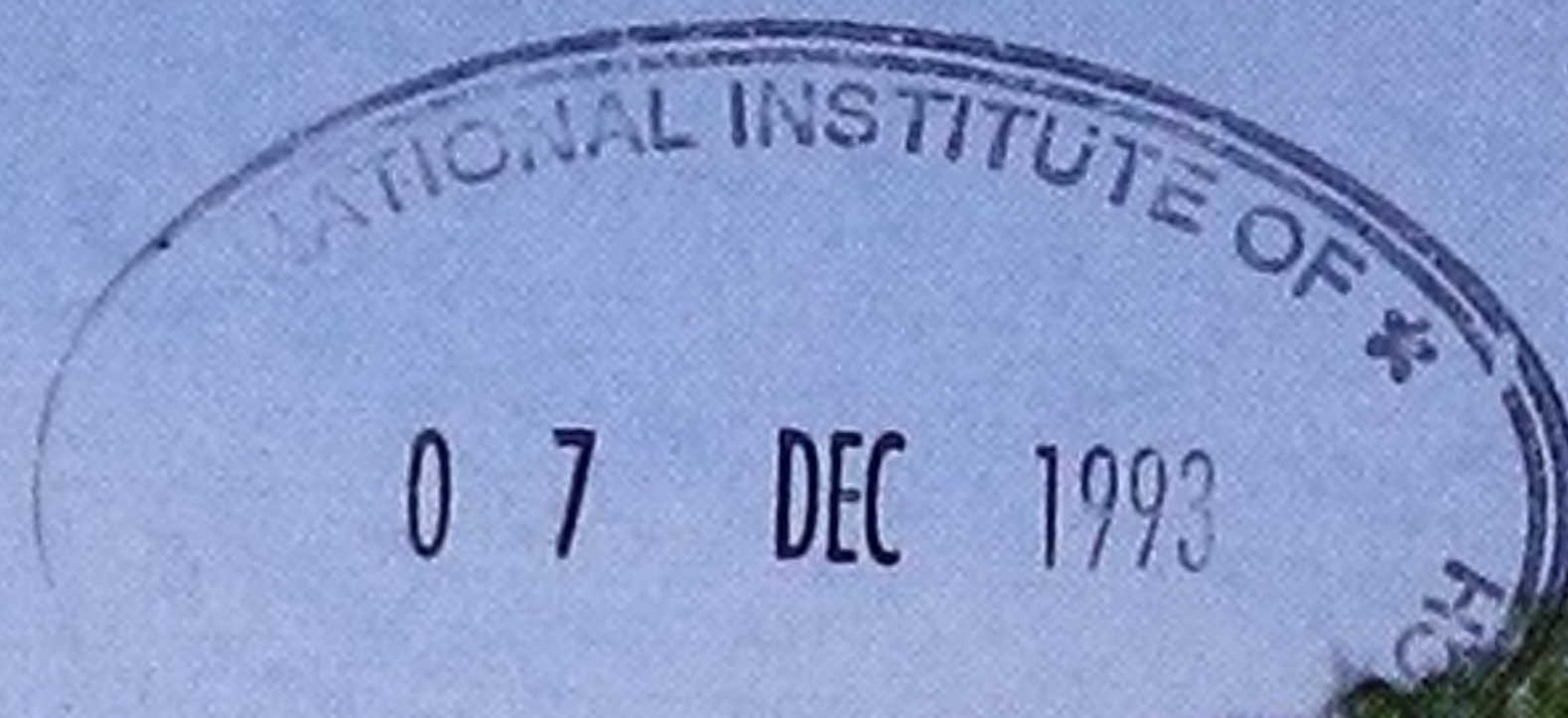


Statistical News



OFFICE
TO 4.30PM

DE & INDUSTRY

ICE

S AGENCY

SWYDDFA YSTADEGOL GANOLOG
LLYFRGELL GYHOEDDUS AR AGOR 9.00AM HYD 4.30PM
SWYDDFA BATENTAU

ADRAN MASNACH A DIWYDIANT
CANGEN GYFRIFON
SWYDDFA ARCHWILIO GENEDLAETHOL

GWEITHREDWYR GWASANAETHAU EIDDO
SWYDDFA'R SAFLE

Central Statistical Office



Swyddfa Ystadegol Ganolog

Public library open 9.00am to 4.30pm

Llyfrgell gyhoeddus

IN THIS ISSUE



A Survey of the
Welsh Language



A Good Press for
European Statistics



Minimising the Form-
Filling Burden



How Not to Collect Fire
Statistics from Fire
Brigades



The Legal Framework of
European Community
Statistics

Issue 102

Autumn 1993
Central Statistical Office

A publication of the Government Statistical Service



© Crown copyright 1993
First published 1993

Brief extracts from this publication may be reproduced provided the source is fully acknowledged. Proposals for reproduction of larger extracts should be addressed to Copyright Section, Room D. 134, Central Statistical Office, Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent, NP9 1XG

ISBN 011620556 3
ISSN 0017-3630

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

Enquiries about individual items in this issue should be made to the appropriate sources where indicated; otherwise they should be addressed to Wendy Kelly, Editor, *Statistical News*, Central Statistical Office, Room D.134, Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent NP9 1XG. Telephone: 0633 812915.

Enquiries about orders and subscriptions for *Statistical News* and other Central Statistical Office publications should be made to:

HMSO, PO Box 276, London SW8 5DT
(Telephone: 071-873 8499 for subscriptions; 071-873 9090 for orders).

Statistical News

Developments in British
Official Statistics

No. 102
Autumn 1993

London: HMSO

	Page
A Survey of The Welsh Language: The 1992 Welsh Social Survey by Howell Jones	102.4
Minimising the Form-Filling Burden - CSO's 'Quinquennial Reviews' carried out in 1992-93 by David Blunt	102.9
The Legal Framework of European Community Statistics by Yves Franchet	102.14
A Good Press for European Statistics by John Wright	102.19
How Not to Collect Fire Statistics from Fire Brigades by Gillian A M Goddard	102.24

Government Publications

Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Basic Horticultural Statistics for the United Kingdom 1983-1992	102.29
Special Studies in Agricultural Economics	102.29
Report No. 20 Pig Production 1991-92	102.29

Central Statistical Office

Overseas Finance	102.29
United Kingdom National Accounts 1993 Edition	102.30
Standard Industrial Classification 1992	102.31
The 1993 Share Register Survey	102.31
Research and Development	102.32
Business Registers for Statistical Purposes - European Regulation	102.32
Size Analysis of United Kingdom Businesses 1993	102.33

Education

Departmental Bulletins	102.34
------------------------	--------

Employment

Results from the Winter 1992/3 Quarterly Labour Force Survey	102.35
---	--------

Energy

Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics 1993	102.36
--	--------

102.2

Environment

The UK Environment	102.37
Housing	102.37

Health

Residential Accommodation for Elderly and for Younger Physically Disabled People: Year ending 31 March 1992	102.37
Residential Accommodation for Elderly and for Younger Physically Disabled People: Year ending 31 March 1987 to year ending 31 March 1992	102.38

Home Office

Asylum Statistics United Kingdom 1992	102.38
Control of Immigration: Statistics - Third and Fourth Quarters and Year 1992	102.38
Persons Granted British Citizenship, 1992	102.38
Offences of Drunkenness England and Wales, 1991	102.39
Time Intervals for Indictable Proceedings in Magistrates' Courts: February 1993	102.39

Northern Ireland

Department of Environment

Quarterly Northern Ireland Housing Construction Bulletin	102.39
---	--------

Department of Finance and Personnel

1992 Labour Force Survey Religion
Report 102.39

Department of Health and Social Services

Regional Information Branch Publications 102.40

Registrar General Northern Ireland

Workplace and Transport to Work Report 102.40

Northern Ireland Court Service

Northern Ireland Judicial Statistics 1992 102.40

Royal Ulster Constabulary

Road Traffic Accident Statistics
Annual Report 1992 102.41

Office of Population Censuses and Surveys

Childhood Mortality in 1991 102.41
Abortion Statistics 1991 102.41
Congenital Malformation Statistics for
1991 102.41
Deaths from Injury and Poisoning in 1991 102.42
Electoral Registration in 1991 102.42
First National Health Survey Published 102.42
Review of Statistical Information on
Population and Housing 102.43
1991 Census Publications 102.43
1991 Census Health Area Monitors 102.44
Limiting Long-Term Illness in Great
Britain 102.44
Persons Aged 60 and Over in Great
Britain 102.44
1991 Census: Usual Residence, Great
Britain 102.45
Full Results for Greater London 102.45
Population Trends 102.45

Scotland**Scottish Office Education Department**

Pre-Service School Teacher Training 102.46
School Meals Milk and Transport 102.46
Scottish Higher Education Statistics 102.46

Scottish Office Environment Department

Quarterly Trends Bulletins 102.46

General Register Office for Scotland

Census Results 102.47
Vital Statistics: Scotland 102.47
Scottish Transport Statistics 1991/92 102.47

Department of Social Security

Regular Statistical Bulletins 102.48

Transport

Port Statistics 1992 102.48
The 1991 Survey of Origins,
Destinations and Transport of UK
International Trade 102.49

Other Publications

Bank of England: Quarterly Bulletin 102.50

Government Statistical Service

Review of Regular Surveys 102.51
Appointments and Changes 102.51

A Survey of The Welsh Language: The 1992 Welsh Social Survey



by *Howell Jones, Welsh Office*

Introduction

This article describes a survey of the Welsh language. The survey was the largest survey ever - with the exception of the Census - to have inquired into both the ability of people to speak Welsh, and the degree to which the language is actually used.

The survey formed part of the 1992 Welsh Social Survey. Full advantage was taken of the multi-functional character of the Welsh Office to ensure that this survey met several disparate policy needs in an extremely cost-effective manner.

Background

In Wales, the Census has asked questions about Welsh since 1891. In that year, 54 per cent of the population were returned as Welsh speaking. From that time until 1981, the story was one of continual decline: in 1981 only 18.9 per cent claimed to be Welsh speakers. However, also in that year the proportion of school age children who were Welsh speaking increased for the first time and the 1991 Census showed a further increase. These results were seen as encouraging signs that the long decline of Welsh was finally being arrested.

There has been a growing demand to know what the bare census figures mean: how well do the Census defined Welsh speakers speak Welsh, when is the language used, by whom and in what situations? Since the establishment of S4C (the Welsh Fourth Channel) in 1982 and the inclusion of Welsh in the National Curriculum in Wales it has become more important than ever to answer some of these questions.

