Statistical News

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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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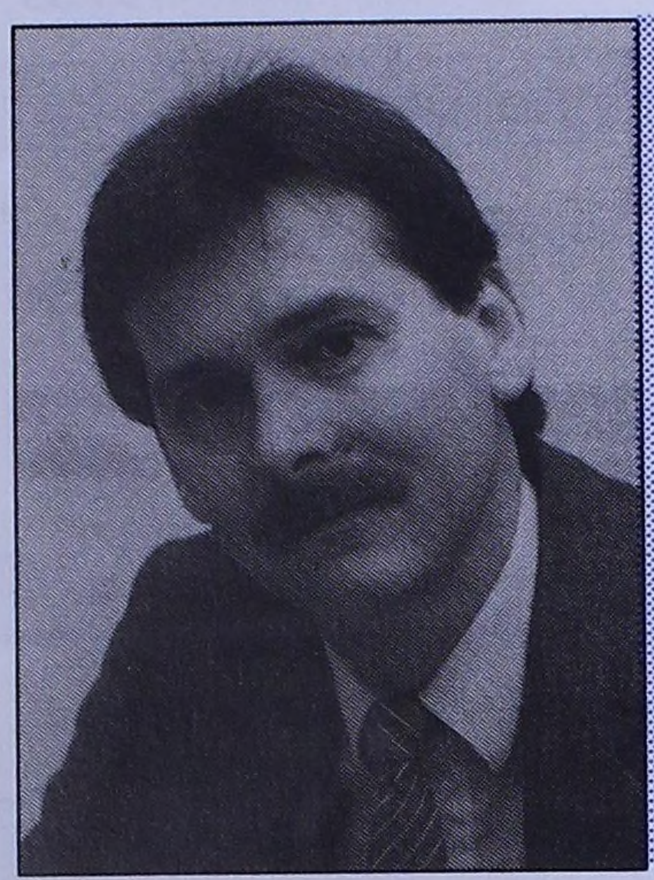
The Computerisation of School Census, Assessment and Examination Information in Wales



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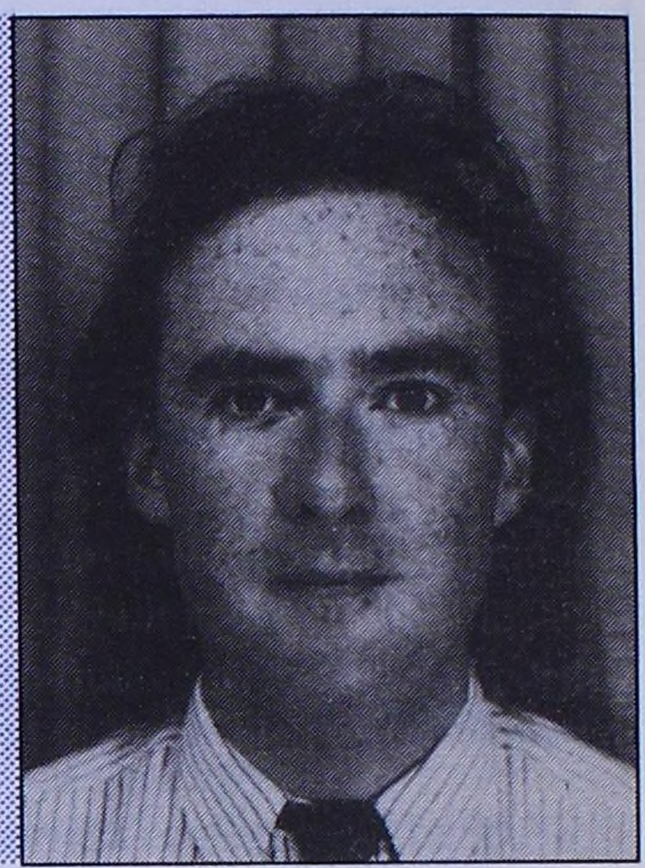

Introduction

As part of the National Curriculum, in the summer of 1991 pupils in primary schools were assessed for the first time in English, Mathematics and Science. In addition, pupils in some schools in Wales were also assessed in Welsh or through the medium of Welsh. The need to capture national data to evaluate the experience of the 1991 exercise in Wales required that information be gathered not only about the attainments in the subjects themselves, but also the language medium used during the assessment.

In order to minimise the burdens on primary teachers in Wales, the Welsh Office and the Welsh Local Education Authorities co-operated in the development of a computer based system to assist them in the recording of assessments. This system was conceived as part of the overall Welsh Office strategy for Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) for statistical information in the educational sector.

This article describes the progress made in Wales to implement EDI, computerise data collection systems and eliminate paper statistical returns.

The Welsh Office computer strategy for education data

Statistical information is required by the Welsh Office from all Local Education Authorities (LEAs) maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools in Wales; some 2,000 institutions. The implementation of the National Curriculum and Parents' Charter brings with it increased data requirements and consequently places new statistical demands on schools. They have to provide statistical information to a number of bodies including the Welsh Office, LEAs and parents.

The administration and financial management duties placed on head teachers by Local Management of Schools (LMS) reduces the time available for completing statistical enquiries and this is reflected in

the quality of responses. The need to improve the methods of collection and the quality of statistical information while reducing the burden on teachers provided the ideal opportunity to implement an Electronic Data Interchange project.

Three main threads were identified as crucial to its success:

(i) common standards of data definition;
(ii) a clear definition of current and future statistical information requirements;
(iii) the establishment of electronic communications between all parties.

With a view to developing an overall strategy of EDI the Welsh Office set up two groups. The first considered issues of information requirements; the second advised on the implementation of the IT implications of the former's recommendations. The Statistical Information Requirements and Computerisation groups (SIRAC) now form an integral part of Welsh Office education statistics consultation and implementation. All LEAs are represented, as are teachers, the Training and Enterprise Department, Welsh Office statisticians and policy makers and the examining board for Wales, the Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC).

Recognising the growing use of IT in schools the primary aim of the strategy was to computerise the School Census (or STATS 1) for both primary and secondary schools by 1993. This census gathers detailed information about pupils and teachers in schools. It was also agreed that all other data from schools and LEAs would be collected electronically by 1994. The WJEC, the main examining board in Wales (accounting for over 90 per cent of examination entries in schools in Wales) also agreed to use the system to process examination applications and the return of results to schools.

Working through these groups in 1991 all parties signed up to the same computer network so that links would be established between the Welsh Office, every LEA in Wales, the WJEC and the DES computer at Darlington. Education data transmission will now become automatic, speedy and efficient, and result in lower costs for the data provider and users.

Together with the computerisation of the STATS 1, the electronic collection, processing, validation and aggregation of the National Curriculum Key State 1 data in 1991 laid the groundwork for development in subsequent years.

National Curriculum data collection - the Welsh Office experience

In summer 1991 National Curriculum Key Stage 1 assessments were carried out on pupils aged 7 in schools for the first time. Assessments in Science and Mathematics were statutory as were those for English for those pupils educated through the medium of English. The assessment of Welsh as a subject was not statutory.

A total of 35,000 pupil assessments in three subjects had to be recorded. Each subject contained a number of Attainment Targets (ATs) and tests - Standard Assessment Tasks - the results of which had to be combined by applying a formula to each pupil's scores. In all 32 ATs were to be considered; firstly these had to be aggregated into Profile Components and then to Subject Outcomes. For all Key Stage 1 pupils in a school (that is, pupils aged 7) these had to be aggregated to give a school average, and similar aggregates for LEAs and for Wales. Furthermore the Welsh Office wished to study the effect that teaching through the medium of Welsh had on the assessments. All of this amounted to a substantial data collection exercise which would fall on primary school teachers.

In addition, it was known that, in order to report the results to parents, teachers needed to produce aggregated results from attainment targets to the profile components and subject outcomes, using complex rules of aggregation. The Welsh Office were also aware that LEAs wished to receive the data to assist them in targeting resources to undertake moderation, an exercise conducted by the LEAs to ensure standardization of assessment and to provide arbitration when teacher assessments and SAT assessments differed. LEAs also needed to receive data to inform themselves about the assessments carried out in schools.

In conjunction with the Welsh LEAs, the Welsh Office chose to develop the use of Optical Mark Readable record sheets for the gathering of data. Data Research Services were contracted by the Schools Examination and Assessment Council (SEAC) and the Welsh Office to assist in the design of a Pupil Record Sheet (PRS - a data input sheet) (Taflen Cofnod Disgybl or TCD for Welsh schools) to collect every assessment - both teacher assessments and Standard Assessment Tasks - for every pupil in Wales, an example of the English version of the form shown at **Fig.1.**

Fig.1.

PUPIL RECORD SHEET (PRS) - **National Curriculum Assessment : Key Stage 1**

Pupil Name:	Pupil Number:

School Name:

NC : Key Stage 1

Pupil Number

School Number

INSTRUCTIONS:

Please mark like this ▬

NOT like ✓ or ✗ or ⊘

SEX: Male ▭ Female ▭

Note: (D) =Disapplied
(N) =No result available
(W) =Working towards level 1

		ATTAINMENT TARGETS		For official use by LEA: PROFILE COMPONENTS		RESOLVED	
		TA Result	SAT Result	TA Result	Comb. Result	Sought	Outcome
ENGLISH Profile Component 1:							
Speaking and Listening	En 1	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)					
ENGLISH Profile Component 2:							
Reading	En 2	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)				(W) (1) (2) (3)
ENGLISH Profile Component 3:							
Writing	En 3	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)				(W) (1) (2) (3)
Spelling	En 4	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)				(W) (1) (2) (3)
Handwriting	En 5	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)				(W) (1) (2) (3)
		English SAT ▭	Welsh SAT ▭				
MATHEMATICS Profile Component 1:							
Using and applying mathematics: number etc.	Ma 1	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)				(W) (1) (2) (3)
Number and number notation	Ma 2	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)					
Number operations: +, -, x, ÷	Ma 3	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)				(W) (1) (2) (3)
Number: estimation and approximation	Ma 4	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)					
Number/Algebra: patterns, relationships etc.	Ma 5	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)				(W) (1) (2) (3)
Algebra: functions, formulae, etc.	Ma 6	(D) (N) (L) (2) (3)					
Measures: estimate and measure quantities	Ma 8	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)				(W) (1) (2) (3)
MATHEMATICS Profile Component 2:							
Using and applying mathematics: shape etc.	Ma 9	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)					
Shape and space: 2-D and 3-D shapes	Ma 10	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)				(W) (1) (2) (3)
Shape and space: location and transformation	Ma 11	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)					
Handling data: collect, record and process data	Ma 12	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)					
Handling data: represent and interpret data	Ma 13	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)				(W) (1) (2) (3)
Handling data: probabilities	Ma 14	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)					
		English SAT ▭	Welsh SAT ▭				
SCIENCE Profile Component 1:							
Exploration of Science	Sc 1	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)				(W) (1) (2) (3)
SCIENCE Profile Component 2:							
The variety of life	Sc 2	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)					
Processes of life	Sc 3	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)				(W) (1) (2) (3)
Genetics and evolution	Sc 4	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)					
Human influences on the Earth	Sc 5	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)				(W) (1) (2) (3)
Types and uses of material	Sc 6	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)				(W) (1) (2) (3)
Earth and atmosphere	Sc 9	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)					
Forces	Sc 10	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)					
Electricity and magnetism	Sc 11	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)					
Information technology and microelectronics	Sc 12	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)					
Energy	Sc 13	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)					
Sound and music	Sc 14	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)					
Using light and electromagnetic radiation	Sc 15	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)					
The Earth in space	Sc 16	(D) (N) (W) (1) (2) (3)					

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DRS DATA & RESEARCH SERVICES PLC/E38770191/GOKJ

The Welsh Office also contracted SIMS Ltd to prepare a software package capable of reading the marks on the PRS, calculating aggregated results and reporting both assessments and results for pupils. The package was subsequently provided free to all LEAs who then were able to offer teachers the service of calculation subject scores, provide a report on pupils' assessments for use within each school and assist schools in reporting to parents and governors. Once finalised, an anonymised school level database was dispatched by each LEA to the Welsh Office.

The benefits of the system were obvious: data were entered only once and validation built into the package meant that forms in error were corrected on initial optical reading by LEAs. Those errors that did arise resulted from damaged forms rather than from incorrect returns, however the final Subject Outcomes and Profile Component scores were calculated by the program and were thus error free.

The data collection exercise was remarkably successful. Teachers had few difficulties with the forms, and although some errors were apparent, the level of accuracy achieved at the end of the exercise was outstanding: the datasets returned to the Welsh Office were completely error free. Few problems were encountered while useful lessons were learned in respect of form design for the national curriculum data and the administration of the system within LEAs.

In future data on the National Curriculum will be transmitted from the school to the LEA via an LEA electronic communications network, where one exists, and onward to the Welsh Office. Most LEAs in Wales are establishing electronic communications to link all large schools or clusters of schools to the LEAs' central system. An essential element of the strategy is to utilise software that carries out data validation at source. In this way the need for arduous human validation required at the receiving destination (LEA, Welsh Office or WJEC) is minimised or removed.

The response from Headteachers and teachers to the data collection system was one of positive support and enthusiasm. The reduction in workload enabled individual teachers and Headteachers to concentrate upon the educational processes of assessment. The data were accurate and reliable. The computer accurately applied complex rules of aggregation and printed reports identified areas for consideration and allowed assessment support staff to address problems of omission and misinterpretation prior to reporting beyond the school.

Improving links between data providers and users raises the issue of confidentiality of information. With paper returns, the volume of data that can realistically be collected is limited by the compliance cost which can be placed upon the provider. Using mechanical procedures to extract information from a database all but removes these limits. It becomes even more important to provide adequate justification for those data which are collected and to ensure that the level of aggregation of statistical units is no more than the Welsh Office requires. Both of these issues were, and are, continually made clear to LEAs throughout discussions.

Key Stage 3 Research Project 1992

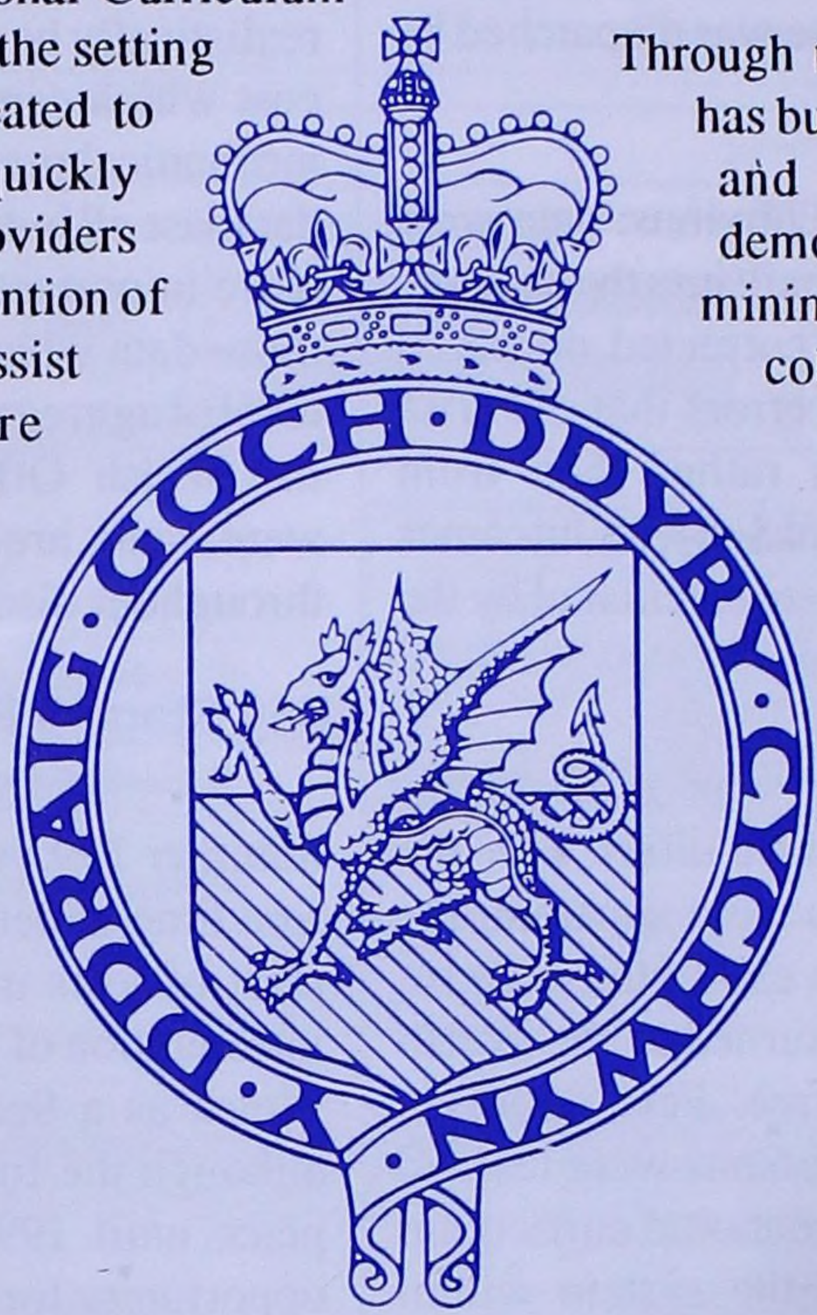
Summer 1992 will see 14 year olds assessed for the first time under the National Curriculum: a national pilot of tests in Maths and Science along with the introduction of assessment in technology, Welsh and Welsh as a Second Language, forms Key Stage 3 although the first statutory assessment will not take place until 1993. This year has provided an ideal opportunity for LEAs to collect, collate and transfer data to the Welsh Office. Unlike Key Stage 1, there are a variety of ways that a school may wish to collect the Key Stage 3 data depending for example, on the availability of IT equipment, clerical resources and so on. Through SIRAC a project group has been set up to allow LEAs to implement a number of options of their own for Key Stage 3. In the early Autumn they will report back on the success of each method and from this, considered guidance and preparation may be given for the first live round of Key Stage 3 reporting.

