment of certain key issues.

Capital flight

The new debt strategy, with its increased emphasis on debt reduction, also calls on debtor countries to adopt policies that would encourage their residents to reverse outflows of flight capital. This note examines some of the causes of capital flight and the various approaches that have been adopted in attempts to measure it and briefly considers the prospects for its reversal.

Other items

The August *Bulletin* also reproduces the Governor's lecture to the Institute of Economic Affairs on possible approaches to economic and monetary union in Europe; the Governor's Ernest Sykes Memorial Lecture on challenges facing the sterling wholesale payment systems; and a speech by Mr Ian Plenderleith, Head of the Bank's Gilt-Edged Division, on the evolution of the sterling bond market over the past ten years.

The Bank's *Quarterly Bulletin* (£7.50 per copy or £27 for an annual subscription) may be obtained from:

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

National Institute Economic Review

1992: Removing the barriers by Ad van de Gevel and David G Mayes

Removing the technical, fiscal and physical barriers within the European Community is a complex process that requires far more than merely passing legislation in Brussels. In the case of technical harmonisation a long series of voluntary agreements is required which will continue well after 1992. This note explains the 'new approach' to technical harmonisation in Europe and its origins. It sets out the meaning of the various concepts of standardisation, regulation and certification and shows the economic forces encouraging and discouraging voluntary agreement on standards. It suggests there are limits to which harmonisation is desirable and to which European standards can be used as a source of competitive advantage for European firms.

How Europe would see the new British initiative for standardising vocational qualifications by S J Prais

The UK Government's intention of improving vocational training may not be helped by the principles on which the newly-formed National Council for Vocational Qualifications is operating. This article points to three differences from the vocational systems of other important and successful European economies such as France and Germany. (a) An additional (lower) level of qualification has been introduced as a result of which British qualifications are, confusingly, out of step with those agreed by the European Community (eg UK Level 3 corresponds to EC level 2). (b) There is no requirement for external examination to ensure objectivity and nationwide currency. (c) The lower additional level of qualification in Britain is too narrow and lacking in depth for it to correspond with a European vocational qualification.

Special Articles

Routes to economic integration: 1992 in the European Community by J A Kay and M V Posner

1992 is a staging post on the route to European economic integration. For Britain, the real issues are not national sovereignty versus supranationalism, but the choice between a liberal, market orientated path to integration and a planned, centralised one. The paper assesses these options as they arise in regulatory policies, in industrial strategy, and in the monetary and fiscal policies facing the Community. It recognises that there are major policy areas where the creation of a central authority is essential but concludes that the market route is often the right - and the only feasible - approach.

Comparative properties of models of the UK economy by P G Fisher, S K Tanna, D S Turner, K F Wallis and J D Whitley
This paper describes the properties of five major macro-econometric models of the UK economy, through analysis of six standard policy simulations. The simulations are conducted, as far as possible, in a consistent manner across the models. The models were deposited with the ESRC Macro-modelling Bureau in late 1988 and this paper follows comparative analysis of previous model vintages in this Review and in earlier Bureau publications.

The paper highlights differences between the models that emerge from the treatment of exchange rates, imports, consumption and price adjustment. Recent changes to the models are shown to have increased simulation differences between them.

Reference

National Institute Review No. 129 August 1989 issue is available from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, 2 Dean Trench Street, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HE (price annual subscription £55.00 net or £15.00 per single issue).

CONFERENCES

International Labour Conference 1989 - 7th June to 28 June 1989

The ILO (International Labour Organisation) is an agency of the United Nations which aims to improve workers standards and conditions of work and to encourage productive employment throughout the world. Alone among UK agencies it is a tripartite organisation on which employers and workers are represented as well as governments.

An article in the August 1989 *Employment Gazette* gives details of the 76th session of the International Labour Conference, which was held in Geneva from June 7 to 28, and took place almost 70 years after the first session in Washington in October 1919.

Reference

Employment Gazette, August 1989 (HMSO) (price £3.80 net)

The Warwick University On-Line Business Information Workshop 12 December 1989

The University of Warwick Business Information Service is holding a one-day workshop to give participants practical experience of a number of major business databases. It will take place on Tuesday, 12 December 1989 in the University Library.

The workshop will cover the following databases: Datastream, Textline, Harvest and Micro-exstat. It is also likely that there will be a number of CD ROM products available. Experienced staff will give a teaching session on each database and there will then be an opportunity for each participant to practise on the full range of databases.

The fee which includes tea, coffee and lunch will be £90 for subscribers to the Business Information Service and £100 for non-subscribers.

For further details contact Margaret Brittin at University of Warwick Business Information Service, The Library, Gibbett Hill Road, Coventry CV4 7AL. Telephone: 0203 523251/523051, Fax: 0203 524211, Telex: 31406.