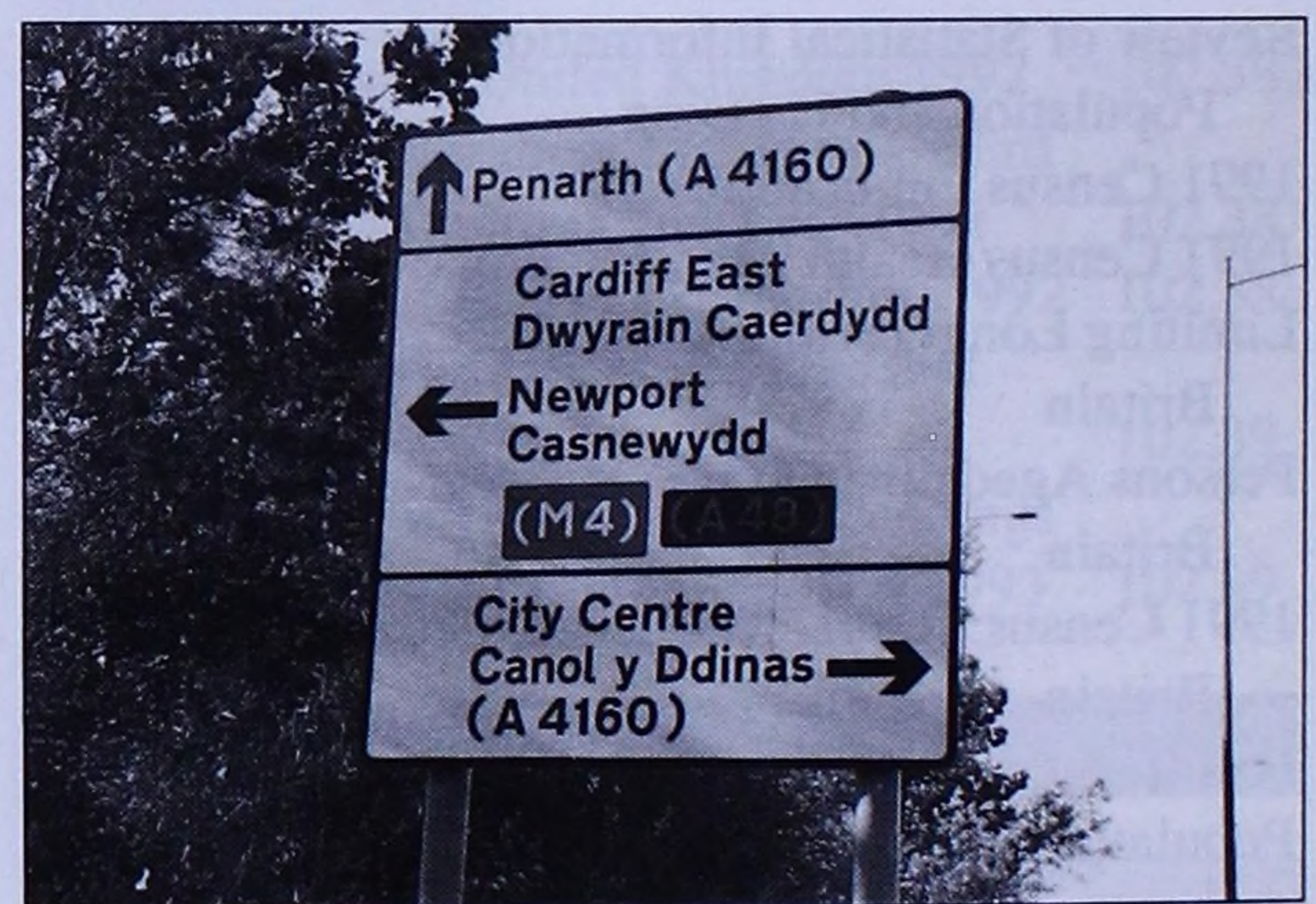
In 1992, the Government announced its intention to introduce a new Welsh Language Act. A Bill was presented to the House of Lords in December 1992 and completed its progress through Parliament in

October 1993. One of the Bill's main provisions is to establish the already existing Welsh Language Board as a statutory authority with a wide range of responsibilities including agreeing with public authorities operating in Wales statutory schemes for providing services to Welsh speaking customers. These events and considerations formed the background to the Welsh Office's decision that further information to supplement that available from the Census was required.

The 1992 Welsh Social Survey

The Welsh Office was planning to undertake a national house condition survey in 1992-93 using a two-stage design. The first stage would involve a large sample interview survey. The second stage would be a physical survey, undertaken by building surveyors, of a smaller number of properties targeted by the first stage survey. It was realised that the interview survey could be enhanced to meet the requirement for detailed information about the language.

As planning for the first stage went ahead in 1992, the Secretary of State for Wales took over responsibility



for the delivery of training in Wales from the Department of Employment's Office for Wales. In order to monitor progress towards meeting the national training targets the Welsh Office decided that information was needed about the training and educational

qualifications of the workforce, at both national and Training and Enterprise Council (TEC) area levels. The social survey was again identified as being a suitable means of collecting this information. The cost-effectiveness to the Welsh Office of this approach was further enhanced by the securing of additional funding for the survey from all the TECs in Wales.

The 1992 Welsh Social Survey thus had three main objectives:

- to provide information on housing policy topics and to enable a stratified sample design to be implemented for a subsequent Welsh House Condition Survey
- to provide information on the Welsh language to supplement the information available from the Census of Population
- to provide information on training and education to both the Welsh Office and all the Welsh Training and Enterprise Councils.

Methodology

Survey method

For both Welsh and training and education, it was highly desirable that as far as possible the individual should be the informant, rather than the head of household. Thus, after a successful pilot, the following survey method was implemented.

Two main questionnaires were used: one to collect information on household composition and housing related issues and one to collect information on the Welsh language and training.

The first questionnaire was used with the head of every household identified at the specified sampled addresses.

After an interview with the head of household, a separate questionnaire was used for each individual, combining questions on Welsh and training, either in an interview, or by means of on the spot self-completion, with all present aged 16 or over. These questionnaires were also completed in respect of children aged

3 to 15 with the head of household again acting as the informant. In the case of persons aged 16 or over who were absent at the time of interview questionnaires were left for self-completion and return by post.

All questionnaires were available in either English or Welsh and interviewers were instructed to ask which language version respondents wished to use.

Questionnaire about Welsh

The key concern was to obtain a fuller understanding of what the Census figures meant. It was therefore necessary to try to ask exactly the same question as asked in the Census and then to elicit further information which would enable an enhanced understanding to the response to be gained.

The Census form, addressed to the head, or joint head, or members of the household aged 16 or over, asked in respect of every individual in the household:

“Does the person speak, read or write Welsh?”

Responses were recorded using separate boxes for the following:

- speaks Welsh
- reads Welsh
- writes Welsh
- does not speak, read or write Welsh.

In the Social Survey, the head of household was asked in respect of every member of the household in an interview “Does[the person]speak Welsh?” (It was important to use 'Does' as the verb rather than 'Can' which is the question asked of Gaelic speakers in both Scotland and Northern Ireland. This was varied when asking individuals about reading to see what effect, if any, this semantic difference has).

Individuals aged 16 or over were asked the same question in respect of themselves alone, subsequent to the interview with the head of household. This meant that for an individual for whom a response was recorded on a Welsh and training questionnaire there were two measures on whether the individual spoke Welsh. Thus:

- the reliability of the head of household as an informant about the language used by house

hold members could be assessed (see Technical Footnote below), and

- any tendency for Welsh speakers to be more or less inclined to respond to the Welsh and training questionnaire could be assessed.

Over 30 other language related questions were designed to throw light on a number of sociolinguistic issues. For example, to monitor intergenerational transmission of the language, questions were included about the language ability of both the mother and the father, and Welsh speakers were asked which language had been spoken mostly as a child at home. Other questions dealt with the use of Welsh in a variety of situations (language domains), reading ability and habits, viewing and listening habits, interest in learning Welsh and attempts to do so. From the point of view of aiding interpretation of the Census results, the key question was that which asked all individuals, whether or not they claimed to speak Welsh, to choose a statement about ability in Welsh which described themselves best. Response to this question permitted the population's ability and usage of Welsh to be represented as a spectrum rather than as the usual Census dichotomy.

Sample frame and selection

The sample of 19,056 addresses was selected as a stratified random sample from the lists of addresses used to compile the Council Tax Valuation Lists. Stratification was by district authority area. In order to ensure sufficiently precise estimates for individual TEC areas, the local authority district areas within Powys, Clwyd and Gwynedd were sampled more heavily, to varying degrees, than would have been the case had sampling been proportional to the number of addresses in each district authority area.

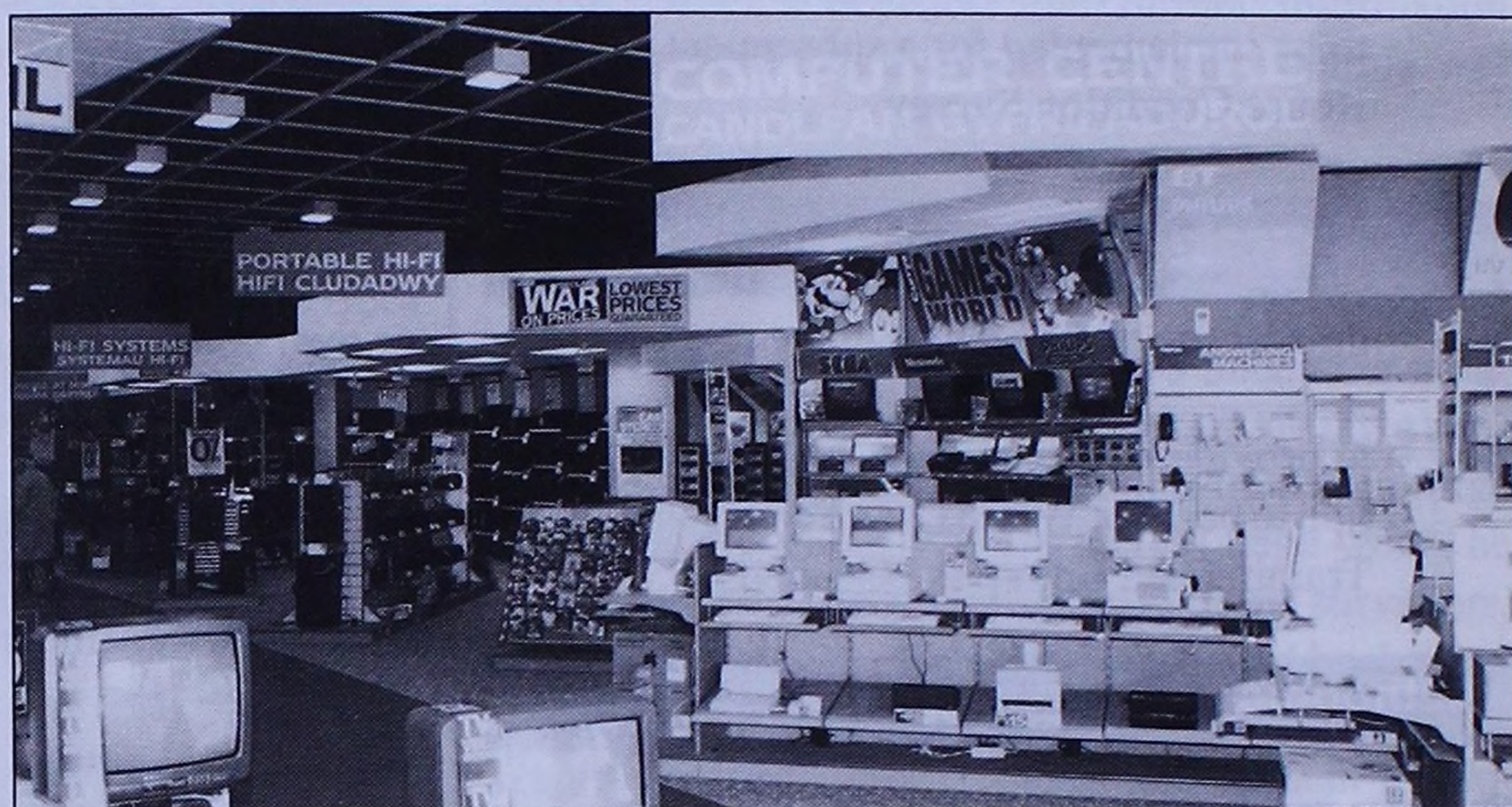
Response and estimation methods

12,700 households were successfully interviewed using the household questionnaire and these repre-

sented a response rate of 73.3 per cent of the 17,322 households eligible for inclusion in the survey.

31,920 persons were identified at the 12,700 households and of these 30,632 were aged 3 or over and thus eligible for the Welsh and training questionnaire. Completed questionnaires were obtained for 27,720 of those eligible, a response rate of 90.5 per cent. These returns represent a sample of just under 1 per cent of the total population.

Various sets of weighting factors were calculated in order to produce population estimates. Those for



application to households were calculated for three groupings of Council Tax valuation bands for each district authority. Weights used to obtain population totals incorporated multiplicative factors to correct for an undercount of males aged 15-34. Further factors were calculated to adjust for the non-response by individuals to the separate Welsh and training questionnaires. These latter factors made allowance for a small bias which resulted from achieving a slightly higher response to the individual questionnaires from Welsh speakers.