Conclusion

In the last three years the Welsh Office has made a considerable amount of progress in the way education data is collected. Foremost has been the intent to reduce the burden of data provision on schools and teachers and, if possible, remove it altogether.

1991 saw not only the first National Curriculum assessment of 7 year olds but also the setting up of new computer systems created to gather and transmit the data as quickly and efficiently as possible from providers to the variety of users. It is the intention of the Welsh Office to continue to assist in the development of more computerised systems to remove from schools the administrative burden associated with the collection of National Curriculum, examination and school census data. By 1994 it is hoped that the paper form will have been eliminated as a way of reporting all such data to LEAs and the Welsh Office and that it will be replaced by the efficient computerised transfer of data.

Through the SIRAC groups the Department has built up a relationship of co-operation and understanding with LEAs and demonstrated that the shared goals of minimising the amount of statistical data collected and the implementation of effective data collection systems are consistent with the provision of a timely and accurate statistical database to those interested in Education Statistics.



Welsh Office
Y Swyddfa Gymreig

ASSIST

by Christine Jeannette
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Department of Social Security

Introduction

ASSIST is being developed by the Analytical Services Division of the Department of Social Security. ASSIST stands for:

ANALYTICAL **S**ERVICES **S**TATISTICAL
INFORMATION **S**YS**T**EM

Analytical Services Division (ASD) is responsible for the provision of professional quantitative statistical support to the Department. This includes the collection of statistical sample data on Social Security Benefits and Contributions, the processing and analysis of these data and the production of statistical tables. The development of individual Projects for each Benefit, has over time resulted in an over complicated system where the frequency, sample size and method of processing can vary greatly. It is planned that these disparate projects will be replaced by a co-ordinated system - ASSIST.

ASSIST will provide:

- an improved statistical data service with on-line access to meet the Department's policy and parliamentary needs, incorporating information from each Benefit System and other statistical surveys within and without the Department;
- the necessary information for Analytical Services Division to analyse, monitor and forecast Benefits and to model policy options more effectively than is currently possible. It will also afford the opportunity to provide a more comprehensive service to Her Majesty's Treasury for public accountability purposes.

Background

The Department has over the last few years introduced a computerised Information Technology Strategy (more commonly referred to as the Operational Strategy) to computerise many of the Benefit Systems. The Department recognised that this was an excellent opportunity to reconsider how its own statistical information could be collected and handled. The origins of ASSIST lie in these developments and in the Information Needs for Policy Analysis (INPA) report.

The INPA report was presented to the Social Security Management Board in September 1987, and accepted. It contained recommendations to harmonise production of policy statistics to a common minimum standard across at least those Social Security Benefits which will be administered by the Operational Strategy. It also recommended the setting up of a Centralised Information Centre to achieve the desired objective.

Principal INPA recommendations are to:

- achieve standards across Operational Strategy projects;
- process statistics and disseminate results;
- link data across Benefits and through time;
- provide on line access for policy customers.

The first of these recommendations is outside of ASSIST control and is being handled separately. The second, third and fourth objectives are clear and are contained within the boundary which ASSIST can address.

The Scope and Boundary of ASSIST

The scope of the ASSIST project covers the provision and use of statistical information which comprises:

- Benefit data about the claimant population and the National Insurance contribution paying population;
- Survey data about the claimant population and the population as a whole.

The scope covers the life-cycle of statistical information from the raw data being specified by and supplied to ASD; through the processing, analysis, modelling and tabling within ASD; to the eventual use of the resulting analysis, modelling and statistical tables by the final recipients. It excludes management information and financial and/or accounting data which is addressed by other projects within the Department.

The boundary of ASSIST relates to the system that will meet the User Requirement. The proposed system encompasses all the data preparation and processing, and the production of statistical information. It excludes the DSS Benefit Systems and other government computer systems.

The User Requirement

The User Requirement is that the new system should provide:

- the data and functionality of the current system;
- solutions to the problems identified with the current system;
- new facilities to meet the identified additional requirements.

The problems identified with the current system and the additional requirements of the new system are detailed in a document called the Problems and Requirements List (PRL). The main requirements are listed as follows:

- **Analysis:** There are significant new requirements to be able to carry out more comprehensive analyses. The current system only allows for analysis of individual Benefits and for those Benefits analysis tends to be limited to one point in time. The new system is required to provide a common sample of those Benefits having National Insurance Number (NINo) as a common key. This will enable cross-Benefit analysis and analysis over time.
- **Tabling:** Standard and ad hoc tabling facilities must be available and the user must be provided with facilities to view statistical tables on screen.
- **Data requirements:** Analysis of the current system revealed a need for additional data to be collected. The system should be flexible to new data requirements.
- **Timeliness:** Data needs to be made available more rapidly for policy appraisal and public accountability.
- **Credibility checking:** More efficient and (where possible) automatic data correcting facilities should be provided.
- **User support:** The system must be easy to use and be flexible to new demands.
- **System security:** The system access and control facilities should allow data to be protected from unauthorised users and provide an audit trail throughout the life of the data.

ASSIST Users

As already mentioned, ASSIST will be used for statistical purposes only and will not be used in the administration of the Benefit System for individual claimants.

The users of ASSIST can be split into 3 broad groups: Central Group, Analysts and Policy.

Central Group are responsible for defining data and table specifications, data checking and associated rules, and checking tables and authorising distribution.

Members of the **Analyst Group** comprise the statisticians and other analysts in ASD and the Government Actuaries Department (GAD). The statisticians are the prime data owners and will have virtually unlimited access to all data and use of all functions of the system. The other analysts will have limited access to data strictly for analysis purposes.

The **Policy** users are those from Social Security Policy divisions, Finance division, the Benefits Agency, the Health and Safety Executive and the Inland Revenue. This group will primarily have access to the results of the analysts' work (tabulated data) which can be used for further analysis. Exceptionally some ad hoc tabling production may be required.

The Data and Current System

There are currently 51 separate statistical projects, 46 relating to specific Benefits, National Insurance Contributions and Social Security Appeals and five relating to Surveys. The projects have been established over many years as new Benefits have been introduced. They have been progressively modified to cater for changes in, for example, rules on entitlement and an increased requirement for statistical information. Two new projects are being developed for Disability Living Allowance and Disability Working Allowance.

Information is obtained both clerically and by magnetic media. Examples of those data received on magnetic media are: National Insurance Contributions; Retirement Pension; Child Benefit; most of Income Support; Family Credit; 90 percent of Unemployment Benefit and the Family Expenditure Survey. Examples of data collected through clerical enquiries are: Sickness/Invalidity Benefits and Industrial Disablement Benefit. As the Department's Operational Strategy Systems are implemented, more data will be received on magnetic media.

The current frequency, sample size and method of processing can vary greatly from one Statistical Project to another. Where data are collected clerically the frequency and sample size are constrained by the manpower required to complete and process returns. On computerised projects it is possible to increase the sample size to enable the production of more accurate statistics. The present clerical Sickness/Invalidity Benefit enquiry is based on a 1 per cent sample, whereas a 10 percent sample can be used for Retirement Pension where records are computerised. Some projects require a 100 percent sample due to the small numbers involved. The frequency can be monthly, quarterly, bi-annual or annual and can relate to calendar year or to tax year.

Each of the current statistical projects has its own independent set of procedures but the following areas of processing are common to most.

Clerical returns are received by a branch of ASD (ASD1) at Newcastle. The data are input to a mainframe computer through Processor Controlled Keying, and subjected to credibility checking tests. Similar tests are applied to the data received on magnetic media. Data which fail these tests are output to ASD1 for clerical resolution, a process which can sometimes involve raising queries with the data suppliers. For some projects ASD1 use microcomputer systems to re-enter or correct data rather than submitting for re-keying.

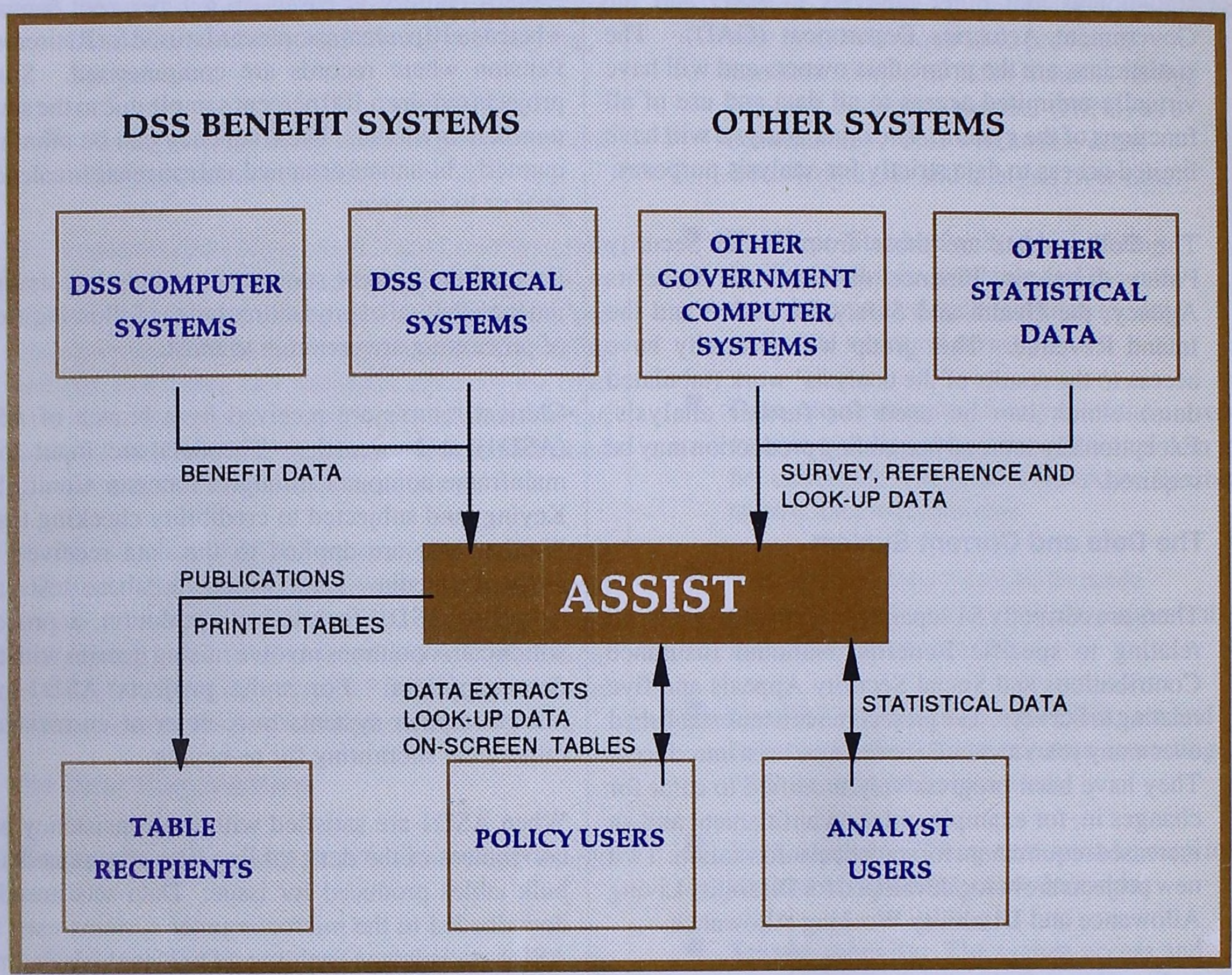
When ASD1 are satisfied with the consistency and correctness of the data, tabling files are created and bulk tables produced for issue. Data sets are also downloaded to the microcomputer systems used by ASD1 statisticians enabling ad hoc analysis and the production of further tables and reports.

Most of this work takes place within ASD1 in Newcastle, but other branches of ASD in London have responsibility for Family Credit, Social Fund and Disability Working Allowance statistics.

As well as using the statistics produced from information from the Benefit and Contribution systems, the Department also makes use of data from major government surveys and ad hoc surveys from a variety of sources in their analytical work. The survey data principally relates to information about the household, the family and its expenditure.

The Proposed System

ASSIST will be primarily an Information System that will process data obtained from both DSS and non-DSS sources and supply information to Users. The ASSIST environment can be generally represented by the following diagram:



All statistical data currently available to Analyst and Policy Users will be held by ASSIST. There are three basic types of data:

- **Benefit data:** Relating to each Social Security benefit and National Insurance Contribution in the form of either individual cases (ie records per claimant) or aggregates (ie total numbers of claimants by characteristic of claim/claimant);

- **Survey data:** Produced from various surveys ranging from regular surveys (eg the Family Expenditure Survey and the General Household Survey) to ad hoc surveys (eg the OPCS Disability Survey) which may be commissioned by the DSS or outside organisations;

- **Look-up data:** Which falls outside of the above categories and basically comprises frequently referred to data (eg Contribution Tables from Social Security Statistics, Benefit Rates and the Retail Prices Index) which will be held in the form of look-up tables.

Several versions of each dataset will be held accommodating sample frequency and data state (ie the level of data cleanliness). The data will be maintained on this basis to permit the production of tables reflecting time series, Single-Benefit Analysis, and Cross-Benefit Analysis. Tabling will also be possible against data in various stages of cleanliness when authorised by the data owner.

ASSIST will receive data from suppliers and provide facilities to support:

- data validation and credibility checking;
- data derivation, manipulation and analysis;
- production of statistical tables;
- extraction and/or downloading of data sub-sets for statistical processing and subsequent analysis (two key features to be provided are Cross-Benefit Analysis and analysis over time);
- data retention and archive processes;
- on-screen viewing of tables;
- access control to both data and functions.

Development Phases of ASSIST

The development phases of the project follow Structured Systems Analysis and Design Methodology (SSADM) procedures. These are as follows:

- Current system definition - production of a detailed definition of the current system;
- Problems and requirements - identification of the problems with the current system and requirements of the new system;
- Definition of the required system -provision of a description of 'what' ASSIST will do but without the burden of describing 'how' it will be achieved;
- Logical design phase - addresses the Required System in greater detail but without any reference to hardware or software;
- Physical design phase - ' how' ASSIST will be implemented in terms of hardware and software;
- Implementation.

The project is currently in the Logical Design phase with implementation scheduled for late 1993.

Summary

The current system for production of DSS Contributions and Benefit statistics is over complicated, being based on 51 disparate projects. ASSIST is being developed to replace this with a coordinated system that will provide all that is currently provided plus:

- cross-benefit analysis;
- on-line access to data;
- data over time;
- on-line query service.

In general terms ASSIST will take advantage of the latest proven technology and accrue maximum benefit from the more accurate and timely data available from the Operational Strategy Systems. It will be sufficiently flexible to handle changes to existing Benefits and to take on new Benefits as they may arise.

OPCS Omnibus Survey - The First Twelve Months

OPCS
OFFICE OF POPULATION CENSUSES & SURVEYS

By Irene Rauta
Social Survey Division
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Introduction

The OPCS Omnibus Survey was launched in October 1990 after a period of development work. In this the feasibility of the project was established and a demand identified among government departments and other public bodies for an OPCS service similar to that provided by commercial omnibus surveys. The requirement appeared to be for a survey which would provide quick results, based on relatively short and simple sets of questions, of a reliability which government users were not always confident of obtaining from the private sector. In particular, OPCS was expected to provide a better response rate from a properly designed probability random sample. Few commercial omnibus surveys use probability samples and those that do tend to achieve response rates a good deal lower than those which OPCS felt able to promise. Another requirement, of course, was that the service should not be too expensive. So, as with most projects, a balance had to be struck between speed, quality and cost.

Basic Design

It was clear that the needs of most potential customers would best be served by interviewing a representative sample of adult individuals. From such a sample, data about the informants themselves could be collected and it would also be possible to collect information about the households to which they belonged. In order to minimise clustering of individuals and maximise the size of the sample of households covered, it was decided that only one individual per household should be interviewed. All interviews needed to be face-to-face with the selected individual (without proxies); this would give scope for the use of a wide variety of interviewing techniques.

The survey is based, then, on personal interviews with a randomly selected sample of about 2,000 adults living in private households[1] in Great Britain each month. Each month a new sample is selected from the Postcode Address File (PAF). A new selection of 100 sampling points, postal sectors, is made every month as this minimises the effect of clustering on sampling error when data are aggregated over a period of two or more months. The frame of postal sectors is stratified by region, the proportion of households renting local authority accommodation and an economic indicator[2]. Thirty households, a number which can be covered by one interviewer in the field period, are selected in each postal sector (only one from each multi-household address selected). One adult (aged 16 or over) is selected randomly for interview from each household and data are reweighted to correct for different probabilities of selection from households containing different numbers of adults. Interviewing takes place during two weeks of every calendar month throughout the year and results are available within four weeks of the completion of field work.

Notes

[1] **The survey does not attempt to cover the institutional population. Sampling and interviewing in institutions and communal establishments is a difficult, expensive and lengthy process and could not be undertaken in a survey designed to maximise speed and economy.**

[2] **The proportion of heads of household in Socio-economic groups 1-5 and 13.**

Interviewing is carried out by members of the Social Survey Division's regular field force. The interview, which normally lasts for about half an hour, is modular in form. The first and last modules are always the same, consisting of questions asking for a variety of demographic and classificatory data at the individual and household levels. The intervening modules - those asked for by customers - can change every month, though many are retained for longer than one month or repeated from time to time.

Although the sample is one of individual adults and the natural unit of analysis is the individual, the Omnibus has been used to collect information at household level for analysis at that level. It is also possible to collect simple factual information about other members of the household. Since the Omnibus visits about 24,000 households annually it has considerable potential as a means of identifying sub-groups for follow-up interviewing by SSD interviewers or by post or telephone.