European Market Data and 1992 - 27 February 1989

With 1992 in mind the University of Warwick Business Information Service is organising a one-day seminar on where to find statistics and business information on Europe. It will take place on Tuesday 27 February 1990 at the University's Radcliffe House Conference Centre.

Most people agree that the abolition of trade barriers throughout Europe and the subsequent creation of a single market in 1992 will open up a whole host of new opportunities for British business. Not only will it give companies access to new customers and markets with the possibility of developing new products, but it will also give them the chance to build up contacts with other firms. Conversely, they are likely to face increased competition from foreign firms - competition which in order to move forward they must monitor, along with other technical, legal and political developments. To be able to take advantage of these opportunities they must therefore have access to reliable, fast, update information.

The seminar will look at the wide range of information sources available from both official and non-official sources, including market data (production, trade), market research, company information and on-line information.

The fee, which includes tea, coffee, lunch and background papers, will be £110 for subscribers to the Business Information Service and £120 for non-subscribers.

For further details contact Margaret Brittin at the University of Warwick Business Information Service, University of Warwick Library, Gibbett Hill Road, Coventry CV4 7AL. Telephone: 0203 523051/523251.

The Fourth International Roundtable on Business Survey Frames, Newport, Gwent, 9 to 12 October 1989

This international conference has just been held in Newport, Gwent. This is the first time that the conference has come to the United Kingdom. The sessions on the first day were held at the offices of the CSO in Newport. The Parkway Hotel and Conference Centre, Cwmbran, was the location on the other three days. The conference was opened on the first day by Jack Hibbert, Director of the CSO and Head of the Government Statistical Service, and was attended by representatives of the statistical services of Australia, New Zealand, Canada, USA, Japan, France, Irish Republic, Sweden, Netherlands and Denmark, together with EUROSTAT and the United Nations.

The aim of each Roundtable conference is to gradually increase the harmonisation, international understanding and communication of statistical matters with particular emphasis on the construction of sound and consistent sampling frames.

A further article will appear in a subsequent issue of *Statistical News*.

International Conference on Survey Design, Methodology and Analysis 4 to 7 July 1990

This conference is being organised by the Institute of Statisticians in association with the International Association of Survey Statisticians at the University of Essex, Colchester, England.

Sessions are planned on:

Automating the survey process	Post-stratification
Panels and cohorts	Log-linear analysis
Opinion poll methodology	Multi-level analysis
Sampling of minority groups	Teaching of survey research methods
Non-sampling errors	Computer software for survey research
Data fusion	

The following have already agreed to participate:

H Goldstein	(Institute of Education, London University)
B Hedges	(SCPR, London)
D Holt	(Southampton University)
G Kalton	(Michigan University)
W Keller	(Netherlands Central Bureau of Statistics)
N Moon	(National Opinion Polls, London)
D Rose	(ESRC Research Centre, Essex University)
P Shepherd	(City University, London)
T M F Smith	(Southampton University)
G Upton	(Essex University)

The conference will include invited talks, contributed papers, poster sessions, and demonstrations of commercial and non-commercial computer software. If you wish to present a contributed paper, to make a contribution to a poster session, or to present a demonstration of non-commercial computer software, please send a synopsis of your intended contribution as soon as possible (and by 1 January 1990 at the latest) to the Technical Convenors at the address below.

For further information write to:

The Administrative Convenor
IoS/IASS 1990 Summer Conference
The Institute of Statisticians
50 Fitzroy Street
London W1P 5HS
ENGLAND

GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL SERVICE

Review of Regular Surveys

All surveys to businesses and local authorities are subject to a quinquennial departmental review and a report which is monitored by the Survey Control Unit and cleared by Ministers. The following surveys have recently had a completed review. Any enquiries concerning a survey or its review should be made to the appropriate departmental contact point given below.

I Surveys to businesses

Purchases Inquiry

Ms W Fader
Central Statistical Office
Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
Newport
Gwent NP9 1XG
Telephone: 0633 81 2892

II Surveys to local authorities

Teachers with scottish qualifications employed in administration
Nursery school or attached nursery department
Nursery school teacher return
Primary school summary
Primary school statistical return
Primary school teacher return
Secondary school summary return
Secondary school statistical return
Secondary school teacher return
Special school summary
Special school statistical return
Special school teacher return
Pupils receiving education other than at school
Estimate of secondary teacher shortage or surplus

Dr D Bruce
Scottish Education Department
43 Jeffrey Street
Edinburgh EH1 1DN

Appointments and changes

Dr S Nandy G7 (Statistician) transferred on secondment from Department of the Environment to the University Funding Council on temporary promotion to G6 with effect from 30 October 1989.

Alphabetical Index

The index to *Statistical News* covers the last nine issues. Page numbers are prefixed by the issue number, e.g. 80.34 signifies number 80, page 34.

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

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