The resultant population estimates relate to the last quarter of 1992. The estimates relate to the population resident in domestic dwellings and exclude those not resident in households

Key Results

The 1991 Census showed 18.7 per cent of the population as Welsh speakers. In comparison, the Social Survey has two measures. The first measure is that

based on information provided by the head in each household and this produced an estimate of 20.4 per cent. The second measure, based on the individuals' own assessment, produced an estimate of 21.5 per cent. A 95 per cent confidence interval for the individual based social survey measure was calculated to be 21.5 per cent plus or minus 0.6 percentage points. Account was taken in this calculation of the intra-cluster (household) correlation. The overall design

effect for the whole of Wales was estimated to be 1.6. Given that people are obliged by law to make Census returns whereas response to the Social Survey was wholly voluntary, and that the Social Survey did not, unlike the Census, include persons in institutions, all three measures are very similar (as are the patterns at a county level) and the absolute differences between them are reassuringly small.

For the whole population, the following spectrum of abilities and uses was found

Individual's assessment* of own ability/use	Individual's own response* to: "Do you speak Welsh?"		
	Yes	No	Total
Cannot speak Welsh and never have		79.2	62.2
Cannot speak Welsh but could once		5.0	3.9
Can only speak a little Welsh	24.2	15.0	17.0
Can speak a fair amount of Welsh	14.4	0.5	3.5
Fluent in Welsh:			
but never/hardly ever speak it	2.1	0.2	0.6
but speak it only occasionally	7.3		1.6
and speak it about half the time	13.2		2.8
and speak it all or most of the time	38.8		8.3
Did not answer		0.1	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

* apart from 3 to 15 year olds where the informant was the head of household.

The responses suggest that the question "Do you speak Welsh?" is often actually interpreted as a question of ability rather than as a question of usage.

Preliminary results of the survey were issued in a Press Release on 29 July 1993. A final report will be published early next year.

Technical Footnote

Head of household's assessment compared to individual's assessment.

For the same individual, there was considerable discord between the assessment recorded in response to the question "Does [the person] speak Welsh?" on the household form (for which the head of household was meant to be the informant) and that recorded on the Welsh and training form (for which the individual was the informant if aged 16 or over) in response to exactly the same question.

By age group the following pattern was found:

Individual aged:	Percentage of assessments in disagreement
3 - 15	11.5
16 - 29	5.3
30 - 44	3.4
45 - 64	2.9
65 and over	2.9

In every age group analysed, there were more cases of the household form recording a person as not speaking Welsh while the Welsh language and training form recorded them as speaking Welsh, than vice versa. The high percentage of disagreements for the 3 to 15 age group is perplexing as, in theory, the head of household was the informant for both assessments in that age group. The data need to be analysed further but they seem to provide prima facie evidence that the

language assessments for children in particular are rather unstable, even at the same point in time. This is significant for the interpretation of Census results, particularly as the Longitudinal Study of 1971 and 1981 Census data also suggests instability: of those aged 13 to 24 in 1981 who had been Welsh speakers in the 1971 Census, 20 per cent were returned as not speaking Welsh in 1981.

Acknowledgements

The entire project was overseen by myself on behalf of the Welsh Office. Research and Marketing Ltd of Cardiff was the main contractor (appointed after competitive tendering) and was responsible for all fieldwork and data preparation. Dr Paul Longley, of Bristol University, and Dr Laurence Moore, were appointed as sub-contractors by Research and Marketing. They in turn appointed Mr Roger Thomas of the Joint Centre for Survey Methods as a sub-contractor. In conjunction with myself, Mr Thomas developed the sample design, and Drs Longley and Moore developed the estimation procedures. Dr Moore alone was responsible for the calculation of sampling errors.

For further details please contact:

Howell M Jones
Statistical Directorate
Welsh Office
Cathays Park
Cardiff CF1 3NQ
Telephone: 0222 825063

Minimising the Form-Filling Burden - CSO's 'Quinquennial Reviews' carried out in 1992-93



by David Blunt, Survey Control and Deregulation Unit, Central Statistical Office

Current arrangements for the control of government statistical surveys are outlined in a personal minute from the Prime Minister to Ministers in charge of departments (dated 4 March 1992). These require that regular surveys of business and local authorities be thoroughly reviewed at least every five years. The reviews should cover the need for the information, costs to government and respondents, burden (including respondents' views), other sources of information and options for simplification.

The CSO carried out eleven quinquennial reviews of its regular inquiries in 1992-93. Mr Alan Armstrong of the University of Bristol was appointed to ensure an independent critical assessment of the needs of users and the costs imposed on business. The reviews were cleared with the CSO's Survey Control Unit and the CSO Management Board before being submitted to the Economic Secretary to the Treasury for approval. The inquiries reviewed were:

Quarterly inquiry into industrial and commercial companies' GB trading profits
Monthly inquiry to credit grantors
Overseas transactions: films and television
Inquiry
Producer price indices (including Quarterly service sector prices)
Purchases inquiry
Sales of industry in Scotland and Wales (Scottish and Welsh top-up inquiries)
Iron castings
Annual retailing inquiry
Annual wholesaling inquiry
Annual motor trades inquiry
Survey of business enterprise research and development carried out within the UK

The CSO has a programme for the review of all its regular inquiries to businesses and local authorities. Work has started on those due to be completed in 1993-94. The majority of inquiries will have been reviewed by the end of 1994-95.

A summary of each of the eleven 1992-93 reviews follows.

Quarterly Inquiry into Industrial and Commercial Companies' GB Trading Profits (ISBN 0 903834 36 7)

The inquiry is used to estimate growth rates in industrial and commercial companies' gross trading profits, and hence to project forward this profits series, which is ultimately based on tax assessments. The series contributes 15 per cent to the income measure of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and is the largest component of the assessment of industrial and commercial companies' financial surplus or deficit.

Legal status: Statutory

Number of forms for 1992 inquiry: 6,572

Estimated compliance cost of 1992 inquiry: £200,000

The main review recommendations are:

- the inquiry should continue in its present form
- studies should be carried out to ensure the inquiry is not biased in favour of particular industries and that it is of optimal size for its purpose and to investigate the feasibility of using the inquiry to estimate profit levels rather than growth rates
- a study should be carried out into the possibility of using the inquiry to estimate the sum of profits and rent income and of the possibility of dropping the rent income question.

Monthly Inquiry to Credit Grantors (ISBN 0 903834 31 6)

The results of the inquiry currently form the largest component of the monthly narrower coverage (excluding consumer credit agreements in the form of

loans by banks on personal accounts, by insurance companies and by retailers) credit business statistics published by the CSO.

Legal status: Voluntary

Number of forms for 1992 inquiry: 380

Estimated compliance cost of 1992 inquiry: £19,000

The main review recommendations are:

- the existing monthly inquiry should continue for at least six months while methods for producing a broader monthly measure of consumer credit, using the Bank of England's new monthly information on bank lending on personal accounts and credit cards, are considered
- other sources of monthly information on lending by non-bank credit grantors, such as the Finance and Leasing Association (FLA), should be investigated further as possible alternatives to the CSO's monthly inquiry
- if it is necessary to continue with the CSO's monthly inquiry, its coverage should be reduced to reflect the availability of the new monthly bank lending figures and the questionnaire simplified as suggested by the review of user's needs
- steps should be taken to improve the coverage of the related quarterly inquiry to credit grantors and consideration given to putting it on a statutory basis to overcome response problems

Overseas Transactions: Films and Television Inquiry
(ISBN 0 903834 29 4)

The information collected from all relevant enterprises is used in compiling annual estimates for the UK's balance of payment accounts, producing a detailed analysis of the industry's overseas transactions and providing information on the financial state of the industry.

Legal status: Statutory

Number of forms for 1992 inquiry: 550

102.10

Estimated compliance cost of 1992 inquiry: £30,000

The main review recommendations are:

- the inquiry should continue in its present form
- consideration should be given to reducing the detail collected on rights, licences and other overseas transactions
- consideration should be given to identifying overseas transactions within the corresponding industrial categories of the CSO's Quarterly Turnover Inquiry
- a decision will need to be taken about obtaining more detailed geographical information to meet EC and International Monetary Fund (IMF) requirements.

Producer Price Indices (including Quarterly Service Sector Prices)
(ISBN 0 903834 26 X)

The Producer price indices (PPI) measure the price of the output (home sales) and materials and fuel of UK manufacturing industry. The results are used for deflating various components of the national accounts, as a measure of inflation and in cost adjustment contracts in industry.

Legal status: Statutory

Number of forms for 1992 inquiry: 130,000

Estimated compliance cost of 1992 inquiry: £110,000

The main review recommendations are:

- the inquiry should continue in its present form
- in the short term, some of the smallest (previously voluntary) contributors should be excluded. In the longer term, sampling procedures should be reviewed
- contributors should be contacted to ensure their prices are still representative and that discounted rather than list prices are used
- research should be carried out with a view to

collecting prices of manufactured goods imported by manufacturers as part of the manufacturing process and to ensure quality changes are allowed for so only pure price changes are reflected in the indices

- studies should be carried out into chain linking (removing the effect of weight changes) of the PPI and extending the prices from service sector industries.

Purchases Inquiry (ISBN 0 903834 34 0)

This five-yearly inquiry collects value and quantity information on the commodity detail of production industry's purchases of materials and fuel. The results are used in rebasing producer price indices, in the compilation of input-output tables and by other departments for briefing and analyses for policy purposes.

Legal status: Statutory

Number of forms for 1992 inquiry: None
(9,300 for last survey carried out in respect of 1989)

Estimated compliance cost of 1992 inquiry: Nil
(£700,000 for 1989 inquiry)

The main review recommendations are:

- detailed purchases information should continue to be collected, but on an annual basis rather than on a quinquennial basis
- subject to confirmation following immediate further study, purchases information should be collected in the Annual Census of Production (ACOP) from a reduced sample

Note: The estimated compliance costs of collecting detailed purchases data annually on the ACOP forms from a reduced sample (4,200) for five years would be the same as those incurred by the 9,300 firms in one year for the 1989 Purchases Inquiry

- given their burdensome nature, all quantity questions should be dropped

- sampling arrangements for future collections of detailed purchases data should be reviewed and revised.

Sales of Industry in Scotland and Wales (ISBN 0 903834 33 2)

The inquiry is conducted on behalf of the Scottish and Welsh Offices to improve the coverage and hence quality of the Scottish and Welsh Indexes of Production. The questionnaire, in general, collects information only on employment and total sales. It collects data from units not included in other short period sales inquiries in industries where the quality of the regional data would otherwise be unacceptably low.

Legal status: A mixture of Statutory and Voluntary

Number of forms for 1992 inquiry: 1,150

Estimated compliance cost of 1992 inquiry: £7,000

The main review recommendations are:

- the inquiry should continue in its present form with the panel increased to 540 (from a previously agreed 420) and the panel of respondents should be reviewed annually
- Scottish forms requesting product detail should be limited to total sales
- a review should be undertaken of the voluntary element of the Scottish panel which necessitate splitting out regional data
- improvements to the forms and notes will be made.

Iron Castings (ISBN 0 903834 35 9)

The inquiry is the only source of detailed output information for the industry. It provides up-to-date statistical information for policy and briefing purposes for both CSO and DTI.

Legal status: Statutory

Number of forms for 1992 inquiry: 70

loans by banks on personal accounts, by insurance companies and by retailers) credit business statistics published by the CSO.