Output

The standard service within the four-week timetable has, until recently, included provision of nine tables for each question in the customer's module, giving breakdowns by a selection of classificatory variables. Data from the customer's module together with all the classificatory data are also supplied on disk. This is normally in the form of an SPSS portable file but some other formats can be provided by arrangement. A short technical report, giving details of the sample design, response rate and weighting is supplied with the tables. Non-standard tabulations and other kinds of analysis or output can be provided although not always quite as quickly.

During the first twelve months the standard output has always been supplied to clients within the promised four weeks after completion of field work, and often much earlier. Modules which are exactly repeated from earlier months can be analysed more quickly than new modules (and for this reason attract a 20 per cent discount). Through the first twelve months the proportion of repeat modules has naturally tended to increase and it has become clear that a rather more flexible service can be provided within the same timetable.

Feedback from clients suggests that a somewhat cheaper and less voluminous basic output, with the option to buy additional tables as required, would be popular. This is now on offer. For a lower basic fee customers are now provided with tabulations by age, age within sex and region only and can order, for a small additional charge per table, tabulations using any of the classificatory variables or cross-tabulations of their own questions. Most of these can be supplied within the normal four-week timetable, along with the basic tables, the disk and the technical report, though rather longer might be needed for complex analyses such as those using variables derived from several questions.

OPCS does not, as with most of its surveys, publish reports on Omnibus Survey modules (although individual clients may do so) but the data are deposited with the ESRC Data Archive at Essex University for secondary analysis by academic researchers and others.

Response Rates

The survey was originally designed to provide an achieved sample of about 2,000 interviews per month on the assumption that the response rate would be at least 75 per cent. Allowance is made in the set sample for the fact that about 12 per cent of addresses in the small users PAF file from which the sample is selected are empty or contain no resident households. Because of the need for speed and economy, Omnibus interviewers are restricted to a two-week field period and to a limited number of journeys to the sampling point and limited working hours. In spite of this, response rates have never fallen as low as the target of 75 per cent, even during the summer months when many people go on holiday.

	Response rate %	Achieved sample
October 1990	79	2,081
November 1990	80	2,144
December 1990	80	2,128
January 1991	80	2.154
February 1991	76	1,987
March 1991	79	2,078
April 1991	85	2,214
May 1991	79	2,059
June 1991	81	2,123
July 1991	80	2,106
August 1991	80	2,110
September 1991	80	2,113

The response rate fell to 76 per cent in February when the interview was a good deal longer than it had been in earlier months. The sample size in that month fell slightly below the target of 2,000 because the proportion of ineligible addresses (e.g. empty houses) in the set sample of 3,000 was rather higher than expected - 13 per cent compared with the usual 11 per cent or 12 per cent. The interview planned for March was even longer than the February interview so new field procedures were introduced which now allow interviewers more flexibility in the time they spend in the field during months when the interview is longer than usual. This was successful in raising the response rate to 79 per cent in March, in spite of a very long interview, and a similar rate has been maintained since then.

Feedback from both interviewers and informants suggests that it is relatively easy to gain co-operation from people who are asked to take part and that informants find the interview enjoyable. This is partly because the interview is fairly short but the variety and topicality of the subjects covered help to capture informants' interest. The inevitable discontinuities in subject matter present no problem and there have been very few negative reactions to questions on potentially sensitive topics.

Question Design and Topics Covered

Although the Omnibus Survey was set up to meet a demand for quick results based on relatively simple questions, experience has shown that it is only exceptionally that clients provide a set of simple questions which can be included without substantial design input from OPCS. Sometimes quite prolonged consultation is necessary and there may be a consultancy fee, although some question design is allowed for in the basic charges. OPCS will always advise on the most economical ways of obtaining the required information.

With some modules it has been necessary to communicate complex ideas to the informant and even in the simpler modules careful attention to definitions is often called for. Many of the subjects covered have been potentially sensitive and of a kind that in most surveys would be asked in a self-completion questionnaire rather than orally. In order to avoid a proliferation of field documents which would complicate and delay the processing of data, the Omnibus Survey uses a different method to protect the informant's privacy. Sensitive questions are printed on a card which is handed to the informant who answers by reading out the code number of the appropriate pre-coded response. This technique has been used successfully with quite lengthy modules.

During the first twelve months, questions on the following topics have been included in the Omnibus:

Mortgage arrears
Shared ownership
Second homes
Number of rooms
Change of address
GP practices
Health screening by pharmacists and self-testing kits
Private medical insurance
Disability
Psychiatric morbidity
General health and use of health services
Use of services by the elderly
Satisfaction with the NHS
Smoking
Contraception
Condom use

Food safety
Attitudes towards the police
Crime prevention
Personal background experience
Satisfaction with aspectsof life
Payment for water and sewerage
Energy conservation
Employer provided cars & mobile telephones
Telephone ownership & directory listing
Knowledge of workplace, of other household members
Ownership of shares
The armed forces
Census publicity
Pension schemes
Fire safety

Representativeness of the Achieved Sample

The extent to which the Omnibus sample design and the relatively high response rates have achieved samples representative of the population is indicated in the comparisons given in the following tables. The tables show distributions by Standard Region and by age within sex of the Omnibus achieved sample and the most recent population estimates available, those for mid-1990. Distributions are shown for the Omnibus sample aggregated over the first twelve months and comparable distributions from the 1990 General Household Survey are also given. It can be seen that the GHS and Omnibus distributions differ only slightly. As an illustration of monthly variation, distributions for July, August and September 1991 are also given.

	Population estimates mid-1990	GHS 1990	..... Omnibus Oct.1990-Sept.1991	July 1991	August 1991	Sept. 1991
Standard Region	%	%	%	%	%	%
North	6	6	6	7	5	6
Yorks & Humberside	9	9	9	9	10	8
North West	11	11	12	11	12	12
East Midlands	7	8	7	7	7	7
East Anglia	4	4	4	4	4	4
West Midlands	9	9	10	11	10	10
Greater London	12	11	11	10	11	11
South East	19	20	19	19	18	19
South West	8	9	8	8	9	8
Wales	5	6	5	5	5	6
Scotland	9	9	9	7	8	8

		Population estimates mid-1990	GHS 1990	.....Omnibus..... Oct.1990-Sept.1991	July 1991	August 1991	Sept. 1991
Sex and age-group		%	%	%	%	%	%
Male:	16-24	9	7	7	8	7	7
	25-44	18	18	17	16	16	18
	45-54	7	7	7	8	7	6
	55-64	6	6	7	7	7	6
	65-74	5	5	6	6	6	5
	75 & over	3	3	3	3	3	3
Female:	16-24	8	8	7	6	8	7
	25-44	18	19	20	21	20	22
	45-54	7	8	8	8	8	8
	55-64	7	7	7	6	7	7
	65-74	6	6	7	6	7	6
	75 & over	6	5	5	5	5	5

Like most sample surveys, the Omnibus Survey tends to under-represent slightly certain groups of people who are hard to find at home and who, even when found, may be less willing than others to give up time for an interview. For a variety of reasons, response rates in London tend to be lower than those in other parts of Great Britain and the Omnibus and GHS samples both include a rather smaller proportion of adults in Greater London than exist in the population.

The Omnibus sample slightly under-represents people in the 16-24 age-group who are often out when interviewers call. Men aged 25-44 are also slightly under-represented although women in this age-group, who often have young children, are rather over-represented.

Women in the oldest age-group, who are disproportionately likely to be too ill or frail to be interviewed, are also somewhat under-represented.

Although the bias in the twelve-month sample is not great, samples for individual months can show rather more deviation from the population estimates. Weighting to correct for bias in the distributions by region and age-group within sex has been applied to a number of modules to examine the effect but, in general, this is slight. Estimates can be changed by a few percentage points when variables are closely associated with age or region but relatively few modules are included in the Omnibus Survey in order to obtain very precise estimates. Weighted data can be provided, however, at the client's request.

New surveys notified to the Survey Control Unit

January to March 1992

For further information about the survey listed, the appropriate contact may be obtained from Miss J DineHart (071-217 4340), Survey Control Unit, Central Statistical Office, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QU.

New Surveys January to March 1992

Title	Department	Those approached	Approx. number approached each year	Location	Frequency
Monthly production stocks inquiry	CSO	Manufacturers	1800	UK	M
Investment in UK companies by overseas companies	CSO	Companies	N/K	UK	Q
Annual inquiry into overseas earnings for consultants 1991	CSO	Consultants	2250	GB	A
Survey of charities	CSO	Charities	4500	UK	AH
Insurance companies-quarterly income and expenditure	CSO	Insurance companies	436	UK	Q
Annual inquiry into overseas earnings of the advertising industry - 1991	CSO	Advertising Industry	250	GB	A
Newtown Hotel survey	DBRW WO	Businesses	90	W	AH
Renewable energy potential in the South West electricity (SWEB) area	DEN ETSU	District councils	110	SW	AH
Monitoring and targetting programme: Post completion review - Phase II	DEN	Industrial Companies	350	UK	AH
New practice energy efficient design for small/medium sized private builders including labelling	DEN BRE	Private builders	40	E	AH
School governors retention	DES COI	Education Authorities	400	GB	AH
Research to develop a new publication for teachers and school governors	DES COI	Education Authorities	310	E	AH
Developing design excellence	DES	Designers	4000	GB	AH
Survey of Information Technology in Schools	DES	Schools	1300	E	AH
School-Business Links Survey	DES ED	Headteachers	1300	E	AH
Assessment of 1991/92 Green House Bids	DOE BRE	Housing Authorities	70	E	AH
Total cost indicators for HA schemes: A study of multipliers	DOE	Housing Authorities	125	EW	AH
Monitoring the new renovation grants system	DOE	Housing Authorities	35	E	AH
Citizens charter refurbishment contracts	DOE		29	E	AH
Housing Associations as Managing Agents	DOE	Private Landlords	250	SE	AH
Energy use in non-domestic buildings (emissions)	DOE	Employers	300	E	AH
Trees in Towns (Phase 2)	DOE	Local Authorities	140	E	AH
Road and Footpath De-icing Policies	DOE	LA's and Highway Engineers	550	UK	AH
Co-ordinating commission for bological research	DOE	Various	650	UK	AH
Survey of Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) Monitoring effect of changes introduced by the SSP Act 1991	DSS	Employers	850	GB	AH
Contributions agency-customer satisfaction survey	DSS	Employers	5000	UK	HY
Business line small employers' omnibus survey	DSS	Employers	8000	GB	Q

Title	Department	Those approached	Approx. number approached each year	Location	Frequency
Evaluation of the exchange risk guarantee scheme: Borrowers	DTI	Companies	50	UK	AH
Consumer product design: Safety in the UK and EC (Rotary mowers)	DTI	Manufacturers	155	EU	AH
Innovation and technology audits: Market Assessment	DTI	Manufacturers	1050	UK	AH
Evironmental enquiry point	DTI	Businesses	600	UK	AH
Materials matter II - Marketing strategy survey	DTI	Manufacturers	412	UK	AH
The Japan electronics business association (JEBA) membership questionnaire	DTI	Exporters	110	UK	AH
Customer satisfaction survey (Vehicle certification agency)	DTP	Automotive Industry	450	UK	Y4
Monitoring the effectiveness of new street works legislation	DTP	Highways Authorities	222	GB	AH
Concessionary fare schemes available in each authority	DTP	Transport Authorities	500	GB	AH
Small commercial vehicle survey: 1992/93	DTP	Commercial Vehicle Users	6220	GB	Y5
Overseas airlines expenditure in the United Kingdom 1991	DTP	Airports	100	UK	A
Investors in people Stage 5	ED COI	Employers	73	GB	AH
Costs to training providers	ED	Employers	118	EW	AH
Employer contact study on effectiveness of training enterprise councils	ED	Employers	72	E	AH
Foreign language skills in the tourism industry	ED BTA	Tourism Businesses	1514	GB	AH
Structured industrial practice studies (SIPS) - Employers' survey	ED	Employers	540	S	AH
Employment service and disability symbol monitor	ES COI	Employers	580	GB	AH
Survey of Health Education curriculum in Secondary Schools	HPAW WO	Education Authorities	267	W	AH
Soil conditions under low input arable farming	MAFF	Farms	82	E	AH
Special study of the Economics of cereal production	MAFF	Farms	330	GB	AH
Special study of the economics of cereal production (UK-wide)	MAFF	Farms	550	UK	AH
Anthelmintic resistant nematodes of sheep	MAFF	Farms	300	E	AH
Anthelmintic resistant nematodes of goats	MAFF	Farms	200	EW	AH
Industrial innovation in the food industry	MAFF	Food Industry	215	UK	AH
European public purchasing: Construction	NEDO	EC Contractors and Contracting Agents	3000	EU	AH
Breadalbane environmentally sensitive area: Research into take-up of the scheme	SOAF	Farms	45	S	AH
Market Research about SOED publication	SOED	Headteachers	880	S	AH
Empty public sector housing in Scotland	SOEN	Housing Authorities	112	S	AH
Assessing the impact of financial assistance on the private rented sector	SH	Landlords	150	S	AH
Information needs of people with disabilities	SOHH	Local Authorities	57	S	AH
Child protection management information system	SOHH	Local Authorities	12 (15000)	S	C
Survey of the Scottish Construction industry	SOID	Construction Industry	1250	S	Y5
Financial and Business Services survey	SOID	Banks	50	S	AH

Title	Department	Those approached	Approx. number approached each year	Location	Frequency
Control of statistical surveys: Business needs analysis study	SOID	Employers	2500	S	AH
Grading and Classification trade research	STB	Hotels/Guest Houses	600	S	AH
Assessment of repair materials for concrete pavements	TRRL	Highways Authorities	111	E	AH
Expanding the role of women in North/Rural Wales: Survey of employers	WDA WO	Employers	320	W	AH
Market research: TIR CYMEN (Farmers)	WO CCW	Farms	75	W	AH
Business & Community perceptions of the development board for rural Wales	WO DBRW	Employers	214	W	AH
Market Research -Hedgerow incentive scheme	WO CCW	Farms	60	W	AH
Effectiveness, efficiency and performance of the financial assistance scheme operated by the Welsh Tourist Board	WTB	Service Industry and Local Authorities	140	W	Y5
HOUSEHOLD AND INDIVIDUAL SURVEYS					
Joint campaign-creative development research	DEN COI	Owner/Occupiers	64	GB	AH
House purchasers satisfaction survey (Energy)	DEN BRE	Owner/Occupiers	30	E	AH
Energy use of low income households - Year Two	DEN BRE	Tenants	200	UK	AH
Cemmaes wind farm sociological impact assessment	DEN ETSU	Adults	150	W	AH
National curriculum leaflet research	DES COI	Parents	536	GB	AH
Teacher recruitment campaign: Follow-up of respondents	DES COI	Applicants	750	GB	AH
Nursing monitor 1992: Wave 3	DH COI	Adults	1500	E	AH
Drugs 'Double Head' Research	DH COI	Adults	32	E	AH
Cold weather publicity evaluation	DH COI	Adults	2000	GB	AH
Blood donation poster/radio research	DH COI	Adults	48	E	AH
Wessex drugs research	DH COI	Youths	92	E	AH
Ventilation in new homes	DOE BRE	Owner/Occupiers	600	E	AH
Household budgets and housing costs	DOE	Owner/Occupiers	1000	E	AH
Householders Response to Radon in the home	DOE	Occupiers	5500	SW	AH
Radiological assessment of the Ribble estuary	DOE	Adults	N/K	NW	AH
Multi-purpose housing survey (MPHS)	DOE OPCS	Occupiers	25000	E	AH
Carers leaflet second stage	DSS COI	Applicants	40	GB	AH
Disabled living allowance/disabled working allowance press advertisements	DSS COI	Disabled	56	GB	AH
Change of hours campaign-creative development research	DSS COI	Claimants	48	GB	AH
Invalidity benefit (cross-section survey)	DSS	Disabled	2800	GB	AH
Benefits agency leaflets research	DSS COI	Adults	220	GB	AH
Child support agency corporate identity research	DSS COI	Parents	72	GB	AH
Freeline evaluation (Benefits Agency)	DSS COI	Claimants	282	E	AH
Cohabiting mothers: A study of the changing demography of childbirth	DSS	Mothers	850	GB	AH
Nutritional implications of dietary strategies of one parent families	DSS	Parents	400	SE	AH
Tax evasion campaign evaluation - Grampian	DTP COI	Car owners	1100	S	AH
Car safety features research	DTP COI	Adults	510	GB	AH