Legal status: Voluntary

Number of forms for 1992 inquiry: 380

Estimated compliance cost of 1992 inquiry: £19,000

The main review recommendations are:

- the existing monthly inquiry should continue for at least six months while methods for producing a broader monthly measure of consumer credit, using the Bank of England's new monthly information on bank lending on personal accounts and credit cards, are considered
- other sources of monthly information on lending by non-bank credit grantors, such as the Finance and Leasing Association (FLA), should be investigated further as possible alternatives to the CSO's monthly inquiry
- if it is necessary to continue with the CSO's monthly inquiry, its coverage should be reduced to reflect the availability of the new monthly bank lending figures and the questionnaire simplified as suggested by the review of user's needs
- steps should be taken to improve the coverage of the related quarterly inquiry to credit grantors and consideration given to putting it on a statutory basis to overcome response problems

Overseas Transactions: Films and Television Inquiry
(ISBN 0 903834 29 4)

The information collected from all relevant enterprises is used in compiling annual estimates for the UK's balance of payment accounts, producing a detailed analysis of the industry's overseas transactions and providing information on the financial state of the industry.

Legal status: Statutory

Number of forms for 1992 inquiry: 550

102.10

Estimated compliance cost of 1992 inquiry: £30,000

The main review recommendations are:

- the inquiry should continue in its present form
- consideration should be given to reducing the detail collected on rights, licences and other overseas transactions
- consideration should be given to identifying overseas transactions within the corresponding industrial categories of the CSO's Quarterly Turnover Inquiry
- a decision will need to be taken about obtaining more detailed geographical information to meet EC and International Monetary Fund (IMF) requirements.

Producer Price Indices (including Quarterly Service Sector Prices)
(ISBN 0 903834 26 X)

The Producer price indices (PPI) measure the price of the output (home sales) and materials and fuel of UK manufacturing industry. The results are used for deflating various components of the national accounts, as a measure of inflation and in cost adjustment contracts in industry.

Legal status: Statutory

Number of forms for 1992 inquiry: 130,000

Estimated compliance cost of 1992 inquiry: £110,000

The main review recommendations are:

- the inquiry should continue in its present form
- in the short term, some of the smallest (previously voluntary) contributors should be excluded. In the longer term, sampling procedures should be reviewed
- contributors should be contacted to ensure their prices are still representative and that discounted rather than list prices are used
- research should be carried out with a view to

collecting prices of manufactured goods imported by manufacturers as part of the manufacturing process and to ensure quality changes are allowed for so only pure price changes are reflected in the indices

- studies should be carried out into chain linking (removing the effect of weight changes) of the PPI and extending the prices from service sector industries.

Purchases Inquiry (ISBN 0 903834 34 0)

This five-yearly inquiry collects value and quantity information on the commodity detail of production industry's purchases of materials and fuel. The results are used in rebasing producer price indices, in the compilation of input-output tables and by other departments for briefing and analyses for policy purposes.

Legal status: Statutory

Number of forms for 1992 inquiry: None
(9,300 for last survey carried out in respect of 1989)

Estimated compliance cost of 1992 inquiry: Nil
(£700,000 for 1989 inquiry)

The main review recommendations are:

- detailed purchases information should continue to be collected, but on an annual basis rather than on a quinquennial basis
- subject to confirmation following immediate further study, purchases information should be collected in the Annual Census of Production (ACOP) from a reduced sample

Note: The estimated compliance costs of collecting detailed purchases data annually on the ACOP forms from a reduced sample (4,200) for five years would be the same as those incurred by the 9,300 firms in one year for the 1989 Purchases Inquiry

- given their burdensome nature, all quantity questions should be dropped

- sampling arrangements for future collections of detailed purchases data should be reviewed and revised.

Sales of Industry in Scotland and Wales (ISBN 0 903834 33 2)

The inquiry is conducted on behalf of the Scottish and Welsh Offices to improve the coverage and hence quality of the Scottish and Welsh Indexes of Production. The questionnaire, in general, collects information only on employment and total sales. It collects data from units not included in other short period sales inquiries in industries where the quality of the regional data would otherwise be unacceptably low.

Legal status: A mixture of Statutory and Voluntary

Number of forms for 1992 inquiry: 1,150

Estimated compliance cost of 1992 inquiry: £7,000

The main review recommendations are:

- the inquiry should continue in its present form with the panel increased to 540 (from a previously agreed 420) and the panel of respondents should be reviewed annually
- Scottish forms requesting product detail should be limited to total sales
- a review should be undertaken of the voluntary element of the Scottish panel which necessitate splitting out regional data
- improvements to the forms and notes will be made.

Iron Castings (ISBN 0 903834 35 9)

The inquiry is the only source of detailed output information for the industry. It provides up-to-date statistical information for policy and briefing purposes for both CSO and DTI.

Legal status: Statutory

Number of forms for 1992 inquiry: 70

Estimated compliance cost of 1992 inquiry: £4,000

The review recommendation is:

- given the level of correlation between this inquiry and the new PRODCOM inquiry it is recommended that the present inquiry is replaced by an equivalent PRODCOM inquiry from 1993.

Annual Retailing Inquiry (ISBN 0 903834 28 6)

The Annual Retailing Inquiry is one of the family of annual inquiries to distribution and services trades. The main purpose of the inquiry is to provide information on the structure of industry, its pattern of trading, as well as providing reliable benchmark estimates of retailer's stocks, capital expenditure and consumers' expenditure for the national accounts.

Legal status: Statutory

Number of forms for 1992 inquiry: 12,000

Estimated compliance cost of 1992 inquiry: £600,000

The main review recommendations are:

- the inquiry should generally continue in its present form continuing with inhibition (preventing small businesses being selected in successive years) and collecting information from retail legal units (and units with retail as a secondary activity)
- there should be a review of the sample size allocation in the light of views from users on the accuracy required
- the full range of questions should be asked of a sub-sample of businesses in each size-band
- proposals should be pursued which, it is hoped, will lead to an earlier production of inquiry results.

Annual Wholesaling Inquiry (ISBN 0 903834 27 8)

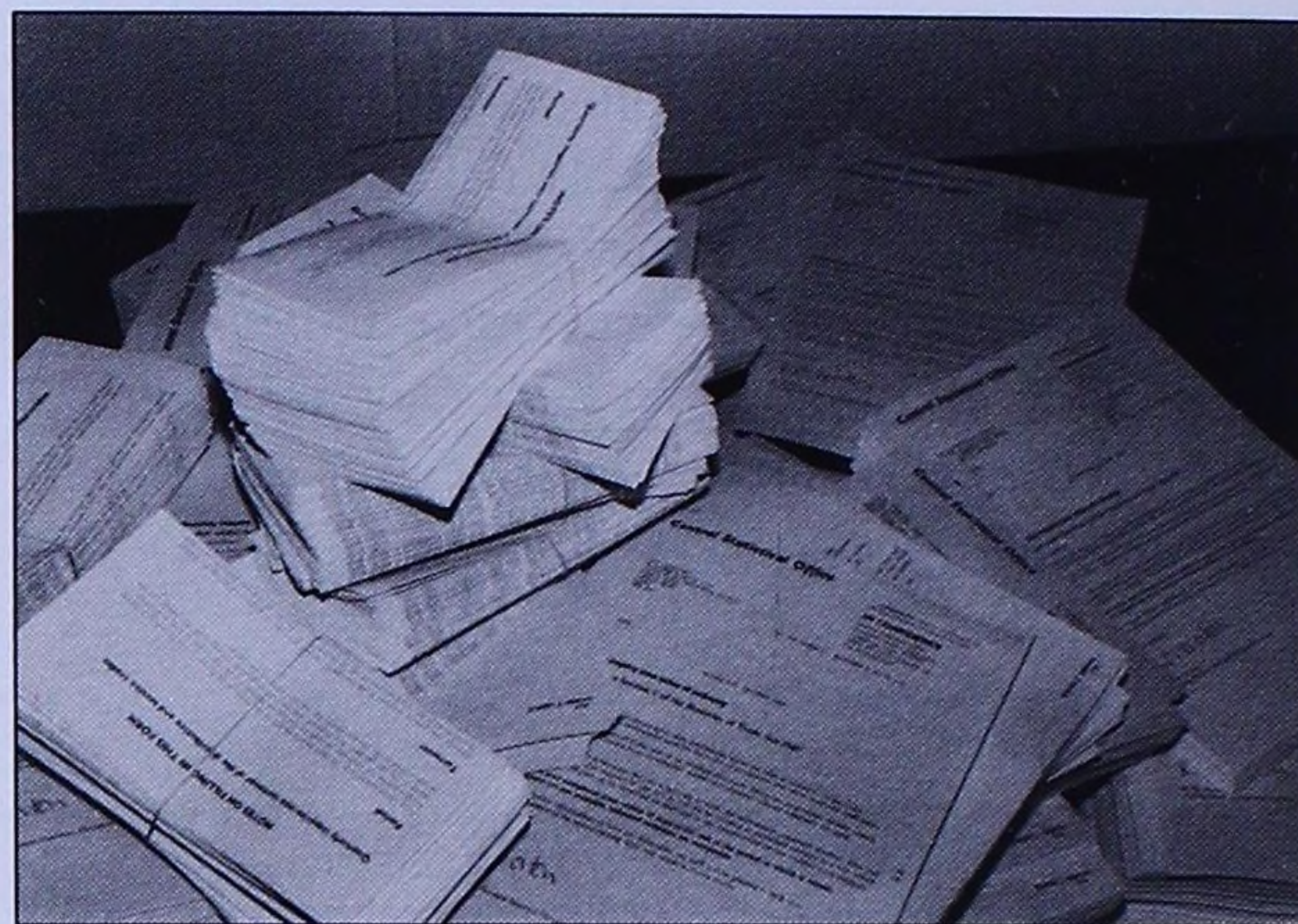
The Annual Wholesaling Inquiry is one of the family

of annual inquiries to distribution and services trades. The main purpose of the inquiry is to provide information for the national accounts on the size and structure of industry, its pattern of trading, as well as providing more reliable estimates of wholesaler's stocks and capital expenditure.

Legal status: Statutory

Number of forms for 1992 inquiry: 8,300

Estimated compliance cost of 1992 inquiry: £118,000



The main review recommendations are:

- the inquiry should generally continue in its present form continuing with inhibition (preventing small businesses being selected in successive years) and collecting information from legal units
- there should be a review of the sample size allocation in the light of views from users on the accuracy required
- the full range of questions should be asked of a sub-sample of businesses in each size-band
- proposals should be pursued which, it is hoped will lead to an earlier production of inquiry results.

Annual Motor Trades Inquiry (ISBN 0 903834 30 8)

The Motor Trades Inquiry is one of the family of annual inquiries to distribution and services trades.

The main purpose of the inquiry is to provide information for the national accounts. It provides turnover data used in the calculation of GDP and from 1992 contributes to input-output tables which have an increasing role in the national accounts. It also collects employment cost data and data on stocks and capital expenditure.

Legal status: Statutory

Number of forms for 1992 inquiry: 6,000

Estimated compliance cost of 1992 inquiry: £270,000

The main review recommendations are:

- the inquiry should generally continue in its present form continuing with inhibition (preventing small businesses being selected in successive years) and collecting information from legal units
- there should be a review of the sample size allocation in the light of views from users on the accuracy required
- the full range of questions should be asked of a sub-sample of businesses in each size-band
- proposals should be pursued which, it is hoped, will lead to an earlier production of inquiry results.

Survey of Business Enterprise Research and Development carried out within the UK

(ISBN 0 903834 32 4)

The main function of the inquiry is to supply data for policy purposes on science and technology, of which research and development (R&D) is an important part. The main customers the Department of Trade and Industry, Office of Science and Technology and international organisations. Total R&D expenditure in the UK by business enterprise, total employment and sources of funds for R&D are the most essential elements of the survey.

Legal status: Statutory

Number of forms for 1992 inquiry: 200

Estimated compliance cost of 1992 inquiry: £90,000

The main review recommendations are:

- the 1993 benchmark survey should be the last of its kind
- an increased annual survey should replace both the current annual survey and the larger four yearly benchmark survey with a saving in compliance costs
- the form should be simplified by reducing the need for detailed employment and expenditure information and adding detail on extra mural expenditure and sources and funds from abroad.

If you would like to obtain a copy of any of these reviews, please send your request (quoting the ISBN number) together with a cheque for £5.00 for each copy, payable to Central Statistical Office to:

Ian Bushnell
Library, Room 1.001
Central Statistical Office
Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
Newport
GWENT, NP9 1XG

If you would like any further information about the procedures for the control of statistical surveys or would like to discuss any of the reviews further, please contact:

David Blunt
Survey Control and Deregulation Unit
Central Statistical Office
Room 602
Millbank Tower, Millbank
LONDON
SW1P 4QQ
Telephone: 071-217 4325
Fax: 071-217 4214

Mr Blunt will be happy to speak to you about general survey control matters or put you in touch with the individual inquiry statisticians for discussions about specific reviews.

by *Yves Franchet*
Director-General of Eurostat

Editor's note: The process which ensures the production of comparable statistics covering the European Community as a whole is a collaboration between the member countries and Eurostat, the statistical arm of the European Commission. It is carried out in part on a co-operative basis and in part within a framework of Community legislation which imposes obligations on member states to collect, process and transmit statistics which are then disseminated by Eurostat.

Introduction

The last few years have seen a quickening economic and political integration of the European Community countries as well as a widening of the areas in which Community institutions are permitted to develop their own policies. This has led to an increasing need for good statistics to be available at the Community level (as opposed to being available separately for each country according to its own definitions and classifications). It is a challenge for Eurostat and the statistical services of member countries to meet these needs successfully whilst working under increasing economic and financial constraints. A crucial element in the success of this venture is careful planning of the Community's statistical activities - keeping and developing those elements which are necessary and abandoning what has become lower priority - as well as their implementation in a relevant and cost-effective way. The agencies involved in the production of Community statistics need to work together if the final results are to be of a consistent quality and comparable between countries. This article aims to explain the legal framework underpinning the Community's statistical system and why this is necessary to ensure that the required statistics become available.

The European Community Treaties

The various European Community Treaties define those policy areas in which there is Community competence, describe the aims of those policies and

the means - including the legal instruments - to be used to achieve the objectives set. The Community can only act within these specified fields of competence and powers. All Community actions of a statistical nature therefore need to have a legal basis in one of the Treaties and, for statistics, the most frequently used is the Treaty of Rome, which established the European Economic Community¹.

Treaty Articles used for Statistical Work

For the time being, there is no specific chapter or article in the Treaties governing Community statistics in general. Therefore the articles of the Treaty on which Community statistics are based are found in the context of the relevant policy areas to which the statistical results refer.

The common legal basis for agriculture statistics is Article 43, where the Commission's competence is defined as being to submit proposals to develop and implement the common agricultural policy; the Council is empowered to legislate the relevant legal acts in the form of Regulations, Directives and Decisions.

Article 100a entitles the Council to adopt - on a proposal from the Commission - the measures necessary to ensure the existence in the Member States of the conditions required for the establishment and functioning of the internal market.

The Council Decision establishing DOSES, a project which establishes a specific programme of research into and Development of Statistical Expert Systems, is based on Article 130q. This appears in the Treaty under the title 'Research and Technological Development'.

Article 213 allows the Commission, within the limits and conditions laid down by the Council and the Treaties, to 'collect any information required for the performance of the tasks entrusted to it.' It is not surprising therefore that this Article is the most

¹ Articles cited in the present text refer to this Treaty

common basis governing statistics in the fields of industry, business, labour and carriage of goods. This Article is also the primary basis for the recently adopted Decision on the Framework Programme for Priority Actions in the Field of Statistical Information 1993-97.

Another very general basis is Article 235 which entitles the Council 'to take the appropriate measures' on a proposal from the Commission, if the Treaty has not provided the necessary powers to attain one of the objectives of the Community. Member countries' external trade statistics are provided on this basis.

The choice of the primary legal basis is of practical relevance to the legislative procedures and for voting. Measures under Articles 100a or 130q are subject to 'co-operation procedures' with the European Parliament. These undergo two readings at the Parliament instead of only one as in the case of the other Articles. Legal acts based on Article 213 are adopted by the Council by a simple majority; Articles 43, 100a and 130q need a qualified majority, i.e. at least 54 votes which can be reached following the weighting scheme of Article 148 (2) by a minimum of 7 Member States. Measures based on Article 235 can only be adopted with unanimity.

Under all these legal bases, the Commission, of which Eurostat is a part, has the right (and the obligation) to initiate legal acts and the Council is the relevant legislative authority. The Commission is furthermore the Community institution charged with implementing the legal acts adopted by the Council.

Legal Instruments used for Statistical Work

The legal instruments to be used by the Community in pursuing its policies are listed in Article 189 of the Treaty of Rome: 'In order to carry out their task the Council and the Commission shall, in accordance with the provision of this Treaty, make regulations, issue directives, take decisions, make recommendations or deliver opinions'.

Article 43 allows legislation only by means of Regulations, Directives and Decisions but Articles 100a, 130q, 213 and 235 do not specify any type of legal instrument.

The most commonly used types of legal act in the area

of Community statistics are Regulations and Directives. Although the Treaty does not stipulate in which circumstances the one should be used in preference to the other, it does define the different qualities of these two instruments. A Regulation has general application: it is binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States. A Directive however is binding upon the Member States to which it is addressed in so far as the result to be achieved is concerned; the choice of form and methods to achieve this result is left to the national authorities.

Expressed in legislative terms, whenever a new Directive is enacted, a Member State will need to pass new legislation in order to be empowered to achieve the result required unless the result can be achieved under existing legislation. On the other hand, a Community Regulation becomes law in its own right. Hence a Directive has the effect of harmonizing the legislation in force in Member States while a Regulation produces a law applicable throughout the Community

When Eurostat makes a proposal concerning the collection and processing of statistics, some relevant statistical information will usually exist, to a greater or lesser degree, in the different Member States. The effect of Community legislation is therefore to achieve some harmonisation in the processing and presentation of data already available as well as, where necessary, the collection of more statistics, possibly through new legislation.

As regards content and effect, there need be no significant difference between a Regulation and a Directive. A Regulation, even though directly binding on national authorities and citizens can be phrased in such a way that there can be many different ways of complying with it. Conversely a Directive can be relatively strict in the definition of the result to be achieved, leaving the national authorities with very little choice as regards the contents of the legislation required to comply with it. The contrast which once existed between a Regulation and a Directive has thus been overcome by developments in the way these legal instruments are drawn up. Eurostat's position on this subject is open. However, the Community statistical system aims to do more than simply harmonize existing statistics and this would suggest some use of Regulations.

A Council Decision is the legal instrument commonly used as the base for outline statistical programmes (which, in effect, convey Eurostat's general intentions in the statistical area without specifying, in full detail, the work which will be carried out). This instrument is close to a Regulation in that there is no need for translation into national law but it is a matter of content whether statistical programme Decisions *per se* oblige Member States to collect or supply data. Due to its nature as a statement of intent, there is no such obligation in the recently adopted multi-annual programme 1993-97 but obligations on Member States to provide certain information and transmit existing statistics are contained in the Draft Council Decision establishing a multi-annual programme for the development of Community Statistics on Research, Development and Innovation, which is currently being discussed by Council.

Recommendations and Opinions have no binding force; they do not play a role in the domain of statistics.

Legislation about Legislation

While some legal acts directly ensure the availability of statistics in the Community's fields of competence, others govern the decision-making process which gives rise to Community statistics. Two important cases are illustrated here.

*Council Decision of 13 July 1987 Laying Down the Procedures for the Exercise of Implementing Powers Conferred on the Commission*²

As was mentioned above, the Commission is charged with implementing legal acts adopted by the Council. However, the Council can influence the way this is done by including in the texts of legislation a provision that a committee of representatives of the Member States be set up to work alongside the Commission in implementing that legislation. Such a committee may be only of an advisory nature or it may be given stronger powers as outlined below. These powers were included in this Council Decision, which is familiarly known as the 'Comitology Decision'.

Several committees have been set up in the statistical area, covering topics such as nomenclatures, statistical confidentiality, external trade statistics and gross national product estimates. These committees have

been endowed with the power to stop an implementation proposal of the Commission and raise the decision up to Council level. Committees with such powers are referred to as Management Committees. The Statistical Programme Committee, on which the Directors-General of national statistical institutes review the texts of draft statistical legislation before they are submitted to the Council as official Commission proposals, is a Committee with only advisory powers. The right to initiate draft legal text and to make such proposals to the Council is given to the Commission directly in the Treaties. In this context, a stronger power like a management power cannot be given to the Statistical Programme Committee as this is reserved for implementing an existing Council legal act.

The existence of these committees seems to be the first step to taking the technical detail out of proposals (eg Regulations and Directives) being discussed at the highest political level, in Parliament and Council. Within the limits and conditions of the Treaties, the scope between what must be decided at Council level and what can be delegated to the Commission should be used.

*Council Decision on the Framework Programme for Priority Actions in the Field of Statistical Information 1993-97*³

This Decision was passed by the Council on 22 July 1993.

The Community's statistical work is carried out within the framework of a multi-annual Community statistical programme. This programme contains an outline of what the Community - Eurostat and the member countries - aim to achieve together over a five year period, specifying the main areas of work and the objectives to be met.

It is binding with regard to the outer limit, i.e. the maximum of possible actions but is only a declaration of intent and does not of itself oblige member countries to take any action. Even though there is no legal

² Official Journal of the European Communities, NoL197, 18.7.87, p 33

³ Official Journal of the European Communities, NoL219, 28.08.93, p 1

obligation to implement all projects exhaustively, the 'moral' obligation to do so is reflected in the fact that in the programme just ended, about 95 per cent of the work contained in the initial draft was carried out.

For operational purposes, annual work programmes with a more specific content will be drawn up, by selecting from the multi-annual programme those items of the highest priority which can be carried out within national and Community financial constraints. The legal instruments which will be proposed for use are chosen at this stage.

The contents of the annual programme cannot go outside the frame defined by the multi-annual programme. They have the same quality as 'declarations of intent' pending legislation or agreements of the type which will be listed below.

In the preparation of both the multi-annual programme (a proposal from the Commission to the Council) and the annual work programme (drawn up by the Commission), the Directors-General of the national statistical offices are consulted via the Statistical Programme Committee of which they are members. The Committee's advice is given the utmost weight when the contents of the programmes are finalized but, as already explained, it has no power of veto.

The statistical programme is carried out through various specific actions. These can include activities such as the carrying out of methodological work, the collection and processing of statistics, or the development of a nomenclature. Where these activities involve both Eurostat and Member States, a proposal that the activity takes place can be made by the Commission in one of three possible ways:

- **via the Council**, where Member States can debate and vote on it in accordance with the appropriate Treaty provisions. These are the Council Regulations, Directives and Decisions based on the articles mentioned in the second column of page 101.19.

- **by the Commission itself** under very restrictive limitations of time and costs, eg the action must not last for more than one year, the data to be gathered must be either already available or, if they need to be collected directly from respondents, the additional costs of that exercise must be borne by the Commis-

sion. The juridical reason why such delegation to the Commission has only very limited scope is constituted in the Treaty which stipulates that it is the Council which has to lay down the limits and conditions of Community actions, as it has done in this case. Legislative power cannot be assumed by the Commission.

The Commission's powers in this domain are not only limited by these material pre-conditions. Commission action here is also bound to the strongest comitology procedures possible under the Council Decision of 13 July 1987. If the Statistical Programme Committee, acting as a so-called Regulatory Committee, does not support the draft measure proposed by the Commission, the Commission must submit the proposal to the Council which, by a simple majority, can stop the Commission. Indeed, it seems to be another important step to exonerate Parliament and Council from over-technical discussions and decisions. Within the limits and conditions of the Treaty, the location of the boundary between what must be decided at Council level and what can be delegated as implementing power to the Commission should be exploited in such a way as to lighten the burden on the Council. Practical experience with this new instrument may lead to a revision of the current restrictive conditions.