Title	Department	Those approached	Approx. number approached each year	Location	Frequency
Evaluation of motorway traffic information	DTP COI	Drivers	1000	UK	AH
Road safety advertisement development	DTP COI	Drivers	40	E	AH
A453 Clifton lane improvement	DTP	Drivers	7232	EM	AH
M42 widening, Junction 1 to 7	DTP	Drivers	31000	WM	AH
Small commercial vehicle survey: 1992/93	DTP	Drivers	1330	GB	AH
A1 (M) Barton to Birtley (traffic surveys)	DTP	Drivers	8640	N	AH
A167 Cock O' The North to Aycliffe improvement: Spring 1992 (traffic survey)	DTP	Drivers	8880	N	AH
A418 West of Aylesbury to Wing	DTP	Drivers	60900	SE	AH
A435/A438 South of Evesham to M5 traffic study	DTP	Drivers	7400	WM	AH
A650/A6038 Airedale stage 4 and Shipley Eastern Bypass	DTP	Drivers	14400	YH	AH
M1 Widening junctions 28-32 - Model Development Study	DTP	Drivers	27500	YH	AH
A12 Saxmundham to South of Wrentham Roadside interview Survey	DTP	Drivers	4750	EA	AH
A564 Derby Southern By-Pass	DTP	Drivers	7060	EM	AH
Advertising for the Disability Symbol	ED COI	Disabled	24	E	AH
Career development loans: The Market for Training	ED COI	Adults	4082	GB	AH
Jobclub campaign evaluation	ED COI	Unemployed	600	GB	AH
Smoke alarms installation campaign monitor	HOME COI	Adults	2000	EW	AH
Specials Recruitment Advertising Development	HOME COI	Adults	64	E	AH
Welsh Youth Survey 1992	HPAW WO	Children	8000	W	AH
Foodsense booklets review	MAFF COI	Adults	56	E	AH
MAFF Personnel Booklet	MAFF COI	Adults	14	SE	AH
Long term food consumption frequency	MAFF	Housewives	650	EW	AH
Study of Dietary intake of Farmers' families	MAFF	Adults	100	E	AH
Rarely consumed foods	MAFF	Adults	8000	GB	AH
Army advertising evaluation and development	MOD COI	Youths	150	UK	AH
Black strategy development (Army)	MOD COI	Immigrants	48	E	AH
National Employers Liaison Committee Research Monitor (Army)	MOD COI	Adults	2000	GB	AH
Signals new recruits (Army)	MOD COI	Women	60	YH	AH
Army creative development	MOD COI	Youths	64	NW	AH
Exhibition Response Research (Navy)	MOD COI	Visitors	200	WM	AH
MORI Finalists survey (Army)	MOD COI	Students	1500	UK	AH
Officers strategic research (Army)	MOD COI	Students	96	GB	AH
Tyne and Wear Pre and Post Monitor	OFT COI	Adults	1200	N	AH
Moneyfax 2	OFT COI	Adults	96	ES	AH
Expenditure Trailer - International passenger survey	OPCS CSO	Adults	5000	UK	AH
Qualitative study of LA Tenants expressing interest in the rent to mortgage scheme	SOEN	Tenants	75	S	AH
Assessing the Impact of Financial Assistance on the private rented sector	SH	Tenants	350	S	AH
Information needs of people with disabilities	SOHH	Disabled	250	S	AH
Analysis of drivers tested by Sussex police patrols	TRRL	Drivers	800	SE	AH
Social, economic and environmental factors in child pedestrian accidents	TRRL	Children	600	EW	AH

Title	Department	Those approached	Approx. number approached each year	Location	Frequency
Questions on high risk offenders for 'PAS Drinks Market Survey' (Follow-up)	TRRL	Adults	1850	GB	AH
General Accident and Eastern region children's club-next phase - 5½ year olds	TRRL DTP	Children	2000	E	AH
Public attitude survey of the new forest traffic calming programme	TRRL	Drivers	400	SE	AH
Travelcard Survey	TRRL DTP	Commuters	3100	SE	AH
Compulsory basic training (CBT): Trainee rider survey - Phase II	TRRL DTP	Youths	1000	GB	AH
Expanding the role of women in north/rural Wales workforce	WDA WO	Women	860	W	AH
1993 visitor survey of the national parks of England and Wales	WO CC	Visitors	N/K	EW	AH
Business and community perceptions of the DBRW	WO DBRW	Adults	542	W	AH
A470 corridor public transport survey	WO	Travellers	3000	W	AH

List of Abbreviations

Departments

BRE	Building Research Establishment
BTA	British Tourist Authority
CC	Countryside Commission
CCW	Countryside Council for Wales
COI	Central Office of Information
CSO	Central Statistical Office
DBRW	Development Board for Rural Wales
DEN	Department of Energy
DES	Department of Education & Science
DH	Department of Health
DOE	Department of the Environment
DSS	Department of Social Security
DTI	Department of Trade & Industry
DTP	Department of Transport
ED	Employment Department
ES	Employment Services
ETSU	Energy Technology Support Unit
HPAW	Health Promotion Authority for Wales
HOME	Home Office
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Foods
MOD	Ministry of Defence
NEDO	National Economic Development Office
OFT	Office of Fair Trading
OPCS	Office of Population, Censuses & Surveys
SH	Scottish Homes
SOAF	The Scottish Office Agriculture and Fisheries Department
SOED	The Scottish Office Education Department
SOEN	The Scottish Office Environment Department
SOHH	The Scottish Office Home and Health Department
SOID	The Scottish Office Industry Department
STB	Scottish Tourist Board
TRRL	Transport and Road Research Laboratory
WDA	Welsh Development Agency
WO	Welsh Office
WTB	Welsh Tourist Board

Location

E	England
EA	East Anglia
EM	East Midlands
ES	England & Scotland
EU	Europe
EW	England and Wales
GB	Great Britain
N	North
NW	North Western
S	Scotland
SE	South East
SW	South West
UK	United Kingdom
W	Wales
WM	West Midlands
YH	Yorkshire & Humberside

Frequency

AH	Ad Hoc
A	Annual
C	Continuous
HY	Half yearly
Q	Quarterly
M	Monthly
Y4	Every 4 years
Y5	Every 5 years

General

N/K	Not known
PAS	Public Attitude Survey

Departmental listings and contact points for recently available statistical series and publications

The following publications containing statistics have recently, or will soon become available. Unless otherwise specified, copies can be purchased from HMSO. A list of release dates of economic series is published monthly in *Economic Trends*.

Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

The following MAFF Statistical Notices are available free of charge:

Cereals production survey, 1991 harvest: results of second survey, England and Wales, 24/92
October census of vegetables and flowers 1991, England and Wales, 62/92
Turkey census 1991, England and Wales, 20/92
December survey of agriculture 1991, UK and England, 43/92
Dried pea and field bean production survey 1991, England and Wales, 58/92
Earnings and hours of agricultural and horticultural workers survey: period ended December 1991, England and Wales, 48/92
June agricultural and horticultural census 1991: final results, UK, 19/92
Monthly sample survey of grain fed to livestock: England and Wales, November 1991 23/92, December 1991 37/92, January 1992 52/92
Monthly sample survey of cereal stocks: England and Wales, November 1991 22/92, December 1991 28/92, January 1992 53/92

The above Statistical Notices are available from:

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Room A615
Government Buildings
Epsom Road
GUILDFORD GU1 2LD
Telephone:0483-403577

The following publications are available on a regular basis:

Weekly: *Agricultural Market Report: England and Wales*

The report is published in two parts and contains prices, quantity and quality information on selected cereals, livestock, homegrown horticultural produce and other agricultural products.

Monthly: *Agricultural Price Indices* (in a Statistical Notice)

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

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Room A509
Government Buildings
Epsom Road
GUILDFORD GU1 2LD

Quarterly: *National Food Survey: Household Consumption*

Available on subscription from:

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Room 513
West Block
Whitehall Place
LONDON SW1A 2HN
Telephone: 071-270 8562

Annual: *Farm Incomes in the UK*
HMSO, price £20.00 net,
ISBN 0 11 242918 1

Central Statistical Office

Monthly periodicals:

Economic Trends
HMSO, price £11.50 net
Annual subscription, including supplement, price £140.00 net

Financial Statistics
HMSO, price £8.95 net
Annual subscription, including handbook, price £110.00 net

Monthly Digest of Statistics
HMSO, price £6.95 net
Annual subscription, including supplement, price £80.00 net

Annual publications:

Key Data 1991-92 edition
HMSO, September 1991
price £3.95 net

Social Trends 22
HMSO, January 1992
price £24.75 net

Regional Trends 27
HMSO, July 1992
price £24.75 net

United Kingdom National Accounts 1991 edition
HMSO, September 1991
price £13.95 net

Family Spending - a report on the 1990 Family Expenditure Survey
HMSO, December 1991
price £19.50 net

Annual abstract of statistics No 128
HMSO, January 1992
price £21.00 net

United Kingdom Balance of Payments 1991 edition
HMSO, September 1991
price £11.75 net

Occasional publications:

Guide to Official Statistics
HMSO, 1990
price £24.00 net

Retail Prices 1914-1990
HMSO, April 1991
price £10.95 net

Education and Science

The following free Statistical Bulletins are now available:

16/91 *Students in higher education in England excluding universities*
17/91 *Students on Initial Teacher Training Courses*
18/91 *Secondary School Staffing Survey - 1988*
19/91 *Statistics of Further Education Students in England 1970/1 - 1989/90*
20/91 *Students from abroad in Great Britain 1980 to 1989*
21/91 *Education Expenditure from 1979-80*
22/91 *School Examination Survey 1989/90*
1/92 *Teachers in service and teacher vacancies in England in January 1991*
2/92 *Pupil teacher ratios for each Local Education Authority in England (including Grant-Maintained Schools) - January 1991*
3/92 *Education statistics for the United Kingdom 1991*
4/92 *First known destinations of First Degree Graduates from institutions in Great Britain 1983-1990*
5/92 *Pupils under five years in each Local Education Authority in England - January 1991*
6/92 *Student awards in England and Wales 1989/90*

The following are published annually:

Schools (England)
School Leavers, CSE and GCE (England)
Statistics of Education: School Examinations - GCSE and GCE, 1990
Further Education (England)
Further Education Student: Staff Ratios (England)
Finance and Awards (England and Wales)
Statistics of Education: Teachers in Service (England and Wales) 1987 and 1988

Copies, price £12.00 net

All the above listed publications are available from:

Department of Education and Science
Room 338
Mowden Hall
Staindrop Road
DARLINGTON DL3 9BG
Telephone: 0325-392683

The following publication is now available:

Education Statistics for the United Kingdom - 1991 edition
HMSO, price £12.95 net

Employment

Employment Gazette, which is published on a 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:

Three of a kind: meeting new business challenges (February 1992)
Economic activity and qualifications (March 1992)
Results of the 1991 Labour Force Survey (April 1992)
Industrial stoppages in 1991 (May 1992)
NOMIS - your route to gigabytes of statistics (May 1992)

Employment Gazette is published monthly by HMSO, price £4.50 per issue, annual subscription, inclusive of postage, is £48.00. Available from:

HMSO Books
PO Box 276
LONDON SW8 5DT

Environment

Housing and Construction Statistics, Great Britain 1980-90
Housing and Construction Statistics, Part 1 No 48 December Quarter 1991
Housing and Construction Statistics, Part 2 No 48 December Quarter 1991
Local Housing Statistics, England and Wales, No 101 April 1992
Household Projections England 1989-2011
Local Government Financial Statistics England, No 3 1992
Housing Trailers to the 1981 and 1984 Labour Force Surveys
UK Blood Lead Monitoring Programme 1984-87: Results for 1986, (Pollution reports, No 26)
Digest of Environmental Protection and Water Statistics, No 13 1990

The above publications are available from HMSO.

Statistical Bulletin (92) 2: Environmental Protection and Water Statistics: Supplement to the Digest of Environmental Protection and Water Statistics, No 14 1991

The above annual Bulletin provides additional detailed tables for most of the Chapter topics in the Department's *Digest of Environmental Protection and Water Statistics* published by HMSO.

Land Use Change in England, Statistical Bulletin (92) 4 figures for 1991 and results of changes recorded during the period 1985-1991
Rent Officer Statistics: third and fourth quarters 1990, Statistical Bulletin (91)2
Rent Officer Statistics: first quarter 1991 and financial year 1990/91, Statistical Bulletin (91)3
Housebuilding in England by Local Authority Areas: 1980-1989
Development Control Statistics: England 1989-90

The above publications are available from:

Department of the Environment
Publications Sales Unit
Victoria Road
Ruislip
MIDDLESEX HA4 ONZ
Telephone: 081-841 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 P1/177C
2 Marsham Street
LONDON SW1P 3EB
Telephone: 071-276 4003

Health

The following Statistical publication is available:

Statistical Bulletin 4(2)92 Statistics for General Medical Practitioners in England and Wales 1980 to 1990

Copies of the above can be obtained, price £2.00 net, from:

Department of Health
Information and Leaflets Unit
Canons Park
Government Buildings
Honeypot Lane
Stanmore
MIDDLESEX HA7 1AY
Telephone: 071-972 3679

Home Office

The following Home Office Statistical Bulletins, which are now issued free of charge, were published in the period October 1991 to March 1992.

Issue	Title
23/91	*Statistics of the operation of the firearms acts, 1968 to 1988 - England and Wales, 1990*
24/91	*Betting Licensing statistics, Great Britain June 1990 -May 1991.*
25/91	*Control of immigration: statistics - 1st and 2nd quarters 1991.*
26/91	*Statistics on the operation of the prevention of terrorism legislation - 3rd quarter 1991.*
27/91	*Time intervals for criminal proceedings in magistrates' courts: June 1991.*
28/91	*Summary fire statistics, United Kingdom 1990.*
29/91	*Statistics of mentally disordered offenders, England and Wales, 1989 and 1990.*
30/91	*Notifiable offences recorded by the police in England and Wales, October 1990 - September 1991.*
31/91	*Cautions court proceedings and sentencing in 1990.*
1/92	*Statistics on the operation of the prevention of terrorism legislation - 1991.*
2/92	*Notifiable offences, England and Wales, 1991.*
3/92	*Sentencing for assaults on police officers.*
4/92	*Statistics of police complaints and discipline, England and Wales, 1991.*
5/92	*Time intervals for indictable proceedings in magistrates' courts, October 1991.*
6/92	*Statistics of drug addicts notified to the Home Office, United Kingdom, 1991.*

Copies of these Bulletins are available from:

Research and Statistics Department
Home Office
Room 1834
Lunar House
40 Wellesley Road
CROYDON CRO 9YD
Telephone: 081-760 2850

or by personal application to:

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

Northern Ireland

A series of occasional Statistical Bulletins are available and include the following:

Department of Economic Development

Labour Force Survey: Northern Ireland provisional results 1991

Copies of the above publication are available, free of charge, from:

Department of Economic Development
Statistics Research Branch
Labour Force Survey Section
Netherleigh
Massey Avenue
BELFAST BT4 2JP
Telephone: 0232-763244 (Ext 2492)

Department of Education for Northern Ireland

No 4/1991 *School leavers 1989/90*
No 1/1992 *Pupils and Teachers in grant-aided schools - January 1990*

Copies of the above Bulletins are available, free of charge, from:

Statistics Branch
DENI
Rathgael House
Balloo Road
BANGOR BT19 7PR
Telephone: 0247-270077 (Ext 2676)

Department of Health and Social Services

Northern Ireland Psychiatric Census Bulletin 1989
Northern Ireland Psychiatric Census Bulletin 1990

These Bulletins contain a summary of data on long stay and detained mental illness patients resident in hospital on 31 March in both years.

Copies of the above Bulletins are available, free of charge, from:

Regional Information Branch
DHSS
Annex 2
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST BT4 3UD
Telephone: 0232-763939 (Ext 2580)

Smoking and Drinking amongst 11-15 year olds in Northern Ireland in 1990

This paper reports on the Northern Ireland part of a UK-wide survey of smoking and drinking amongst secondary school children. It is available from the Social Statistics and Research Branch, DHSS at the same address as above.

Policy Planning and Research Unit

The Prevalence of Disability amongst Adults in Northern Ireland

This report is available, price £6.00 net, from:

Policy Planning and Research Unit Library
Room 250
Department of Finance and Personnel
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
BELFAST BT4 3SW
Telephone: 0232-763210 (Ext 2538)

Office of Population Censuses and Surveys

Population Trends 68-Summer 1992
HMSO, price £7.75 net

OPCS Monitors

available from:

OPCS Information Branch
St Catherines House
10 Kingsway
LONDON WC2B 6JP
Telephone: 071-242 0262 (Ext 2208 or 2243)

1990-based short-term population projections for local and health authority areas in England
(Series PP3 92/1)
price £1.50 net
Electoral statistics 1992 - parliamentary constituencies
(Series EL 92/1)
price £2.00 net
Electoral statistics 1992 - local government areas
(Series EL 92/2)
price £2.00 net

Census Monitors

1991 Census: Isle of Wight
(Series CEN 91 CM23)
price £2.00 net

Annual Reference Volumes

International migration 1990
(Series MN no.17)
HMSO, price £7.40 net, ISBN 0 11 691354 1

Mortality statistics 1989, perinatal and infant: social and biological factors
(Series DH3 no.23)
HMSO, price £10.10 net, ISBN 0 11 691365 7

Births statistics 1990
(Series FM1 no.19)
HMSO, price £11.80 net, ISBN 0 11 691382 7

Mortality statistics 1990: childhood
(Series DH6 no.4)
HMSO, price £10.70 net

Scottish Office Education

The following Statistical Bulletins are available:

Edn/F6/1992/1	*Graduates and Diplomates from higher education courses and their first destinations: 1980/81 to 1989/90*
Edn/K1/1992/2	*Adults in schools and colleges*
Edn/C7/1992/3	*The curriculum in education authority secondary schools in Scotland in September 1989*
Edn/G4/1992/4	*Teaching qualifications and activities of Scottish secondary teachers: September 1990*
Edn/E2/1992/1	*School leavers qualifications 1989/90*

Copies of the above Bulletins may be purchased, price £1.25 net, from:

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

The Scottish Office Education Department also publishes Statistical Bulletins on the following subjects:

Primary Education
University Students
Scottish Higher Education Statistics
The National Certificate 1989-90
School Leavers

Scottish Office Environment

ENV/1991/1	*Radioactive waste disposals from nuclear sites in Scotland: 1986 to 1990 (December 1991)*

Copies of the above Bulletin may be purchased, price £1.25 net, from:

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

Scottish Office Home and Health

The following Statistical Bulletins are available:

CRJ/1991/1	*Recorded Crime in Scotland 1990*
CRJ/1991/2	*Recorded Crimes and Offences Involving Firearms, Scotland 1990*

CRJ/1991/3 *Children and Crime, Scotland, 1989*
CRJ/1991/4 *Homicide in Scotland 1986-1990*
CRJ/1991/5 *Criminal proceedings in Scottish Courts, 1989*
CRJ/1992/1 *Prison Statistics Scotland 1990*

Copies of the above Bulletins may be purchased, price £1.25 net, from:

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

Scottish Office Industry Department

The following Statistical Bulletin is available:

No C1.4 *The Electronics Industry in Scotland* (published September 1991)