- **by agreement** between the Commission and the national authorities within their respective spheres of competence. These arrangements have no legally binding force and, though not mentioned in Article 189, are a possible way of acting within the Treaty as the listing of legal instruments in Article 189 is not exhaustive.

As none of the Member States acting through their competent national authorities has any legal obligation to participate in such an arrangement, action is based on voluntary co-operation. This means that each national statistical institute must be able, willing and allowed to take part. The statistical information in question must already be in the possession of, or easily available to the national statistical institute. A national institute will not be willing to enter into a voluntary agreement if the intended project is not compatible with its own priorities and it may not be allowed to if the non-binding actions appear to conflict with national policy.

Conclusion

Given the choice of basing Community statistics either on formal legal (Council or Commission) acts or merely on administrative arrangements, Eurostat's preference is to propose the less formal mechanism if and for as long as the required results can be achieved in that way.

Three elements are of fundamental importance in the production of Community statistics: quantity, quality and time. These statistics must reflect the reality which they are designed to portray at Community level; this requires primarily the participation of all or at least most of the Member States. The national statistical authorities must be able to contribute as much in quantity and in precision as is necessary to

meet the quality requirements. Finally, as the compilation of long-run time series is, by definition, a long-term exercise, it is important that the continuation of any venture begun is, as far as possible, assured.

Present day conditions, notably the economic and financial constraints facing governments, suggest a decreasing likelihood that voluntary agreements between national statistical institutes and Eurostat can achieve an even quality and availability of statistics throughout the Community. The use of Community legal instruments to ensure that those statistics are available will therefore become more necessary. In that light, the use of the Community's legal powers can guarantee the continued availability of essential information throughout the Community.



In the summer of 1989 **John Wright** - a senior member of the Government Information Service - joined the 'new', enlarged Central Statistical Office from the Cabinet Office, where he had been Head of Information. His brief to establish the best possible system of communicating with the news media. In December 1992 he was seconded to Eurostat - the EC statistical office in Luxembourg - with a similar brief. In this article he describes how he is tackling the challenge.

Releasing official statistics to the news media - why is it so important to get it right?

This is an important question for all those involved in official statistics. My move from London to Luxembourg seemed a good moment to address it once more. And my conclusions?

- *Official statistics record matters of great significance for both nations and individuals*
- *they are one way in which the ordinary citizen can judge the state of the nation and how well (or badly) the Government is running things*
- *and they can be a very good way - because, on the whole, they tend to measure things warts and all; free of the 'spin' that inevitably governments try to put on information released to the public*
- *politicians are wary of statistics. In totalitarian states 'unacceptable' statistics are suppressed. In democracies Ministers don't mind when statistics put the Government in a good light but tend to wriggle when they show all is not well. They know that fiddling the figures is unrealistic but that doesn't stop them trying to influence their 'presentation'*
- *the fact that Ministers can be uneasy about statistics underlines their importance as a public commodity. Unfortunately, the public can often find them boring and difficult to understand*
- *the news media, finely tuned to the*

public mood, tend to reflect this attitude. (Incidentally, this also makes it easier for politicians to push them under the carpet)

- *therefore, the aim of people like me must be to try to show the public, through the media, that statistics are important by making them interesting. And by the nature of their release - self-evidently free from political manipulation - to enhance their credibility, because statistics that are not believed are of no use to anyone.*

How is this done? Firstly, let's look at the United Kingdom. In a way press relations for the Central Statistical Office is much easier than for Eurostat.

There is acute, even obsessive, interest by the City and the news media in a precise range of the latest economic indicators, many of which are extremely market sensitive. It's just a matter of giving the media what you know they want, in the way they want, with high standards of professional integrity. One key element is the publication of release dates well in advance. The release is always at the same time - recently changed from 11-30 to 9-30 - and not a split second before or after.

Economic statistics from the CSO are eagerly awaited - they are 'newsworthy', either because they really are or because the news media make them so (it amounts to the same thing!). And, in theory, and mostly in practice, release procedures are impeccable. If a disastrous inflation figure happens to come out on the day of a crucial by-election...well, tough. And that's how it should be.

High-profile economic indicators apart, the CSO also tries hard to make the press and public interested in some of the huge amount of other data that record the British way of life. High-profile launches each year of *Social Trends* and *Regional Trends* are just two examples. In other words, they have to use their skill and imagination to stimulate media interest in statistics that might otherwise receive little attention.

The key here - as I learned in an earlier stint at the CSO in the 1970s under Sir Claus Moser and Sir John Boreham - is to remember that people are fascinated by other people and in comparing themselves with other people. The news media know this full well. So any statistics that make people feel better or worse, about the same, or just fascinated by other people, if presented in an attractive way, rarely fail to fire the media's imagination.

**** A daunting role ****

Now, let's turn to Eurostat. It has to be said that for the vast majority of ordinary people in Europe - and especially in the United Kingdom - the European Community is one of the most boring subjects imaginable.

This makes the task of persuading the news media to be interested in EC statistics fairly daunting. But such statistics are the raw material for people to make certain judgements about Europe and their place within it. And, since progress towards European unity seems inexorable and increasingly will affect all our lives, then people will surely benefit from knowing certain key data.

But how to persuade Europe's news media to publish them? That was the challenge I faced on arriving in Luxembourg last December.

My basic analysis was this:

- *the news media will only publish something that they know will help them sell newspapers or boost listening or viewing figures. They are not in the business of boring people - for them, that is the route to commercial disaster*

- *so, the 'product' you offer them must be something that will grab their attention and slots into their agenda. Having come up with this, you must present it to them in the right way, at the right place and at the right time and then monitor the results in order to make any necessary adjustments to your*

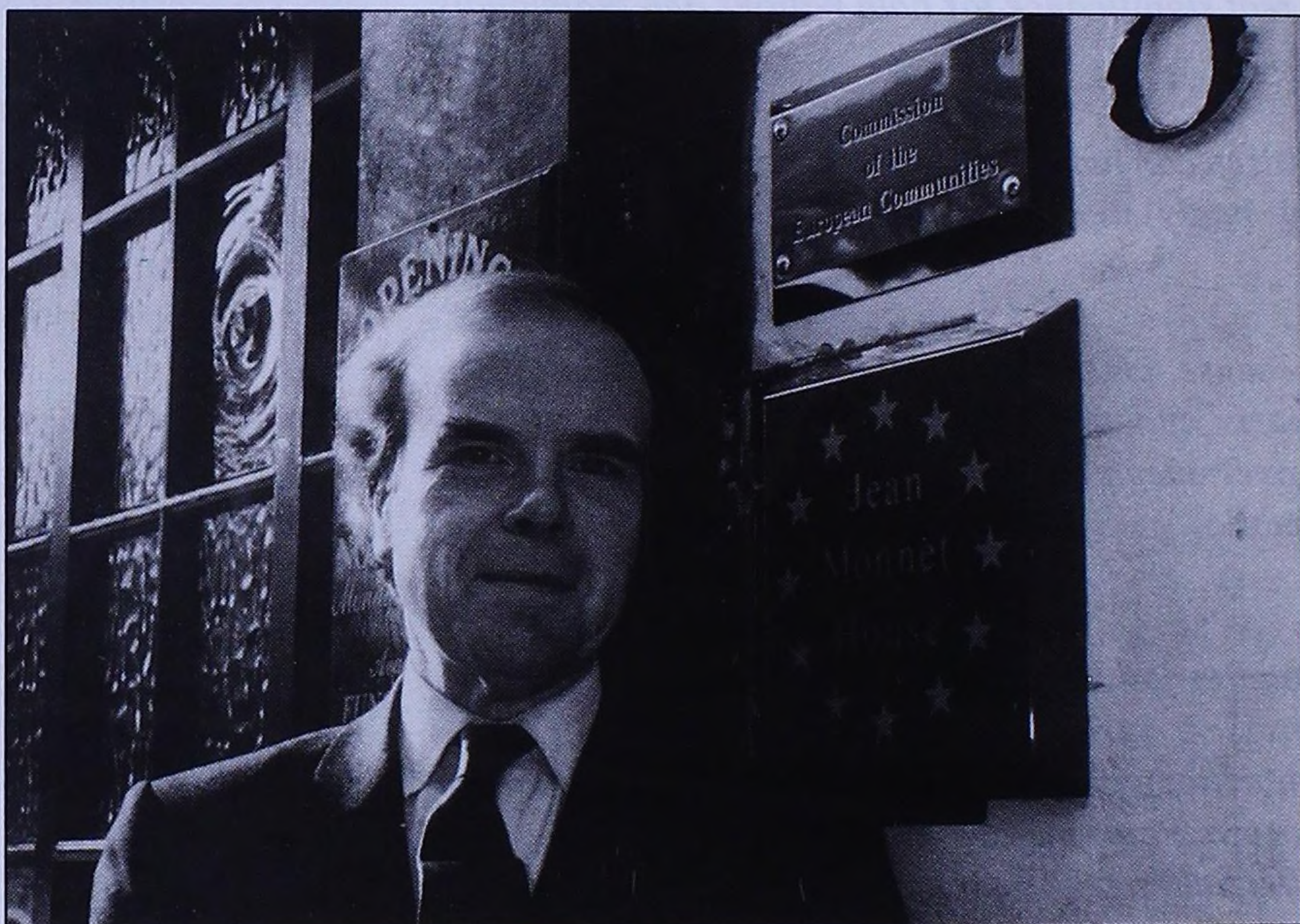
'product' or the way you 'market' it.

How did I apply this analysis to the situation I found at Eurostat?

Straight away I saw that Eurostat produces many statistics potentially very interesting to media and public. These range from key regular economic indicators - inflation, unemployment, national accounts etc - to detailed analyses of areas of economic activity or social conditions.

Much of this data emerges first in short bulletins or *Rapid Reports* - quite well produced but not very likely to capture the attention of journalists unless they know what they are looking for.

Before I arrived the procedure was that after compilation these reports were sent for printing and eventually found their way from the EC print shop to the Commission in Brussels. Here they were made available to the press who might or might not notice them, with a strong probability of the latter.



My brief was simple: to obtain more publicity for Eurostat and the statistics it produces.

The classic way of communicating with the press is by news release - a brief summary written in a way that journalists find 'user-friendly' and which gives them interesting and 'newsworthy' information requiring

little effort on their part to turn into good copy. So I embarked on a programme of news releases on the various regular statistics and *ad hoc* bulletins emerging from Eurostat.

The first attempt was on the regular *Consumer Price Index* or CPI - the European rate of inflation. These figures have always received a lot of publicity but it was not difficult to sharpen their presentation. I received great encouragement from John Astin, until fairly recently a chief statistician in the UK Government Statistical Service and now the senior Eurostat official responsible for price indices.

I then had to find the best way of issuing the news release. This was not difficult.

At noon each day at EC Headquarters in Brussels, Europe's news media are briefed by the Commission spokesmen on the news of the day about the Community. Next to the briefing room all the latest EC news releases are laid out ready to be taken by journalists gathering for the briefing.

What better place to display my wares? The journalists accredited to the Commission represent all the major media outlets in the Community and many beyond; on any one day they can number two or three hundred.

So all I had to do was make my releases tell a story they wanted to pass to their readers, and visually attractive enough to stand out among all the other EC releases - a great many of which are not exactly stimulating, to say the least.

*** * Like hot cakes * ***

I remember well taking my first release - translated, as they must be, into French and German, as well as in English - by car to Brussels, giving them to the Spokesman and waiting for them to be put on the display table shortly before 12 noon, the official release time. Would anyone notice them?

I needn't have worried. As the journalists arrived, first in a trickle and then in a last-minute rush, my news releases - showing that EC annual inflation fell to 3.7 per cent in December 1992 (the lowest rate since August 1988) - went like proverbial hot cakes.

And the press next day - all over Europe and beyond - was full of it. My foot was certainly in the door!