Copies of the above Bulletin, price £1.25 net, may be purchased from:

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

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
ASDIA
Room B2711
Benton Park Road
Longbenton
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE98 1YX
Telephone: 091-225 7373 (GTN 522 x 57373)

Transport

Recent Statistical publications by the Department of Transport:

Road lengths in Great Britain 1991
HMSO Annual
price £10.00 net

Car and Driver: Injury Accident and Casualty Rates Great Britain 1990
HMSO Annual
price £5.50 net

Merchant fleet statistics 1991
HMSO Annual
price £19.60 net

The following publication is available from:

British Ports Federation
Victoria House
Vernon Place
LONDON WC1B 4LL
Telephone: 071-242 1200

Port Statistics Bulletin Provisional Traffic Statistics 1991
DTp/BPF
price £12.00 net

The following Department of Transport Statistical Bulletins are issued on a regular basis:

Monthly:

New Motor Vehicle Registrations Great Britain
price £3.00 net, annual subscription £30.00 net

Quarterly:

Road Goods vehicles on Roll-on Roll-off ferries to Mainland Europe
price £5.00 net

Road Casualties Great Britain
price £4.00 net

Quarterly Transport Statistics
price £5.00 net, annual subscription £12.00 net

Traffic in Great Britain
price £8.00 net, annual subscription £27.00 net

Department of Transport Statistical Bulletins are available from:

Publication Sales Unit
Room 1 Spur 2
Block 3
Government Buildings
Lime Grove
Eastcote
MIDDLESEX HA4 8SE
Telephone: 081-429 5170

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: 071-276 8513

Welsh Office

Mental Health Statistics for Wales No 11 1991
price £5.00 net
Children in Care or Under Supervision Orders in Wales: Year Ended 31 March 1991
price £3.00 net
Key Statistical Indicators for NHS Management in Wales No 10 1991
price £3.00 net
Staff of Social Services Departments: Year Ended 30 September 1991
price £4.00 net
Activities of Social Services Departments: Year Ended 31 March 1991
price £4.00 net
Welsh Transport Statistics No 8 1992
price £6.00 net
Farm Incomes in Wales No 6 1992
price £6.00 net

The above publications are available from:

Publications Unit
Economic and Statistical Services Division
Welsh Office
Cathays Park
CARDIFF CF1 3NQ
Telephone: 0222-825044 (GTN 1208)

All The Latest Statistics
from the
Central Statistical Office
0839-338-PLUS
Retail Prices Index 337
Monthly Trade Figures 338
Balance of Payments (quarterly) 339
Public Sector Borrowing Requirement 340
Index of Production 341
Producer Prices 342
Retail Sales 343
Credit Business 344
Gross Domestic Product 345
CSO
STATCALL
Calls charged at 36p per minute cheap rate,
48p per minute at all other times

Government Publications

The following section provides more detailed information on individual publications. Where no reference or price is shown please refer to the previous chapter covering Departmental listings for purchase details.

Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Farm Incomes in the United Kingdom: 1992 Edition

This annual report was published on 21 April. Together with its complementary publication, *Agriculture in the United Kingdom* (published by HMSO on 16 January), it provides a comprehensive and up-to-date picture of the agricultural industry and its activities.

As in previous years, *Farm Incomes in the United Kingdom* contains descriptive statistical material (tables, charts and commentary) which is largely based on the regular censuses and surveys carried out by the Ministry's Economics and Statistics Group and its counterparts in the Territorial Departments. Separate data are included for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Chapter 1 briefly reviews the farming year 1991 and shows data on the changing structure of the UK agricultural industry and output and input prices. The next two chapters also concentrate on the agricultural industry as a whole. Chapter 2 provides forecasts of the various measures of income from farming in 1991 and includes two tables showing measures of agricultural output and incomes for the eight English regions and the importance of agriculture in the regional economies. Information on land prices and the aggregate balance sheet is given in Chapter 3.

Chapter 4 provides results from the *Farm Business Survey* and presents a wide range of information on average farm incomes and balance sheets for each of the main farm types. Further details by farm type, economic size, tenure and performance group are given in Appendix 2. Most of the data in this chapter compares 1990/91 with 1989/90 but Table 4.1 contains forecasts of incomes in 1991/92 by farm type in the form of index numbers.

Chapter 5 covers income from off-farm sources. As in previous years, data from two sources are presented; the *Farm Business Survey* and the Inland Revenue's *Survey of Personal Incomes*.

Any queries regarding the Farm Incomes report should be directed to:

Mr S M Speller
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Telephone: 071-270 8620

Reference

Farm Incomes in the United Kingdom: 1992 Edition
HMSO, price £20.00 net
ISBN 0 11 242918 1

Scottish Office Agriculture and Fisheries Department

Scottish Sea Fisheries Statistical Tables 1990

The 1990 edition was published in early May. It contains 35 tables covering fish landings (into Scotland and the UK) and details of the Scottish Fishing Fleet.

Different tables shown weight and value of landings by species, by area of capture, by method of capture, by landing district, by size of vessel. Also covered are topics such as the employment of fishermen, disposal of the pelagic catch, and the production of fishery by-products. Some tables show annual figures from 1986 to 1990 and others give monthly landings figures for 1990.

A table shows the quotas allocated to the UK from the Total Allowance Catch, and the level of uptake for each stock from 1986 to 1990.

Reference

Scottish Sea Fisheries Statistical Tables 1990
price £11.50 net, ISBN 00 7480 0556 0
Available from the Scottish Office Library, address below.

Scottish Fishing Fleet at 31 December 1991

The 1991 edition was published in May. It contains 10 tables giving details of the Scottish fishing fleet 1991.

Different tables show the number of vessels by length, tonnage by length and number of vessels by main method of fishing. Other tables show vessels in each district.

There is also a concise list of vessels listed by registration and number showing vessel name, base district, creek length, tonnage.

Reference

Scottish Fishing Fleet at 31 December 1991
price £6.00 net

The above publications can be obtained from:

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

Central Statistical Office

The Effects of Taxes and Benefits on Household Income, 1989

This article was published in the January 1992 edition of *Economic Trends*, and is largely based on the 1989 Family Expenditure Survey (FES). The aim of the analysis is to examine how the distribution of income amongst households in the UK is modified as a result of government expenditure and taxation. The analysis uses five different income measures, and is unique in that it covers indirect taxes (eg VAT) as well as benefits-in-kind (eg from the education system).

The article is the latest in an annual series published in *Economic Trends* since the early 1960s. Each year the article covers the same main ground but also usually has a special topic. This year, however, the special topic has been omitted in order to speed up production of the 1990 article.

The analysis shows that the impact of taxes and benefits (including benefits-in-kind) is greatest for retired households and for those non-retired households containing no economically active people. Cash benefits play the largest part in reducing income differences. Trends in income distribution are given for the period 1977-1989, and these show that the distribution of household income has become more unequal.

The figures in each year's article are free standing and are not intended to be used as part of a time series with figures from earlier articles. However, two indicators (Gini coefficients and shares of income) are relatively robust and so can be used to gauge the trend of income distribution. The philosophy underlying these articles is to use a given year's FES to produce the most meaningful figures for that year (on the basis of the definitions current for the FES at the time), rather than aim to produce figures on exactly the same basis from one year to the next. The major changes to the methodology in the 1987 article mean that the 1987 (and later) figures are completely incompatible with those already published for earlier years. The most important change was to introduce equivalisation (ie adjusting income to allow for household size and composition) into the ranking process that splits households up into quintile and decile group.

The contents of the article are as follows:

Main article Results for 1989 for all households, and for retired and non-retired households separately.

Appendix 1	Detailed tables for 1989 with fine breakdown of income components for quintile and decile groups, and results for different types of household.
Appendix 2	Methodology and definitions.
Appendix 3	Three tables for 1989, ranked using unadjusted disposable income.
Appendix 4	Trends in income distribution, 1977-1989.

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

Effects of Taxes and Benefits Section
Room 1936
Central Statistical Office
Millbank Tower
LONDON SW1P 4QU
Telephone: 071-217 4248

Reference

Economic Trends No 459, January 1992
HMSO, price £11.50 net

Retail Prices Index Advisory Committee

The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in February, in reply to a Parliamentary Question, that he was reconvening the Retail Prices Index Advisory Committee (RPIAC) with the following terms of reference.

"To advise the Chancellor on the implication for the RPI of the abolition of the community charge and its replacement by the council tax; to review progress on implementing the Committee's previous recommendation on the inclusion in the index of expenditure on holidays; and to review the present treatment in the index of owner occupiers' housing costs and new cars. In framing its recommendations the Committee is asked to take account of the practices in other European Community countries".

The membership of the RPIAC is:

CHAIRMAN
Mr W P McLennan (Director, Central Statistical Office)

MEMBERS
Mr J Astin (EUROSTAT, Luxembourg)
Mr S Brittan (The Financial Times)
Professor D Currie (London Business School)
Professor M C Fleming (Loughborough University)
Mr K H B Frere (Nominated by the National Federation of Consumer Groups)
Mr S G B Henry (Bank of England)
Mr T J Hoyes (Nominated by Age Concern)
Mr J Hughes (Nominated by the National Consumer Council)
Mr D Lea, OBE (Nominated by the Trades Union Congress)
Miss R Lea (The Mitsubishi Bank Ltd)
Miss R J Maurice
Mr C J Mowl (H M Treasury)
Dr J Muellbauer (Nuffield College, Oxford)
Professor J F Pickering (Portsmouth Polytechnic)
Professor D G Rhys, OBE (Cardiff Business School)
Mrs B Rosewell (Business Strategies Ltd)
Mr P Rowlatt (National Economic Research Associates)
Dr A Sentance (Nominated by the Confederation of British Industry)
Professor R Turvey (London School of Economics)
Mr R G Ward (Central Statistical Office)

SECRETARY
Mr D J Sellwood
(Central Statistical Office)

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Mrs M S Dolling
(Central Statistical Office)
Millbank Tower, Millbank,
LONDON SW1P 4QQ
Telephone: 071-217 4223

The Committee began its discussions in May.

Business Monitor MA3 - Company Finance

The 23rd and final Issue of this Monitor covering accounting years 1988 to 1990, was published at the end of March. As in previous years, the Monitor contains standardised and aggregated financial statements based on an analysis of the published accounts of a sample of GB-registered industrial and commercial company groups and independent companies of all sizes. The financial statements consist of balance sheets, income and appropriation accounts and statements of sources and uses of funds which are given for all companies, for companies trading wholly or mainly in the UK, for companies trading wholly or mainly overseas, for UK-controlled and overseas-controlled companies and for large and small companies separately. For large companies, further statements are presented for each of 34 broad industry groups, including water from 1989 and Electricity for 1990. Rates of return, ratios of gross trading profits to turnover and gearing ratios are also given for large companies at industry level.

A special feature of the 23rd Issue is a summary of harmonised accounting data for 1989 and 1990 supplied by the CSO to the European Commission's Bank of Harmonised Accounting Data (BACH) which covers enterprises in most EC member states. Further information about BACH may be obtained from:

Directorate General of Economic
and Financial Affairs (DGII-B-2)
Commission of the European Communities
200 Rue de la Loi
B-1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

The CSO has decided that extraction of data from published company accounts for use in the MA3 and MO3 series is no longer cost-effective. It has not proved possible to use such data straightforwardly in compiling the UK national accounts. The CSO collects financial data for this purpose directly from companies in statistical inquiries which use the specific coverage and definitions needed for national accounts. These inquiries have recently been expanded. The 23rd Issue of MA3 is accordingly the last in its series.

Records in computer readable form of all individual company data from the DTI/CSO analysis of company accounts for accounting years 1977 to 1990 have been deposited with the ESRC Data Archive. Enquiries about access to these data should be addressed to:

ESRC Data Archive
University of Essex
Wivenhoe Park
COLCHESTER CO4 3SQ

Enquiries about financial information which the CSO will continue to obtain from companies should be addressed to:

Central Statistical Office
Room 2001
Millbank Tower
Millbank
LONDON SW1P 4QQ

CSO Bulletins

The following is a list of recent publications in the CSO Bulletin series. Only the latest in a series is mentioned.

	Issue No	Frequency
Insurance and pensions	21/92	Q
Steel stocks and consumption	23/92	Q
GB Cinema exhibitors	25/92	Q
Credit business	29/92	M
Acquisitions and mergers within the UK	30/92	Q
Machine tools	31/92	M
Capital expenditure and stockbuilding (provisional results)	32/92	Q
Engineering sales and orders	33/92	M
Overseas travel and tourism	34/92	M

Key to frequency of issue

A/H = Ad-Hoc
A = Annual
B = Bi-annual
M = Monthly
Q = Quarterly

CSO Bulletins are available individually, price £2.50 net, or on subscription annually depending on the service required. The price for a complete set offers a substantial discount on the sum of subscriptions to individual titles. Further information can be obtained from:

The Librarian
Central Statistical Office
Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
NEWPORT NP9 1XG
Telephone: 0633-812973 (GTN 1211 2973)

Business Monitors - Annual Census of Production 1990

Readers of *Statistical News* are made aware of the results of the 1990 Census of Production as the *Business Monitors* become available. A list of the first of these Monitors to be published is given below.

Business Monitor Number	Description
PA 130	Extraction of mineral oil and natural gas
PA 221	Iron and Steel industry
PA 222	Steel tubes
PA 223	Drawing, cold rolling and cold forming of steel
PA 241	Structural clay products
PA 242	Cement, lime and plaster
PA 245	Working of stone and other non-metallic minerals
PA 260	Production of man made fibres
PA 311	Foundries
PA 314	Metal doors, windows etc.
PA 324	Machinery for the food, chemical and related industries, process engineering contractors
PA 327	Machinery for printing, paper, wood, leather, rubber, glass and related industries; laundry and dry cleaning machinery
PA 342	Basic electrical equipment
PA 346	Domestic-type electric appliances
PA 414	Processing of fruit and vegetable
PA 416	Grain milling
PA 420	Sugar and sugar by-products
PA 429	Tobacco industry
PA 431	Woollen and worsted industry
PA 432	Cotton and silk industries
PA 433	Throwing, texturing etc of continuous filament yarn
PA 437	Textile finishing
PA 461	Sawmilling, planing etc of wood
PA 462	Manufacture of semi-finished wood products and further processing and treatment of wood
PA 465	Miscellaneous wooden products
PA 491	Jewellery and coins

Copies of these *Business Monitors* are available on standing order from:

HMSO
PO Box 276
LONDON SW8 5DT
Telephone: 071-622 3316

or through any Government Bookshop.

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

Julian Dowsell
Central Statistical Office
Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
NEWPORT NP9 1XG
Telephone: 0633-812455 (GTN 1211)

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 NP9 1XG
Telephone: 0633-812973 (GTN 1211)

Defence

This year, following a review of its dissemination methods, the Ministry of Defence is changing the way that its statistical information is published. The existing statistical publication, Volume 2 of the *Statement on the Defence Estimates* (SDE) will be replaced by two new publications.

The first of these will be *Defence Statistics*, similar in format to Volume 2 of the SDE but with a narrower range of tables grouped into a more logical sequence. The tables will contain more historical information, and in many cases will have more up to date information than was possible under the SDE production timetable. We will also introduce a number of charts to illustrate the more important statistics. In the longer term we intend that *Defence Statistics* should evolve in style to reflect best practice in the statistical publications of other Departments. The 1992 edition of *Defence Statistics* will be published in late June or early July, and future editions will be produced on a regular annual basis.

The second new publication will be a *Defence Factsheet*, containing selected summary statistics and charts taken from the main publication. This will be produced in a handy pocket-sized format on folder A3 paper, similar in style to the CSO's *UK in Figures*.

For further information contact:

Mr M H Fletcher
Ministry of Defence
Room 146
Northumberland House
Northumberland Avenue
LONDON WC2N 5BP

Education

Education Statistics for the United Kingdom 1991 (Bulletin 3/92)

This Bulletin summarises the statistical tables published in the annual volume of the same name. Basic statistics for the whole of the United Kingdom illustrate the size and nature of its education system and facilitate international comparisons. The figures cover the academic year 1989/90.

First known destinations of first degree graduates from institutions in Great Britain 1983-1990 (Bulletin 4/92)

This Bulletin presents statistics on the first known destinations of first degree graduates in Great Britain at December following their graduation. Gives broad trends in first degree graduate first destinations during the period 1983-90, and a more detailed analysis of first destinations of first degree graduates in 1990 and also a general update of information provided in Statistical Bulletin 15/91.

Pupils under five years in each local education authority in England - January 1991 (Bulletin 5/92)

This Bulletin gives information on the provision of education in maintained nursery and primary schools for pupils under five. Information is given for each local education authority (LEA) on the number of pupils by age in nursery schools and nursery classes in primary schools and on participation rates of under fives in nursery and primary schools. A separate table shows for each LEA information on the number of four year old children admitted to primary classes in September 1990 and January 1991. The tables also include information on the staffing of nursery schools and classes and on the number of nursery assistants employed in early admission classes. There are also two tables giving time series information for England.

Student awards in England and Wales 1989/90 (Bulletin 6/92)

This Bulletin updates Statistical Bulletin 4/91 and provides information on awards made by local education authorities (LEA's) to students domiciled in England and Wales for 1989/90. More detailed figures will be published in the Finance and Awards volume of Statistics of Education.

Statistics of Education: Further and Higher Education Student: Staff ratios and unit costs 1988-89

This annual volume of statistics contains the results of the 1988-89 Annual Monitoring Survey (AMS) and the 1988-89 Further Education Revenue Account Survey (FERAS). The AMS collects, for the academic year, student and staff numbers and class contact hours in most further and higher education establishments in England. The data is used to derive performance indicators: student/staff ratios, average class size, average lecturer hours and average student hours. The FERAS is a parallel financial return summarising income and expenditure for further and higher education colleges. Data from AMS and FERAS are used to derive unit costs (ie expenditure per full time equivalent student). The volume contains summary results for all establishments, separately for each type of college, level of education and subject area, as well as analyses for each individual institution.