I then started to produce the releases thick and fast. As well as the CPI, regulars, include monthly unemployment figures, industrial production, agricultural prices and quarterly national accounts.

Then I began looking at the various *ad hoc* reports and soon unearthed a wealth of newsworthy material: a survey of old people in the EC; a publication on shopping around Europe; population by citizenship; spending on social security in the EC; the growth in use of unleaded petrol...and so on.

Much of it I found fascinating - and fortunately the press shared my view. In many cases, it enabled them to produce country-by-country 'league tables'. I was operating by one of the basic rules of the game: enabling people to compare themselves with others, feeling good, bad or neutral in the process.

The Brussels connection is vital - a press officer's dream. How else could I reach such a large captive audience of key journalists? All I had to do was keep on producing the right product. They would do the rest. And so they did - and do. In the first six months I clocked up some 30 releases - being careful not to overload the market or bore my audience by producing releases I knew they wouldn't use. My rule of thumb is: if I find a topic interesting, there's a good chance *they* will, too.

The way this operation differs from the one I ran in the UK is that I am being highly selective in what I bring to their attention. I am, if you like, operating as a journalist inside Eurostat. And the result?

*** * Higher profile * ***

After six months I compiled a report for the Director-General of Eurostat, Yves Franchet. Attached to it was a file of 300 cuttings from newspapers all over Europe on data issued by the new Eurostat news releases. The period covered was 20 February to 4 July - news releases 5 to 29.

In my report I said: *'I estimate that these cuttings may represent only around 25 per cent of total coverage, probably much less if we take into account all those national cuttings not monitored by our imperfect*

system, plus the regional press and specialist publications and countries not monitored at all. If this is so, it would add up to around 1,200 cuttings and references to Eurostat in that period.

Projected on an annual basis we might expect to issue around 60 releases a year with - on the most conservative estimate - 2,400-plus cuttings. To these we must add all the references to our news releases on radio and television. You will note that the cuttings embrace most of the Europe's best-known newspapers and extend to countries beyond the EC.

By any measure this adds up to very substantial publicity indeed and must be serving to raise the international profile of Eurostat'.

Mr Franchet replied: *'This is very important and a good success indeed. Keep going. Make sure that the whole of Eurostat is behind this effort'.*

In six months I had advanced further than I had thought possible. In many ways this was by pushing hard and cutting corners. But I have been extremely fortunate in the support I have received. Firstly, from Mr Franchet himself, the Director of Dissemination, Alain Chantraine (now Director of International Relations) and Francois de Geuser, Head of Public Relations. They appointed me, believed in my project and backed me to the hilt.

I couldn't have made so much progress without my (one and only) French assistant, Anne Ory. It is her first 'proper' job after university and now, after a few months, at the tender age of 22, she is the linchpin of the system - a 'natural' press officer - with her fluent English making up for my indifferent French.

I have been lucky in my relationships with key officials in Brussels. This was potentially a tricky area. Clearly, the Spokesmen like to keep control over everything released in their name. At first I thought they might not be too keen on Eurostat news releases. I was nervous of any attempt by Brussels to influence the content or timing of my releases. In an organisation bringing together the work of all the national statistical offices in the Community, it is important to demonstrate 'best practice', to set a good example.

I needn't have worried. After one or two hiccups we have settled down to an excellent relationship - thanks to the understanding and professionalism of Troels Krojer, the spokesman of Danish Commissioner Henning Christophersen, who is responsible for Eurostat.

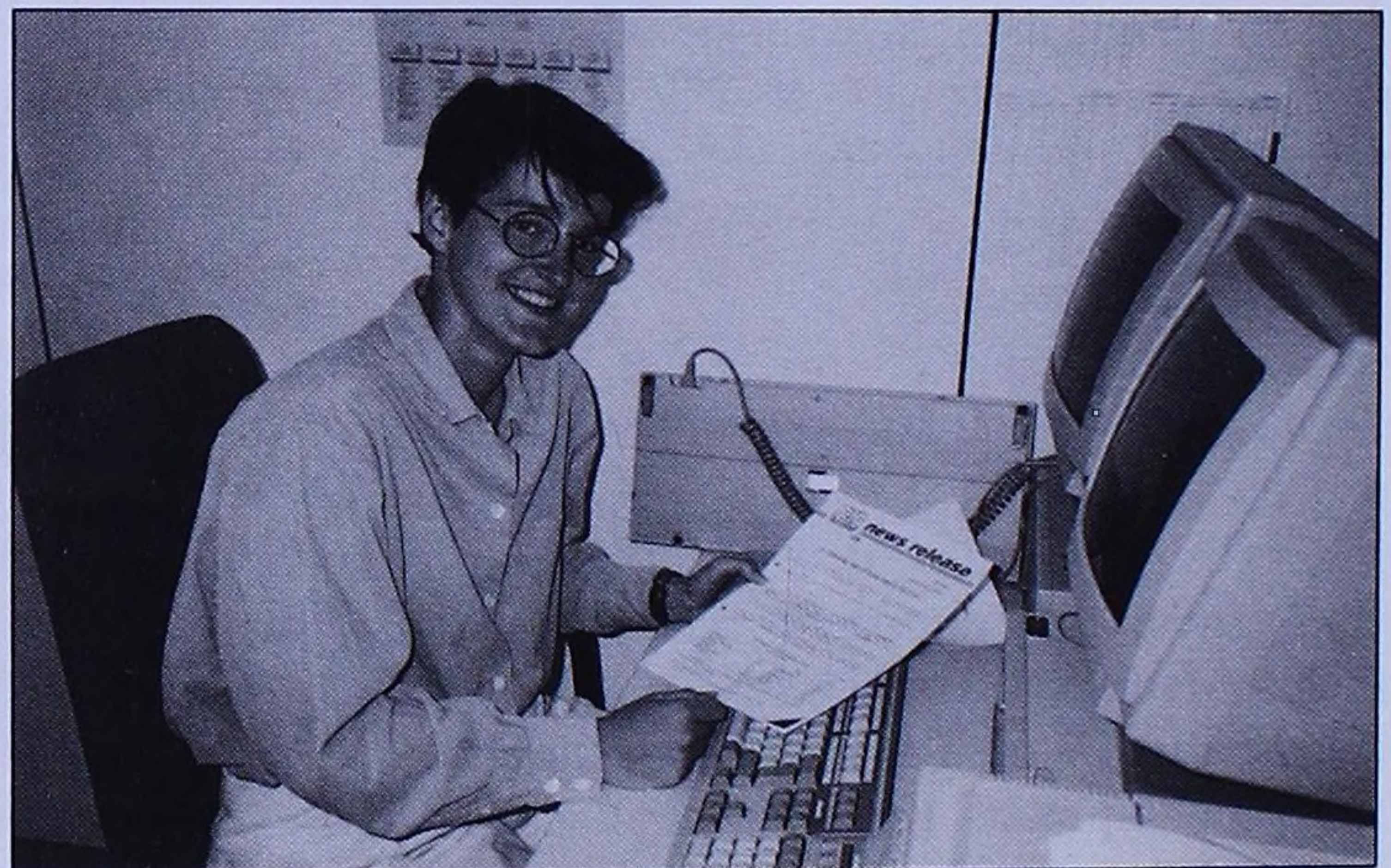
The releases are sent shortly in advance of issue to the EC in Brussels, but on the basis that this is for information only. In the case of some *ad hoc* releases, they do retain the right to question my selectivity - but I think this is fair enough as I am highlighting topics mostly on a journalistic rather than a statistical basis.

**** Unfinished business ****

My work in those first six months was rather like a rapid military offensive that reaches an objective but leaves pockets of resistance and unfinished business, in its wake. The job now is to advance further while mopping up the things left behind.

These include:-

- *Delivering the news releases to Brussels. At present the only safe way is to take them ourselves - a five-hour round trip. The obvious next step is to transfer them electronically to Eurostat in Brussels for reproduction on the spot and delivery to the spokesman. Sounds easy - but a lot can go wrong and we must be sure it works first.*



- *Translation - vital but tedious. At the moment it depends very much on the good will of French and German speaking colleagues. One problem is the translation of my journalistic English into its equivalent in the other two languages. No easy*

task, and, without being too chauvinistic, you begin to realise what a precise and economical tool the English language is.

- Co-operation with the national statistical offices. An important element is faxing the releases in advance to the NSOs in each EC Member State and EFTA country. Ideally, they should re-fax them to their particular media contacts, thus ensuring that the releases are precisely on target in each country as well as covered by the scatter-gun approach from Brussels. Some NSOs do this extremely well; others less so. There is much persuasion to be done.

- Our own fax distribution. We are developing our own lists. Hopefully, they will be very substantial as we manage to obtain the appropriate technology.

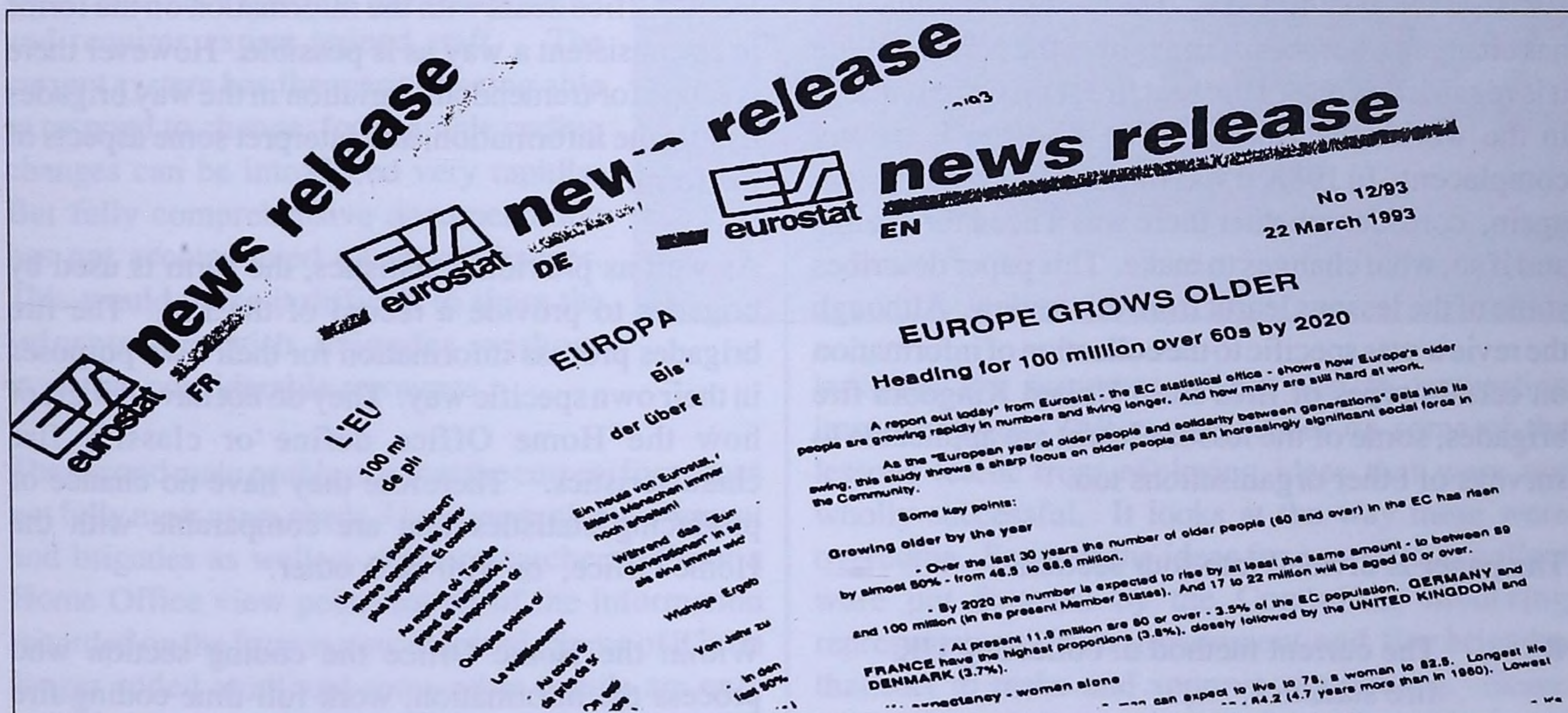
- News releases for sale. We hope we may be able to exploit the obvious market potential of these instant first releases of data by faxing them to non-press users - banks, financial institutions, firms etc - who might be happy to pay to receive what the news media are receiving at around the same time.