Education Statistics for the United Kingdom - 1991 Edition

This volume sets out in 40 tables UK - wide data for 89/90 and previous years on population, finance, teaching staff, schools, curriculum, post compulsory education, further and higher education and qualifications and designations. The 1991 edition also contains various international comparisons with 12 other countries and a special article on international comparisons of higher education. There is also a list of the latest annual and periodic DES Statistical Bulletins.

Scottish Education Statistics

The following Statistical Bulletins are available, price £1.25 net.

School Leavers and Related Statistics Presented to the Howie Committee

This Bulletin presents a range of statistics relating to SCE exam results, post compulsory staying-on rates and related topics. It concentrates on the stages of secondary education between fourth year and sixth year but covers also first destination of school leavers and entry to Higher Education.

Published May 1992

Staying-on Rates

This Bulletin provides details of staying-on rates in Scottish secondary schools.

Published May 1992

Pre-Service School Teacher Training

This Bulletin provides information about students on pre-service school teacher training courses at colleges of education in Scotland.

Published June 1992

Pupils and Teachers in Education Authority Primary and Secondary Schools

This Bulletin gives final figures for September 1990 and provisional figures for September 1991 for the numbers of pupils and teachers in education authority primary and secondary schools/departments.

Published June 1992

Scottish Teachers: Gender, Promoted Posts and other issues, September 1990

This Bulletin, the first of its kind, provides some detailed analyses of the full-time equivalent (FTE) numbers of teachers in education authority schools in Scotland at the time of the September 1990 School Census.

Published June 1992

Employment

Projected trends in the Labour Force 1992-2001

An article in the April 1992 edition of *Employment Gazette* presents projections of the civilian labour

force in Great Britain up to the year 2001. They incorporate information from the 1991 Labour Force Survey and 1989-based population projections. Trends in the population and economic activity rates are explained and the new projections are compared with those published previously.

In the year 2001 the labour force is projected, on the conventional assumption of an unchanging level of unemployment, to be 0.8 million higher than its estimated mid-1991 level of 28.1 million. Almost all of the projected net increase is among women, who are expected to make up 45 per cent of the labour force by 2001. The labour force in 2001 will be older than in 1991, a projected rise of 1.8 million people aged 35-54, more than offsetting a fall of 1.2 million people under 35 in the labour force. Projections by the Government Actuary's Department suggest that the population of working age will increase by only 0.5 million between 1991 and 2001 compared with a rise of 1.5 million in the previous 10 years.

Reference

Employment Gazette, April 1992
HMSO, price £4.50 net

The following articles are taken from special features which appeared in the *Labour Market Quarterly Report* for February 1992, a publication of the Employment Department.

British workforce in employment

The GB workforce in employment stood at 25,321,000 (seasonally adjusted) in September 1991. This figure includes employees in employment, the self-employed, HM Forces and participants in work-related government training programmes.

This represents a fall in employment of 229,000 during the third quarter of the year. There has been a decrease of 869,000 since the third quarter of 1990, with women accounting for 263,000 of this fall. However the workforce is still 2.3 million higher than when the upward trend began in March 1983.

In the year to September 1991 employees in employment (seasonally adjusted) decreased by 329,000 (2.1 per cent) in the service industries and by 348,000 (6.9 per cent) in the manufacturing industries.

The number of employees in employment in manufacturing industries fell a further 21,000 between October and November 1991.

In June 1990 there were an estimated 3,222,000 self-employed people in Great Britain (2,449,000 men and 773,000 women). More recent estimates are not available.

In September 1991 there were 11.2 million women (44 per cent of the total) in the workforce in employment (seasonally adjusted) in Great Britain. Of these 46 per cent worked part-time, compared with 10 per cent of men.

Regional Trends

The number of employees in employment decreased over the year to September 1991 in all regions. Scotland experienced the smallest percentage fall of 1 per cent with the greatest percentage fall, 5 per cent in the West Midlands.

Although the number of employees in employment has been falling in recent months, it is still higher in all regions than in March 1983. The upward trend in employment began in March 1983 in all except Northern region, where the upturn came in June of that year.

Business starts and business failures

Previous issues of the *LMQR* have briefly examined the available information on business starts and stops since the beginning of 1991. They concluded that the number of new starts had continued at a high rate, and that there were some signs of a slackening in the rate of insolvencies.

Information published since then tends to confirm these trends. The year on year rate of increase in insolvencies, as measured by the DTI, fell from 77 per cent in the second quarter to 60 per cent in the third

quarter, mainly as a result of a fall in the rate of increase in company liquidations. Various estimates of the number of receivership appointments have recently shown small decreases, with the annual rate of increase falling very sharply in consequence.

On the other side of the coin, business starts, Nat West have estimated that there will have been a total of 460,000 business starts in 1991, compared with 500,000 in 1990. The number of business starts under Enterprise Allowance has continued to average over 1,000 a week throughout 1991.

VAT data for TEC/LEC areas

The November 1991 issue of *LMQR* described the latest estimates of VAT registrations and deregistrations, covering the period up to the end of 1990. The availability of these data for local authority districts was announced in that article. They can be obtained from either the NOMIS database or the Statistical Services Division of the Employment Department (both the addresses are given at the end of this article).

One use of these figures is to derive estimates for TECs and lecs. Most of these have boundaries which are defined in terms of aggregations of local authority districts; and where they straddle local authority boundaries, it is possible to allocate the VAT figures approximately.

The possibilities for such analyses are wide, and this article merely provides some examples of the kind of analysis which can be undertaken.
The data show that the overall size of the business populations in the TECs and lecs varies tremendously. For example at the end of 1990 there were around 700 VAT registered businesses in Lochaber, and around 63,000 in Central London.

All TEC/lec areas have experienced an increase in the number of VAT-registered businesses since 1979, with the exception of City and Inner London North, and Glasgow. The largest increase, in percentage terms, was in Milton Keynes and North Buckinghamshire TEC, where the number of VAT-registered businesses grew by no less than 89 per cent (the average for the Great Britain was 33 per cent). Moreover, in most areas, the rate of increase was more rapid in recent years. In GB as a whole, the difference was 7 percentage points. The largest acceleration in the rate of increase was in London East, where the increase in the earlier period was 9 per cent, compared with 34 per cent in the later period. In contrast, the rate of increase in Shetland and the Western Isles was considerably less in the later than the earlier period.

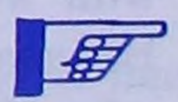
An important feature of the business environment in a local area is the industry mix. It can be argued that the relatively rapid growth in the number of VAT-registered businesses in the South East during the 1980s can be attributed partly to its favourable mix of industries. For further details of this analysis, see *VAT registrations and deregistrations in 1990 - Employment Gazette, November 1991*.

Size distribution of UK firms

One of the most commonly asked questions about small firms is, 'How many are there?' This is surprisingly difficult to answer, since there is no one source of data which covers firms of all sizes. The best regular series, of VAT-registered businesses, omits many small firms trading below the threshold for compulsory registration (currently £35,000 per annum).

To provide answers to this question, a special analysis was commissioned from Graham Bannock and Partners, to combine the available sources of data into one overall set of estimates. Out of nearly 3 million businesses in the United Kingdom at the end of 1989, no fewer than 96.9 per cent employed fewer than 20 people and these businesses accounted for over one third of total employment outside government. Only 1,000 businesses employed more than 1000 people, but these accounted for over one quarter of total employment.

Further details of the results, and a description of the methods used, are given in the February 1992 issue of *Employment Gazette*.



Details of the availability of VAT data for local areas can be obtained from:

Employment Department
Statistical Services C4
Room W626
Moorfoot
SHEFFIELD S1 4PQ

Further details of the National Online Manpower Information System can be obtained from:

NOMIS
Unit 3p
Mountjoy Research Centre
University of Durham
DURHAM DH1 3SW

Environment

Land Use Change in England No 7

The latest edition of this series of Statistical Bulletins was recently published by the Department of the Environment. The Bulletin presents the results of the Department's statistics on changes in land use in England recorded during 1985-1991 by Ordnance Survey (OS) as part of its map revision work throughout Great Britain.

The pattern of OS field activity is such that physical development tends to be recorded relatively sooner than changes between other uses, some of which may not be recorded for some years. Estimates are presented of changes that occurred in 1987 at national and regional level together with information for counties about changes to urban and residential uses. The text includes results from detailed analyses of the data carried out by researchers for the Department.

To enable comparison with previous Bulletins, results are also presented for changes recorded during 1991. The complete dataset is used to present results of changes recorded during the period 1985-1991. There is also a summary of key results presented by year of change and by year of recording. Definitions of the land use categories are given in the Bulletin.

Reference

Land Use Change in England No 7, Department of the Environment
Statistical Bulletin (92)4

Price and copies of the Bulletin are available from:

Department of the Environment
Publications Sales Unit
Building 3 Spur 2 Room 1
Government Buildings
Lime Grove
Eastcote, Ruislip
MIDDLESEX HA4 8SE
Telephone: 081-429 5170

Local Government Financial Statistics: England No 3 1991

The volume contains a summary of financial and manpower information returned by English local authorities. The 1991 edition is the first publication to include outturn (final) figures for revenue and capital expenditure for 1989/90, the last year of the domestic rating system. It also covers the start of the community charge system, including provisional figures for 1990/91, budget figures for 1991/92 and local authority financial settlement figures for 1992/93. The 1991 edition includes several new tables including the financing of revenue expenditure, specific grants received by local authorities and community charge and non-domestic rate collection rates.

In addition to over forty summary tables and associated charts, the publication includes an annex of detailed revenue and capital outturn information, an article explaining the structure of local government, and an article summarising trends in local authority spending and income during the 1980s.

Some of the key points are:

- local authority gross spending was nearly £56 billion in 1989/90, 32 per cent of which was on education and 23 per cent on housing;

- local authority spending accounted for 29per cent of public expenditure and 8.7 percent of domestic expenditure in 1990;

- Central government support for local authorities increased between 1990/91 and 1991/92, so that the proportion of expenditure financed through community charges decreased from nearly 27 per cent to less than 15 per cent;

- 2.5 million people (full time equivalent) were employed by local authorities in 1990.

Reference

Local Government Financial Statistics England No 3. 1991
HMSO, price £7.50 net, ISBN 0 11 7526320

Digest of Environmental Protection and Water Statistics No 14

The 14th *Digest of Environmental Protection and Water Statistics* prepared by the Department of the Environment was published on 20 March 1992. The Digest aims to provide an extensive and understandable set of statistics and to describe broad environmental trends. A special feature of the Digest is the commentary appearing alongside each statistical table. The text emphasises trends, gives information on the factors likely to influence them and, where appropriate, links series together. The Digest also serves as a reference pointing to scientific reports where further detailed information can be obtained.

This issue of the Digest contains chapters on air quality and global atmospheric change, inland water quality and use, coastal and marine waters, radioactivity, noise, waste and recycling, and land and nature conservation. A Statistical Bulletin has also been prepared providing additional data that, in general, are too detailed for publication in the Digest.

Copies of the Digest can be obtained from HMSO bookshops and accredited agents. Copies of *Statistical Bulletin (92)2*, price £3.00 net, can be obtained from:

DOE Publications Sales Unit
Government Buildings
Building 3 Spur 2
Lime Grove
Eastcote
MIDDLESEX HA4 8SE
Telephone: 081-429 5170

Queries on the Digest, the companion Statistical Bulletin, or regarding UK environmental statistics in general, should be directed to:

Environmental Protection Statistics Division
Department of the Environment
Room A121
Romney House
43 Marsham Street
LONDON SW1P 3PY
Telephone: 071-276 8422

Reference

Digest of Environmental Protection and Water Statistics No 14
HMSO, price £13.50 net

Scottish Office Environment

The Scottish Environment - Statistics No 3, 1991 Edition

The third edition of the biennial Scottish Office publication *The Scottish Environment - Statistics* was published in May.

The 130 page volume draws on a wide range of published and unpublished sources to present information in tabular and graphic form, on the following topics:

Population:	growth, location and density
Land:	characteristics and use
Atmosphere:	meteorology, energy and air pollution
Water:	resources and consumption, waterquality, oil production and pollution

Conservation: nature, landscape and building conservation, wildlife and conservation

Radioactivity: environmental monitoring and emissions

Recreation: tourism and leisure activities

Attitudes to the Environment in Scotland: selected results from a recent survey undertaken by the Scottish Office

Copies, price £10.00 net, can be obtained from:

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

General Register Office for Scotland

Vital Statistics: Scotland

Provisional Annual tables showing information on 1991 vital events were published on 22 April.

Tables relating to the first quarter of 1992 were included in the Registrar General's *Vital Statistics Return*, Weeks 17 to 20.

1991 Census Results: Publication Timetable

The Preliminary Reports for England and Wales and for Scotland were published in July 1991. The statistics in these reports were based on summary returns made by enumerators.

The first results based on answers given by householders and by persons in communal establishments have now started to appear. The Monitor for the Isle of Wight was the first publication and this was laid before Parliament on 8 May. Between then and September 1992, a monitor will be published for each of the 56 counties in England and Wales and the 9 regions and 3 islands areas in Scotland. The order by local authority in which the monitors will be published and the date of publication has still to be finalised. Monitors can be obtained from the Census Offices or from HMSO Bookshops at a cost of £2.00 plus VAT a copy; the Census Offices are offering a discount for users who order a complete set of county or region and islands areas monitors.

After the monitor, the next output will be the 100 per cent local and small area statistics based on processing all census returns. These will become available in machine readable form over the period from late May to October 1992. Data from processing the one in ten sample of returns will be available from late November or early December 1992 to April 1993.

The main publication of local statistics is the report for each county, region and islands area. The report is in two parts; part 1 includes results from the processing of all forms while part 2 results from the one in ten sample. Part 1 of the reports will be published between June and December 1992. The second part of the report will be published in the first half of 1993.

In addition to the publication of local statistics, the Census Offices produce reports on specific topics from the census. These topic reports, of which there will be 21, are scheduled to appear in December 1992 with the last report being published in April 1994.

Further details about reports and publication dates will appear in future editions of *Statistical News* and can be obtained from the following addresses:

Census Customer Services
Customer Services
OPCS
Segensworth Road
Titchfield
HAMPSHIRE PO15 5RR

Census Customer Services
GRO (S)
Ladywell House
Ladywell Road
EDINBURGH EH12 7TF

Health

Prescriptions dispensed by pharmacy and appliance contractors, England 1980-1990

Details of the basic cost of medicines and the numbers of prescriptions dispensed by pharmacists in the Family Health Service in England, together with figures showing changes in prescribing since 1980 were published on the 23 April in this Department of Health Bulletin.

The Bulletin contains a wealth of information on prescription items dispensed by leading therapeutic groups and by regions; details of the number and cost of free prescription items and information on the number of pharmacists. The Bulletin also contains a section about benzodiazepine prescribing, and drugs for the treatment of asthma.

Copies of this Bulletin are available, price £2.00 net, from:

Department of Health
Information Division
Canons Park
Stanmore
MIDDLESEX HA7 1AY
Telephone: 081-972 3679

Data from the Addicts Index, England - July to December 1989 and January to December 1990

This booklet presents information on drug addicts notified to the Home Office. The booklet includes information on the age and sex of addicts, the drug used, injecting behaviour etc. Information is shown mainly by RHA but some information at DHA level is included. Requests for this publication should be sent to:

Miss Mary Edwards
Department of Health
Room 801, Hannibal House
Elephant and Castle
LONDON SE1 6TE

Home Office

Statistics on the operation of Prevention of Terrorism legislation

This annual Bulletin provides information on the number of persons detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 1989, distinguishing between those detained in connection with Northern Irish terrorism and those detained in connection with international terrorism. The numbers of those whose detention leads to exclusion, deportation or criminal charges are also shown, as are the lengths of the detentions including any extensions. Similar information is also provided on those examined under the Act but not detained.

Reference

Statistics on the operation of the Prevention of Terrorism legislation - 1991
Home Office Statistical Bulletin, issue 1/92

Statistics of police complaints and discipline

This annual Bulletin gives information about complains against the police together with outcomes, details of police officers convicted of criminal offences, appeals by police officers against punishments awarded together with results, and details of deaths occurring in police custody. Figures of commendations and letters of appreciation received by the police are also included. The statistics contained in the Bulletin were, up to 1989, included in Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary's Annual Reports and, for the most part, exclude the Metropolitan Police, in respect of which the Commissioner publishes separate figures.

Reference

Statistics of police complaints and discipline, England and Wales 1991
Home Office Statistical Bulletin, issue 4/92

Time Intervals for Indictable Proceedings in Magistrates' Courts: October 1991

The Home Office Statistical Bulletin *Time Intervals for Indictable Proceedings in Magistrates' Courts: October 1991* was published on 18 March 1992. This is one of a thrice yearly series giving estimates of the average time taken from offence to completion of cases in the magistrates' court. This issue gives consolidated results for indictable offences for the whole of 1991, as well as the October survey. Further information may be obtained from:

Philip White
S1 Division
Home Office
Room 821
Abell House
John Islip Street
LONDON SW1P 4LH

Reference

Time Intervals for Indictable Proceedings in Magistrates' Courts: October 1991
Home Office Statistical Bulletin, issue 5/92

Drug addicts

The annual figures of drug addicts notified to the Home Office were published in a Home Office Statistical Bulletin in March 1992. The Bulletin provides details of addicts by age and sex, drugs of addiction and treatment, source of notification, injecting status and cause of death. It also contains summary statistics of drug related deaths extracted from national mortality statistics.

The 1991 figures show a further increase in the number of new and renotified addicts. The total number notified was almost 21,000, 17 per cent more than in 1990. Within this, the number of new addicts notified rose by 16 per cent to 8,000. Some of the increase may reflect increased compliance by doctors with the Notification Regulations and success in attracting more addicts into treatment.

Most notified addicts were reported to be dependent upon heroin. Less than 10 per cent of addicts were reported to be addicted to cocaine. The proportion of addicts injecting drugs fell from 65 per cent in 1990 to 59 per cent in 1991. However 900 injectors were aged under 21 and will have started injecting after information about HIV/AIDS became widely available.

Some 330 previously notified addicts died in 1990. Drugs caused or were implicated in about 60 per cent of addict deaths over the last ten years. Drug dependence, non-dependent abuse of drugs and poisoning by controlled drugs were associated with about 1,260 deaths in 1990.

More detailed tables giving figures by police force and health authority areas form an annex to the Statistical Bulletin.

Reference

Statistics of drug addicts notified to the Home Office, United Kingdom, 1991
Home Office Statistical Bulletin, issue 6/92

Deaths reported to Coroners in England and Wales

The annual Home Office Statistical Bulletin was published on 15 April. The Bulletin recorded that the number of deaths reported to coroners in 1991 had risen from the previous year's figure to just over 180,000, reflecting a rise in the total number of deaths registered in England and Wales, although the proportion of deaths which were reported to coroners remained steady at 32 per cent. Deaths by accident or misadventure accounted for just over half of all verdicts returned at inquests, and suicide for just under one fifth.

The Bulletin contains details of deaths reported, inquests held and post-mortems carried out, and verdicts returned by inquests.

Reference

Statistics of deaths reported to coroners, England and Wales, 1991
Home Office Statistical Bulletin, issue 7/92

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

Home Office Research and Statistics Department
Planning and Management Unit
Lunar House
40 Wellesley Road
CROYDON CRO 9YD
Telephone: 081-760 2850

Criminal Statistics, England and Wales 1990

This annual publication presents statistics on recorded crime, police cautions, court proceedings, remands, committals to the Crown Court and sentencing in the magistrates' courts and the Crown Court in 1990. Time series, generally for 1980 to 1990 are provided, together with more detailed data for the latest year. Five supplementary volumes are also produced, containing more detailed offence classification, police force area and petty sessional division. Publication of the 1990 issue has been delayed due to the implementation of new computer procedures to collect court proceedings statistics.

The 1990 figures showed 4.5 million offences recorded by the police. The annual average increase over the past 40 years was six per cent. 94 per cent of the total were crimes against property and 6 per cent crimes of violence. Results of a recent survey show that two-thirds of victims of violent crime were males. Males aged 16 to 24 were the most likely to be the victims of violent crime and females aged 60 and over the least likely.

The number of offenders sentenced to immediate custody fell by 10 per cent to 57,600 in 1990 from 64,100 in 1989. There were falls of 29 per cent for juveniles, 13 per cent for 17-20 year olds and 8 per cent for adults.

Telephone enquiries about these statistics should be made to:

081-760 2325	for data on cautions and court proceedings
071-273 2711	for data on recorded crime
081-760 2651	for data on remands.

References

Criminal Statistics, England and Wales 1990
CM 1935
HMSO, May 1992, price £19.90 net

Criminal Statistics, England and Wales, 1990, Supplementary Tables:

Volume 1	£12.00
Volume 2	£12.00
Volume 3	£14.00
Volume 4	£ 8.00
Volume 5	£14.00

The Supplementary Tables are available separately from:

Research and Statistics Department
18th Floor
Lunar House
40 Wellesley Road
CROYDON CRO 9YD
Telephone: 081-760 2850

Fire Statistics

The Home Office statistical publication presenting the full 1990 fire statistics was published on 29th April 1992. It expands on the summary information previously published in November 1991 including historical tables of fires attended by fire brigades by location, cause, source of ignition etc and fatal and non fatal casualties resulting from those fires.

Additional tables for 1990 show area, cause of fire, interval from ignition to discovery, location (including dwellings, a detailed breakdown of other occupied buildings, outdoors), material or item first ignited, month, room or place of origin, spread of fire and time of call. New tables for 1990 include the method of firefighting before arrival of the brigade, details of fires detected by smoke alarms by the interval between ignition and discovery, the spread of fire and casualties and a table showing fires and casualties occurring around the Christmas period.

The following main points are described:

Fires

Fire brigades attended 467,000 fires in 1990 in the United Kingdom, the highest since 1976 when 496,000 were attended and 11,000 more than in 1989.

Over 60 per cent of fires were grassland, refuse and chimney fires.

The number of fires outdoors is seasonal and had an unusually high peak in August due to the hot dry weather.

The main causes of fires in buildings as in previous years were:

- in dwellings, misuse of equipment (mainly cooking appliances), 40 per cent,
- in other occupied buildings, deliberate or possibly deliberate ignition, 30 per cent.

The number of fires in occupied buildings remained roughly constant throughout the year. The peak month for deaths was December.

Most accidental fires in occupied buildings occurred during the day, yet the majority of deaths occurred at night. In contrast over half the deliberate or possibly deliberate fires occurred at night.

Geographical area

Dwelling fires accounted for a third of fires (excluding secondary and chimney fires) in England and Wales compared with a half in Scotland.

Cooking appliances caused a third of all occupied building fires in Scotland and Northern Ireland compared with a quarter in England and Wales.

Deaths and casualties

The number of fire deaths overall remained steady at around 900. Deaths in buildings fell:

- in dwellings to 627, the lowest since 1971,
- in other occupied buildings to 59, the lowest since 1961.

However deaths in fires in road vehicles, derelict buildings or outdoors rose to a record high of 212 in 1990, partly due to a further increase in deaths from car fires.

Non-fatal casualties in total fell slightly due to a fall in the number of fire brigade casualties.

Three quarters of the non-fatal casualties occurred in dwelling fires. These increased slightly to a record high of 10,500

The main causes of death and injury in dwelling fires remained:

- smokers' materials, 40 per cent of deaths
- cooking relating, 40 per cent of injuries.

Age and sex of casualties

The highest fatality rates for males and females were those aged over 65. High non-fatal (non-brigade) casualty rates occurred for those aged 80 or over and 17-24.

Casualty rates for males were higher than for females.

Smoke alarms

Fires discovered by smoke alarms in occupied buildings increased by 13 per cent from 1989 to 5,200 in 1990. They were associated with faster discovery times and lower overall death rates.

Enquiries about fire statistics should be referred to:

Home Office Fire Statistics Section
Room 836
Queen Anne's Gate
LONDON SW1H 9AT
Telephone: 071-273 3508

Reference

Fire Statistics United Kingdom 1990
Home Office, price £5.50 net, ISBN 0 86252 860 7

The publication is available from:

Home Office Research and Statistics
Department
Room 1834
Lunar House
Wellesley Road
CROYDON CRO 9YD
Telephone: 081-760 2850

Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland Annual Abstract of Statistics No 10 - 1991

The 1991 edition of the *Northern Ireland Abstract* was published in March 1992. Produced by the Policy Planning and Research Unit, Department of Finance and Personnel, it contains a wide range of statistics on population, households, health, law and order, education, housing, the environment, transport and tourism, labour, production and finance. Many of the tables contain annual figures for a series of years up to 1991, where available.

The Abstract, price £15.00 net, is available from:

Room 250
Policy Planning and Research Unit
Department of Finance and Personnel
Stormont
BELFAST BT4 3SW
Telephone: 0232-763210 (Ext 2061)

Office of Manpower Economics

Armed Forces Pay (Service medical and dental officers)

A Supplement to the Twenty-First Report by the Review Body on Armed Forces Pay (Chairman, Sir Peter Cazalet) was published in May 1992 and recommends pay levels for Service medical and dental officers in the ranks up to and including Brigadier (and equivalent), to apply from 1 April 1992.

Details of the main recommended levels of military salary (using Army ranks) are in Table 1. Levels of military salary introduced at 1 April and 1 December 1991 are given in Appendix 2.

Reference

Review Body on Armed Forces Pay, Service Medical and Dental Officers, Supplement to Twenty-First Report 1992
(Cm 1941)
HMSO, May 1992, price £3.40 net

Pay of Nursing staff, Midwives and Health visitors

The Ninth Report on Nursing Staff, Midwives and Health Visitors by the Review Body for Nursing Staff, Midwives, Health Visitors and Professions Allied to Medicine (Chairman, Michael Bett) was published in February 1992 and recommends pay levels in the National Health Service (NHS) for the year from 1 April 1992. Recommended pay scales are in Appendix A, together with equivalent levels for 1 April 1991; equivalent information about certain allowances is in Appendix B; and details of the numbers covered and paybill are in Appendices C and D respectively.

Appendix E contains the results of a survey of vacancies amongst nursing staff employed in the NHS. It covered all 222 district health authorities or equivalent in Great Britain, of which 174 (78 per cent) provided usable information. Results are given by grade and by area of work, in total and within country, region, London weighting zone and type of district. A matched sample comparison with the results of the previous year's survey is also included. Additionally, the results of an unpublished survey - covering early career pay and conditions of service for jobs outside the NHS with academic entry requirements equivalent to those required for entrance to schools of nursing - were used by the Review Body in the course of the review.

Reference

Review Body for Nursing Staff, Midwives, Health Visitors and Professions Allied to Medicine, Ninth Report on Nursing Staff, Midwives and Health Visitors, 1992
Cmd 1811
HMSO, February 1992, price £7.65 net

Office of Population Censuses and Surveys

Population Trends

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

Fertility of the over thirties

by Clare Jones, Demographic and Vital Statistics Division, OPCS

The relative stability of the total period fertility rate in England and Wales during the last decade conceals considerable change in the age distribution of fertility. Falls in fertility rates of women in their twenties, and the rise in fertility rates - especially in the first birth rates - among women in their thirties and forties, are features of later childbirth among women born since 1945. An increase in births to remarried women has contributed to this trend, but more women are delaying childbirth, both in first marriages and outside marriage. The data suggests that the women delaying childbearing are more highly educated, and most commonly have husbands or partners who are defined as being in Social Classes I and II, as defined by occupation.

Fertility trends within the United Kingdom

by John Craig Demographic Analysis and Vital Statistics Division, OPCS

There are differences between different parts of the United Kingdom in their fertility rates at a point in time - and in their change over time. This article looks at such differences between the four countries of the United Kingdom and, at a lower area level, between the standard regions of England. It is shown, for example, that the overall level of fertility in England and Wales is now markedly above that in Scotland - although twenty years ago it was Scotland that had the highest level of the three countries.

Death certification from the point of view of the epidemiologist

by John Ashley and Tim Devis, Medical Statistics Division, OPCS

This paper is based on a talk given to the Epidemiology Section of the Royal Society of Medicine in 1990. it looks at the practice in England and Wales of doctors, coroners, and pathologists in certification of death and assignment of cause of death. It also highlights some of the problems of coding and interpreting underlying cause of death when several diseases are mentioned at death registration.

International migration 1990

by Jonathan Bailey, Population and Hospital Statistics Divsion, OPCS

An estimated total of 267 thousand people migrated to the United Kingdom during 1990. In the same period the total outflow of migrants was 231 thousand, yielding a net gain for the UK of 36 thousand. This article presents a brief analysis of these latest annual statistics on international migration, and also relates them to earlier years.

1991 Census Results

OPCS County Monitor for the Isle of Wight

First results from the 1991 Census are now available. Summary statistics for the Isle of Wight have been published by OPCS in the first of a series of County Monitors for England and Wales which are being published between May and September 1992.

The County Monitors contain about 100 summary statistics for each county. They are published in advance of the full county reports which cover all the topics included on the Census form.

County Monitors can be obtained from OPCS (Dept. M), St Catherines House, 10 Kingsway, LONDON WC2B 6JP (Telephone: 071-242 0262 (Exts 2208-2243), or from HMSO bookshops. The full set of Monitors can be ordered on subscription, price £80 including a binder, from OPCS only at the above address.

Infant and Perinatal Mortality in 1989 in England and Wales

Statistics for 1989 in England and Wales, produced from stillbirth records and from the linkage of infant death records to their corresponding birth records are published in an OPCS report.

The volume contains key tables for England and Wales, and for Wales and each regional health authority, giving the numbers and rates of stillbirths and various components of infant mortality by social class as defined by occupation, age of mother, parity, marital status and birthweight. Other tables look at country of birth of mother, cause of death, duration of pregnancy (stillbirths only) and place of confinement.

Reference

Mortality statistics 1989, perinatal and infant: social and biological factors
(Series DH3 no 23)
HMSO, price £10.10 net
ISBN 0 11 691365 7

Births Statistics 1990

Statistics on births and fertility in England and Wales in 1990 are published by OPCS. There were 706 thousand live births, 3 per cent more than during 1989, and the highest annual total for 18 years. This represented a return to the upward trend in the number of births each year since 1982, after a slight fall in 1989.

The crude birth rate and general fertility rate also rose in 1990 to 13.9 births per thousand population, and 64.3 births per thousand women aged 15-44 respectively.

Other topics covered are seasonality of births; age of parents; previous liveborn children; duration of marriage; multiple births; area of usual residence; place of confinement; birthplace of parents; cohort analysis; and social class.

Information on conceptions in 1989 is also contained in this volume, and is derived by combining registration records of both live and still births, and of legal terminations under the 1967 Abortion Act.

Reference

Birth statistics 1990 England and Wales
(Series FM1 no 19)
HMSO, price £11.80 net
ISBN 0 11 691382 7

Childhood Mortality Statistics for 1990

Statistics on infant and childhood mortality in England and Wales in 1990 were published recently in an OPCS report. These showed that death rates for boys and girls aged 1-14 both fell by 45 per cent between 1970 and 1990.

In the period 1971-1990 the stillbirth and neonatal (deaths under 28 days) death rates both fell by about 62 per cent. The postneonatal (deaths between 28 days and one year) death rate fell by 44 per cent, and the infant mortality rate (deaths at ages under one year) by 55 per cent.

Reference

Mortality statistics, childhhood 1990
(Series DH6 no 4)
HMSO, price £10.70 net
ISBN 0 11 691384 3

International Migration in 1990

Statistics on the estimated numbers of migrants entering and leaving the UK in 1990, derived from the *International Passenger Survey*, were published recently by OPCS. Overall, with a total inflow of 267 thousand people (including returning British citizens) and total outflow of 231 thousand, the UK gained 36 thousand people through migration.

International migration 1990
(Series MN no 17)
HMSO, price £7.40 net
ISBN 0 11 691354 1

Scottish Office

Scottish Abstract of Statistics No 20, 1991 Edition

The latest edition of *The Scottish Abstract of Statistics* was published in May 1992. It is the most important single source of official and unofficial statistics covering social and economic life in Scotland. Topics such as population, health, law enforcement, education, leisure , employment, personal income, agriculture and the environment are covered. It contains around 200 pages of tables and charts, divided into 16 different sections each containing explanatory notes. Many of the tables show series for a number of years: others give information at region and district level.

Copies, price £20.00 net can be obtained from:

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

Scottish Statistics: Fact Card 1991

This is a pocket-sized card that contains key information on many aspects of life in Scotland (with UK comparisons). Topics covered include population, environment and conservation, transport, agriculture and employment for 1980, 1989 and 1990. The Fact Card is an ideal reference source for the businessman, scholar or student.

Copies are available, free of charge, from the Scottish Office, address as shown.

Statistical Publications: Information Leaflet

This leaflet lists all Scottish Office publications during the last 12 months. It gives details of regularly produced volumes, such as *The Scottish Abstract of Statistics* and *Road Accidents Statistics*, as well as all Statistical Bulletins.

Copies are available, free of charge, from:

The Scottish Office
Central Statistics Unit
Room 5/52
New St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH EH1 3TG
Telephone: 031-244 4989

Scottish Office Industry Department

Road Accidents Scotland 1990

The 1990 edition of *Road Accidents Scotland* was published by the Scottish Office in February 1992. This edition contains a large number of changes, with a review summary, new tables and now nearly 40 charts. The comparison of casualty rates for Scotland with England and Wales in the summary is now grouped together, and there is a new section on casualty trends for Scottish Regions against the 1981-85 average. The 1981-85 average is the baseline for the target set by the Government for a reduction in casualties by one third by the year 2000, and is used extensively throughout the summary, main tables and in many of the charts.

The publication starts with the summary article on the latest trends of road accidents and casualties in Scotland, eg accident numbers, by road type, by time of day and day of week, by light and road condition, accidents at junctions, vehicles involved by manoeuvre, drivers breath tested, by time of day and day of week, casualties by mode of transport, by age group, comparisons of casualty rates with England and Wales, and casualty trends for Scottish Regions.

The main statistical tables section covers accidents, accident costs, vehicles involved, drivers breath tested and casualties for 1990 with around a third of tables showing time series.

The publication indicates that:

- In 1990, for the fifth consecutive year, fewer people were killed on Scotland's roads. The number was 15 per cent below the 1981-85 average and the lowest for 33 years.

- Fatal and serious accidents in 1990 were 23 per cent lower than the 1981-85 average, while vehicles licensed in Scotland increased by 22 per cent over the same period.

- In 1990 there was a fall of 13 per cent in drivers involved in accidents failing the breath test compared with 1989. Since 1986, when the Scottish Police introduced the policy of testing every driver involved in an accident where possible, the number failing or refusing the test has fallen by a third.

- There were 197 pedestrians killed in Scotland in 1990, 11 per cent more than in 1989, and the highest number since 1986.

- The casualty rate per head of population for young car users aged 15-24, in Scotland in 1990, was nearly 3 times that of the rest of the adult population. For young male drivers and riders the casualty rate was about 2.5 times as high as male drivers and riders aged 30-59, and over 3 times higher than young female drivers and riders.

- The fatal and serious casualty rate (per 100,000 population) in Scotland in 1990 was 15 per cent higher than in England and Wales, while the all severities casualty rate in Scotland was 14 per cent lower than in England and Wales.

Copies, price £6.00, net are available from:

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

Transport

Port Statistics for 1991 (provisional)

Provisional *Port Statistics for 1991* were published jointly by the Department of Transport and the British Ports Federation in May. This is the eighth in a series of annual Bulletins giving provisional traffic statistics as early as possible.

The Bulletin contains 1991 statistics compiled without waiting for complete returns for every port, using estimates where necessary for those missing. The Bulletin contains four tables showing total foreign and domestic traffic by mode of appearance, principal bulk commodities, container and roll-on traffic through each of the larger ports, and bulk fuel and other traffic through the twenty five largest ports.

Final statistics for 1991 will be published, in much more detail and with related statistics from other sources, in *Port Statistics 1991* in September 1992.

Port Statistics Bulletin Provisional Traffic Statistics 1991, price £12.00 net, is available from the British Ports Federation, Victoria House, Vernon Place, LONDON WC1B 4LL, Telephone: 071-242 1200.

Treasury

Financial Statement and Budget Report 1992-93

The Financial Statement and Budget Report 1992-93 (FSBR) published on 10 March 1992, supplements the Chancellor's Budget Statement. It describes the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS); outlines developments in the economy over the past year; provides forecasts to mid-1993; details the government's tax proposals and brings together the financial position of the public sector.

Chapter 1 - The Budget,
summarises the contents of the Report. It also contains summary tables for the Budget measures and of the finances of the public sector.

Chapter 2 - The Medium Term Financial Strategy, provides the framework for all economic policy decisions. Comment, charts and tables cover: objectives and the framework of policy; monetary policy; fiscal policy; public expenditure; revenue; and public sector borrowing. Annexes give details of fiscal projections and changes since the 1991 MTFS.

Chapter 3 - The economy: recent developments and prospects to mid-1993, deals with financial conditions, the world economy, UK demand and output, domestic expenditure, trade and the balance of payments, financial balances and the current account, inflation and financial developments. It also compares the main elements of the forecasts published in the 1991 FSBR with outturn or the latest estimate.

Chapter 4 - The Budget measures, sets out the tax and national insurance proposals. A table shows the direct revenue effects in 1992-93 and 1993-94 of the changes in taxation and national insurance and an annex explains how the figures in the table are calculated.

Chapter 5 - Public expenditure, summarises the public spending plans and compares estimated outturn for 1991-92 with earlier plans.

Chapter 6 - The public sector finances, brings together the complete financial picture for the publicsector. It elaborates the more rounded and summary figures shown in other chapters. It includes a tableof public sector transactions for 1991-92 and 1992-93 by sub-sector and economic category.

References

Financial Statement and Budget Report 1992-93
HMSO, March 1992, price £9.65 net, ISBN 0 10 231992 8

Supply Estimates 1992-93 Summary and Guide

Supply Estimates are the means by which the Government seeks from Parliament sufficient funds and fresh Parliamentary authority for the bulk of its own expenditure each year. The Estimates are presented to Parliament, usually on Budget Day. One or more Estimates are presented, by the Treasury, for each government department.

The expenditure for which authority is sought in these Estimates reflects the Government's latest plans for public expenditure as a whole, described in detail in the series of departmental reports published in February (Cm 1901-1919).

The Summary and Guide to the Supply Estimates for 1992-93 was published on 10 March 1992. It has a number of objectives:

i. it summarises the expenditure in the Estimates and shows the relationship between Estimates and the Public expenditure plans;

ii. it announces cash limits, limits on running costs, and manpower numbers for central government departments in 1992-93;

iii. it describes the Estimates themselves and how Parliament considers and votes them.

For users interested in a particular area of expenditure, a separate document, the *Index to the Supply Estimates*, is available. This indicates where details of a particular area of expenditure can be found within the Estimates. The Supply Estimates themselves are available in twenty one separate booklets.

References

Supply Estimates 1992-93 Summary and Guide
CM 1844
HMSO, March 1992, price £9.90 net, ISBN 0 10 118442 5
Supply Estimates 1992-93 Index HC 273-IND
HMSO, March 1992, price £8.00 net, ISBN 0 10 283592 6

Study Group on Computers in Survey Analysis
21st Anniversary Conference
Survey and Statistical Computing
Bristol, 24-26 September 1992

In 1992, the SGCSA celebrates its 21st anniversary with a major international three-day conference on Survey and Statistical Computing. After 21 years of organising one-day conferences and workshops, producing newsletters and publishing the definitive software register, the SGCSA international conference is sure to be the survey and statistical computing event of the year.

The programme is one of the strongest and most varied ever put together. The first and third days are devoted to invited speakers in plenary session, with the first day focusing on the state of the art and the third day looking to the future. The speakers have been chosen for their depth of knowledge of the subject matter, and to represent the variety of organisations working in survey and statistical computing. Speakers have been invited from commercial organisations, from universities and from government.

The middle day will be dedicated to contributed papers in parallel sessions. The Scientific Programme Committee were so impressed with the quality of the contributed papers that they have persuaded the Organising Committee to run four rather than three parallel sessions.

The sessions have been organised into the following streams:

Survey Data
Survey Analysis
Survey Results
Survey Software

All papers are being refereed, and all delegates will receive a copy of the proceedings, to be published by Elsevier.

Other events

A comprehensive commercial exhibition of software and services will run throughout the conference. On the middle day (25 September), a stream of presentations by commercial suppliers will run in parallel with the four programme streams, and scientific poster sessions will run throughout the day. If you would like to contribute to the poster sessions, please contact the SGCSA Secretary at the address below.

The international conference is designed for and aimed at everyone who has a professional or personal interest in survey and statistical computing. With the quality of the invited papers, the range of contributed papers and the commercial presentations and exhibitions, the conference will appeal to those involved in management, research, policy development and market analysis, including people who commission and undertake surveys and their processing.

About the SGCSA

The Study Group on Computers in Survey Analysis was formed in 1971. Its aims are:

- To act as a forum for the various disciplines within survey research and statistical computing.
- To inform members of the latest software packages and techniques.
- To organise regular conferences and workshops on key topics within the industry.
- To disseminate information via a newsletter.
- To catalogue current software systems.

The SGCSA is a non-profit organisation, dedicated to providing value-for-money to its members. The SGCSA has close working links with the Royal Statistical Society and is affiliated to the British Computer Society and the Market Research Society.

Registration

The conference fee will be £395 plus VAT and includes attendance at the conference, the proceedings and all functions, meals, etc. Discounts are available for early bookers, members of SGCSA and associated organisations and for delegates from academic institutions. Accommodation has been organised at favourable rates in pleasant hotels convenient to the conference venue.

For booking forms, additional information or details of membership contact:

Liz McKay
SGCSA Secretary
4 Mansel Drive
Rochester
KENT ME1 3HX
Telephone and Fax: 0634-846092

University of Warwick

One-day seminar on Sources for Business Planning and Market Research

Date: Wednesday 11 November 1992

Venue: Radcliffe House Conference Centre

Cost: £140.00 for subscribers to the Business Information Service and
£150.00 for non-subscribers

International statistics is the theme of a forthcoming seminar organised by the University of Warwick Business Information Service.

Information about overseas economic and market conditions is becoming increasingly vital to UK business. The purpose of the seminar is to give an overview of the many statistical sources available on overseas markets and how these can be accessed. Speakers will outline the range of statistics available from both official and non-official sources and will also look at the increasing amount of relevant statistical information available on-line. In addition markets which are of particular current interest will be covered, including the European Community, the Asia Pacific area and South Africa.

Further details from:

Christine Warburton
University of Warwick
Business Information Service
The Library
Gibbet Hill Road
COVENTRY CV4 7AL
Telephone: 0203-523251
Fax: 0203-524211

Assistant and Senior Assistant Statisticians' Conference 22 November 1991

A note by Nigel Campbell, Elizabeth Purdie, Jo Semmence, Helen Shanks, Ian Thorpe and Rob Webster

Last November, over 150 Assistant and Senior Assistants from throughout the GSS gathered at the Copthorne Tara in South Kensington for the sixth Assistant and Senior Assistants' conference. Over the day, five speakers addressed the delegates on topics such as the 1991 Census and electoral reform; and in the afternoon there was also a choice of four group discussions. As the committee organising the conference, we asked some of those attending to report back on the sessions; their thoughts, and some of our own, contribute to the following article.

The 1991 conference was held for the second year in the Copthorne Tara in South Kensington. The programme began with the assembled group of 154 Assistant and Senior Assistant Statisticians being welcomed by Sir Jack Hibbert.

Eric Thompson from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys spoke on the 'Whys and Hows of a Population Census'. A subject of interest to all statisticians, he gave an informative and reassuring talk on the 19th Decennial Census which took place in April last year. At an overall cost of £140 million, and with the employment of 130 thousand temporary field staff to deliver 20 million forms, the 1991 Census was probably the largest single project undertaken by the GSS.

After Eric Thompson, Lord Armstrong of Ilminster, gave his own view of the Civil Service to the title 'the Civil Service: Continuity and Change'. He delivered a wide ranging speech, covering the Northcote-Trevelyan reforms the Plowden report and more recently the Financial Management Initiative and Next Steps Agencies. The talk included Number 10, the Treasury and the Home Office.

Professor Raymond Plant from the University of Southampton gave a talk on Electoral Reform. Last November, he had just produced his interim report on electoral reform for the Labour Party, and in hindsight this session had even more relevance given the events of 9 April. Professor Plant paid particular attention to the problems encountered when trying to assess relative merits of alternative electoral systems, and explained how the suitability of a given system crucially depended on the role which the elected assembly was expected to have. In his view for Legislative bodies such as Parliament, first past the post, the alternative vote or the additional member system were more suitable. Consultative bodies, on the other hand, should be elected by the single transferable vote or by the party list. Professor Plant concluded by suggesting that, for accountability, fairness involved not only the procedure, but also the outcome of the electoral system.

The conference broke for lunch and the opportunity for delegates to catch up with colleagues and friends and perhaps even muse over the morning. At two o'clock the meeting reconvened and Graham Jenkinson from the CSO gave an insight into the effects of the single market on intra EC trade statistics. The evolution of the single market in 1993 will mean the end of Customs and Excise border controls on intra-EC trade. This posed a problem for CSO statisticians who currently produce the monthly Balance of Payments figures from data provided as a by-product of the administrative border control systems. After much discussion, agreement had been reached by the European Council of Ministers on the framework of a new system known as Intrastat. The new system promises advantages for data collection but its implementation will involve some problems. For the first few months of 1993 there will be no data on intra-EC trade and the response from UK traders has been mixed.

After European Community Statistics delegates broke into smaller groups, being offered a choice of four topics. In the first group, Sean Whellams, from the Ministry of Defence, introduced the concepts and techniques involved in project risk analysis (see *Statistical News* issue 96).

Grade 7 statisticians new to the job came to speak about their experiences. The discussion centred around four statisticians from a variety of departments: Nick Adkin (DH); Madeleine Naylor (DEm); Fiona Porter (LCD) and Andy Teague (OPCS). Nick Adkin introduced the session by detailing his career path from Assistant to Grade 7. He noticed many changes, notably to pay, staff management, workload and his in-tray.

The third group chose the Citizen's Charter: in an animated debate Paul Allin from the Employment Department and Ian Scott from the CSO put forward the arguments for and against the publication of a GSS Charter.

Our last group was fronted by Ian Cope from SGMU who, aided by assistants from the Employment Department and the CSO, gave a stimulating talk that outlined various ways in which assistants can improve their own situation. Ian began by outlining what assistants are employed for and what is expected from them.

Once the group sessions were over, the conference moved back into the main hall for the final speaker, Professor Roy Anderson from Imperial College who spoke about the demographic impact of AIDS. His talk was statistically refreshing. The application of well known techniques was demonstrated in this very important field. Many interesting statistical findings were mentioned and the predicted spread of the virus within certain homogeneous groups of the population were described. The concluding message was that there is a great deal of challenging work for statisticians in this field, particularly in the area of heterogenious mixing.

The day ended at 5.15pm, but assistants were then encouraged to meet in informal surroundings at a local hostelry.

Government Statistical Service

Review of Regular Surveys

Most regular 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 complete review. Any enquiries concerning a survey or its review should be made to the appropriate departmental contact point given below.

Surveys to Businesses

Quarterly Fuels Inquiry

Miss J K Marson
Department of Trade and Industry
Room 3.3.11
1 Palace Street
LONDON SW1E 5HE

Public Service Vehicle Operator Annual Return

Mr M Clary
Department of Transport
Room A605
Romney House
43 Marsham Street
LONDON SW1P 3PY

Index of Stage Service Fares

Miss N Howells
Department of Transport
Room A608
Romney House
43 Marsham Street
LONDON SW1P 3P

Appointments and Changes

Staff Changes

Promotion

Mr S P Clark, DOE on promotion to Grade 5 at the CSO on 12 March 1992

Mrs H Hillier, DH on promotion to Grade 5 at the DOE on 21 April 1992

Mr E Ko, IR on promotion to Grade 5 on 14 April 1992

Transfer

Mr D Stanton, Grade 3, from ED to DSS on 3 February 1992

Retirement

Mr P S MacCormack, Grade 5 DOE on 16 April 1992

Mr J A Rowntree, Grade 5 OPCS on 13 March 1992

Obituary

Sir Richard Stone and the Development of National Economic Accounts

Sir Richard Stone was a founder of national income accounting. He was awarded the 1984 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences "for having made fundamental contributions to the development of systems of national accounts". His death in December 1991 came as the United Nations was revising its System of National Accounts (SNA), the development of which is largely attributable to him, and as the United States was embarking on the path of modernizing and extending its national accounts along the lines of the revised SNA.

Stone began his work in national accounting when he and James Meade prepared an annex on the national income and expenditure of Britain to accompany John Maynard Keynes' 1941 White Paper on British war finance. The presentation was a landmark because it applied the double-entry bookkeeping method to national accounts. When applied to sectors of the economy, this method shows how sectors are related to each other and to the economy as a whole. Stone and Meade suggested accounts for four sectors: Household, business, government and the rest of the world. The application was timely because it offered a method of presenting detailed information about increasingly complex economies at a time when the growing interest in macroeconomics and counter-cyclical policies intensified the need for such knowledge. By illustrating that the expenditures of one sector show up as income elsewhere, the method also offered a way to cross-check the estimates.

That this method, introduced at the time as the 'social accounting approach', ultimately received widespread acceptance is a testament to Stone's qualifications as a theoretician, bureaucrat, and statesman. Stone published many articles explaining and expanding the approach and was well aware that its acceptance depended on its potential for practical applications.

International comparability of estimates was also a major concern of his. As early as 1944, while at the United Kingdom Central Statistical Office, he participated in discussions with representatives from the United States and Canada to try to reach agreement on national accounting principles and presentation. It was during these meetings that Stone and George Jaszi, former director of BEA, developed a lasting friendship.

Meanwhile, Stone served as chairman of the League of Nations Sub-Committee on National Income Statistics of the Committee of Statistical Experts. He guided the Committee to a comprehensive presentation of the social accounting approach in 1947. Stone's memorandum to the Sub-Committee, Definition and Measurement of the National Income and Related Totals, was an appendix to the Committee's presentation but in fact made up the bulk of the report. Many countries quickly adopted Stone's approach, establishing a common basis for statistical comparisons between countries.

The 1947 report was the predecessor of the first edition of the United Nations System of National Accounts, published in 1953. Stone served as chairman of the Expert Group convened to develop the SNA and simultaneously directed a similar effort in the National Accounts Research Unit of the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation to design A Standardized System of National Accounts, published in 1952.

Though generally satisfied with the 1953 SNA, Stone regretted what he considered its limited scope. Much of his subsequent work concentrated on expansions of the system. His 1954 article Input-Output and the Social Accounts supported the future inclusion of input-output analysis and extended the development of the 'social accounting matrix' or 'transactions matrix'. To improve comparability, he conducted studies emphasizing the compatibility of complete systems of price and volume indexes in a national accounting framework. He explored less traditional areas by applying classifications corresponding to those in the national accounts to demographic and population data and developing an input-output model of the education system.

Stone's goal, the extension of national accounting, was fulfilled in 1968, when the SNA underwent its first substantial revision. Stone again served as chairman of the Expert Group, and under his influence the revised SNA included input-output analysis, flow-of-funds accounts, and national and sector balance sheets. It also outlined his social accounting matrix, which had been widely recognized by that time. Stone continued publishing articles on national accounts well into the 1980's. In a 1986 article, Social Accounting: The State of Play, he appraised the position of social accounts and considered possible future developments, including improved linkage of social and demographic statistics to economic statistics.

The development of national accounting techniques was not Stone's only interest. He investigated methods of demand analysis, the practical applications of these methods, and more extensive economic models. His 1954 study of private consumption in England, one of the most extensive econometric studies ever conducted, offered econometric insights into saving behaviour. Much of Stone's attention during the 1960's was given to directing a Cambridge University project intended to reveal the prospects for more rapid growth of the British economy by developing more extensive models for economic policy. It tied in well with his development of national accounts and intensified his interest in demographic accounting.

Stone's long career included, in addition to the consultancies and chairmanships mentioned earlier, the following: A position in the UK Office of War Cabinet, Central Statistical Office, 1940-44; Director, Applied Economics Department, University of Cambridge, 1945-55; Director, Organisation for European Economic Cooperation, National Accounts Research Unit, 1945-51; P.D. Leake Professor of Financial Accounting, University of Cambridge, 1955-80; and Professor Emeritus, University of Cambridge, 1980-91.

Articles in recent issues of Statistical News

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	Recent Trends in Crimes of violence against the person	Lawrence Davidoff and Lizanne Dowds
	Fourth International Roundtable on Business Survey FramesJohn Perry	
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	Statistical Cartography : A New Approach	Roger Sellwood and Gurmukh Singh
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	Scottish Young Persons' Education Statistics	Jonathon Davidson
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	The Scottish Statistical Liaison Committee	Margaret Horn
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