**** Quality the key ****

But the key thing is the 'product' - to maintain and improve its quality. Around 60 news releases a year - one a week - (with constant appraisal of their 'media appeal') is my estimate of what the market will take without switching off.

One idea - borrowed from the German statistical office (although they do it every week) - is periodically to trot out one 'fascinating fact' about Europe aimed at the popular press and radio - the statistical equivalent of the 'sound bite'. When I visited Statistisches Bundesamt recently their 'statistic of the week' was on how much ice the Germans buy in summer - 'Hot summer - cold ice' was the headline. The danger always is that the statisticians will think that my sort of work trivialises theirs. But I must say that co-operation within Eurostat has been first class. At first, yes, people were a little suspicious, especially at the speed at which I wanted to change things. But, as they saw their work receiving extensive coverage in Europe's major newspapers, they became more and more willing - some positively enthusiastic - to suggest ideas for news releases.

Now, rather than stalk the corridors looking for material, I find it comes looking for me!



Each news release has to appear in French, English and German.



by Gillian A M Goddard,
Home Office, Fire Statistics Section,
Research and Statistics Department

Key Words: Fire report form, questionnaire design, computerisation.

Abstract

The paper looks at what is wrong with the system for collecting detailed data on fires from fire brigades in the UK, and what is being done to improve it. Results from trials of replacement fire report forms provide further examples of what not to do. Topics covered are the questions to ask, how to ask them and how to record the answer. Emphasis is on quality and consistency. The paper discusses difficulties in meeting the needs of the data users given the practical constraints of the data providers. The first step is a new fire report form to be introduced in 1994. The paper considers the planned future developments towards full computerisation by brigades. The benefits will accrue to both data users and providers.

Introduction

The United Kingdom has been collecting national fire statistics for over 40 years. The system for doing this has changed a number of times over the period. While it is regarded as one of the best fire statistics databases in the world, the Home Office who run it are not complacent. In 1988, it was time to review the system again, consider whether there was a need for change and if so, what changes to make. This paper describes some of the lessons learnt from this review. Although the review was specific to the collection of information on certain types of fires from United Kingdom fire brigades, some of the lessons learnt are applicable to surveys of other organisations too.

The paper is divided into four sections:

- The current method of collecting UK fire statistics;
- Problems with the current system;

- Solutions proposed including what not to do;
- The future.

The Current Method

To understand the problems it helps to know a little about the way the Home Office currently collect fire statistics. In the United Kingdom there are 64 fire brigades. To report a fire to the Home Office, brigades all use the same paper fire report form introduced in 1978. For major fires, one form is completed for each fire and the brigades follow the same instructions to answer a range of detailed questions about the fire. For example it asks about the location of the fire, when it started, stopped and when the brigade were called and arrived. It continues to ask the cause of fire and source of ignition, materials involved, method of extinction, involvement of people, particularly casualties and rescues and damage done to property as well as other questions. The instructions to complete the form are not comprehensive and were last updated in 1982. Many of the answers are given as written text, with very little 'pre-coding' by brigades and few opportunities for brigades to mark their answer from a range of choices listed on the form. The Home Office deals with the information on the forms in as consistent a way as is possible. However there is scope for tremendous variation in the way brigades handle the information, and interpret some aspects of the form.

As well as providing statistics, the form is used by brigades to provide a record of the fire. The fire brigades process information for their own purposes in their own specific way. They do not have details of how the Home Office define or classify fire characteristics. Therefore they have no chance of producing statistics that are comparable with the Home Office, or with each other.

Within the Home Office the coding section who process the information, work full-time coding fire report forms. Therefore the staff become experts in interpreting the wealth of information recorded on the forms and translating it to detailed codes. The method

has been evolving since 1978 when the current form was introduced. It is a system intended to cope with the fact that just about anything and everything can catch fire and there is a need to know what it is, where it is, how it did, when it did and more, in order to inform policy makers and all those concerned with fire prevention. If necessary, changes can be made daily.

Problems with the Current System

Rather than detail every minor issue, this paper concentrates on the two most important.

The first was raised by fire brigades themselves. The Home Office is not taking full advantage of modern technology, in particular the computer. It is not surprising that the 'established' data collections use methods that are now out of date. What is important is that this is not only recognised but acted upon to make more efficient use of resources. Some brigades ask to:

send data electronically

produce statistics for their brigade that are consistent with the Home Office

Under the current system this is not possible. Why not? The answer is that the Home Office current system is too complicated and requires expert trained staff. The current system has the merit of being able to respond to change, for example coding changes can be introduced very rapidly. But fully comprehensive documentation has not accompanied all these changes. This would make it difficult to share the information with brigades without investing considerable resources.

The second main problem is that the current form does not fully meet users needs. Users are both government and brigades as well as other researchers. From a Home Office view point not all of the information recorded on the form is now required. Some of it is no longer coded at all and some other details are only recorded in a very abbreviated way. Sometimes information required can only be obtained by retrieving the forms and reading the text. This is a very inefficient

method of information retrieval. In addition there is information that is not recorded that would be extremely useful to the Home Office (and brigades). In some cases brigades have separately developed ways of collecting additional information for themselves. But because there has been no overall co-ordination of this approach it would be impossible to generate national statistics.

Solutions Proposed, Including What Not To Do

The Home Office recognised the need to change over 5 years ago. The task has taken time because of the need to consult fully with users and then test out ideas. Pilot studies were conducted with the people who fill in the forms. These demonstrated both good and bad ways of collecting the data, including both what to ask and how to ask it. The Home Office, while recognising the need for improvements in the system, were concerned not to lose what is one of the best fire databases in the world. They therefore wanted to



build on the successes of the past in suggesting improvements. This paper focuses on some of the lessons learnt from exploring ideas that were not wholly successful. It looks at the way these were overcome. Some of the ideas for new data to collect were put forward by the Committee involving representatives from government and fire brigades that met to make and approve suggestions. Some ideas seemed eminently sensible when discussed around the table. The only way to find out if they would work was to test them with the fire brigade.

The Home Office were fortunate to have the co-operation of many brigades. Special thanks go to all those in fire brigades who tried out new forms while still completing the old ones and all others who provided such useful feedback.

The following list of *what not to do* emerged.

When deciding on the *questions* to ask

Do not ask too many questions

If you try to be too ambitious by asking for too many things, the quality of the overall product is likely to fall. Find out how long the form takes to fill in and decide what is a realistic time to expect the form filler to spend. Try to get the balance right to get a form that is not too many pages long, but is not too crowded either.

Do not ask unnecessary questions

Have a reason for asking every question and know what you want to do with the answers. Do not waste time asking questions that just 'might be interesting'.

Do not expect the form filler to do a lot of work

In particular if the person who fills in the form is not a full-time 'form filler', and does not see completing forms as a main task then form designers must be realistic in what they expect the form filler to do. The fire brigade is a good example because it is operational firefighters who are usually required to complete the forms. The idea that they could code or categorise some of the information using comprehensive codelists had appeal. However practical people like firefighters may not be prepared to spend time looking up codes to get the right one for the form. This is not surprising where codelists span many pages containing tens or hundreds of different codes. The workable solution for the paper form was to have a mixture of small boxes, for ticking or entering codes where there were just a few codes, and larger boxes for free text to record the answer, where the codelists are very long. The option of shortening the long codelists could not be used because of the need for the detail. It is one of the strengths of the fire database that it contains detail of the location, causes and sources of fire and materials involved which is useful and necessary for fire prevention policy. Although one aim was to avoid

written answers, the Home Office accepted that this was preferable to meaningless codes pending the introduction of coding by computer. The final answer lies in moving towards a computerised system which can translate words into codes.

That work is in progress.

Do not ask questions that the form filler cannot answer

It sounds obvious, but let me give an example. The Committee presented good reasons for wanting to know the financial value of the damage done by the fire. While they did not expect exact figures they thought the firefighters could give estimates. The pilot studies showed that they could indeed tick boxes for estimates. But many of the form fillers felt strongly that these estimates were not worth the paper they were written on because they did not have the expertise to assess financial loss. They pointed out that the value in one room could exceed the value of a whole building, depending on the contents. Asking the owner for the information immediately after the fire caused difficulties. It is an insensitive time to ask about the value of the loss which may well not be known at that time. To return later would result in consequent delay and have cost implications for the brigade. With large fires it can take a long time to work out the loss. Where appropriate they felt insurance assessors had the best information. The end result is that there is no question on financial loss on the form, even though a good case was made for the need for it.

Do not ask for information you can get from another source

Do not expect the form filler to give you everything, especially if there are other ways of getting the information. If the form filler is aware that the information is recorded elsewhere, it seems unnecessary duplication of effort to record it again. For example, there will be no need to ask for information about the geographic area such as socio-economic and housing characteristics etc, that can be derived from the Census and other surveys if the fire report form contains a map or geographic location reference. An example of such a location reference in the United Kingdom is the postcode. All buildings which receive mail have them as part of their address. Therefore 'postcode' is a new question on the fire report form to

enable us to link into geographic information systems containing a range of statistical information classified by postcode areas.

Do not make the form difficult to follow

Ensure you lay out the form in a sensible way. In the trials, some of the questions, or answer boxes were missed because the form filler did not notice them. The form is A4 size (8.27" by 11.69") because it is convenient to handle, and copy. But using the whole width, as we did originally, resulted in some questions on the right hand side being missed. By dividing the pages into columns it is much easier to read and answer all the questions.

Do not make the form too rigid

Allow for the unexpected. This was important for a fire report form where it would be counter productive to make the fire fit the form rather than allow for the special characteristics of the fire to be recorded. The fire report form also has the purpose of providing the brigade with a record of the fire. With one-off surveys it may be both possible and desirable to decide what is required and restrict the questionnaire accordingly. But with a continuous collection like fire data, where the form has a long lifetime, because it is impractical to keep introducing new versions, there is a need to allow for asking questions that have yet to be formulated. In the absence of a 'crystal ball' two solutions were found. One is to have space on the form for recording 'other relevant details' which can be cross referenced to the relevant part of the form. The other is to provide initially unallocated answer boxes for questions yet to be asked. Communication with fire brigades will allow future users to say please use box number 'x' to answer question 'x'. This can be done for all or a sample of brigades for whatever time period is necessary.

Do not give unclear ambiguous instructions and guidance

If someone does not understand, it is most likely to be your fault not theirs. Listen to what they say. Try out other ways of wording the instructions. If something really is that complicated, maybe you should not try to ask for it, particularly if the answers are likely to be meaningless. Not giving any guidance is definitely not the solution either. It is equivalent or worse than

'unclear' guidance because users have to make their own decisions. They are then unlikely to be consistent with anyone else. The Home Office do not claim to have produced the perfect guidance, but they have produced a document which can be amended as necessary. It will be important to check that information is understood and to act swiftly to make improvements. However thorough the initial testing, it is likely that further refinements will need to be made after the initial document is introduced.

Do not just change for the sake of change

The old expression 'if it isn't broken then don't fix it' applies to forms too. If you have something that does work there is no need to change it all just because you have to change other parts. Firefighters clearly understand most of the questions on the current form and give consistent replies. In these cases, where the information was still needed, there is every reason to keep the question exactly the same. Keeping it the same means not changing a single word. Otherwise it is likely that someone will interpret it in a slightly different way which will remove the chance to analyse trends before and after the change properly.

The Future

A new fire report form has been developed. It will be used by fire brigades in the United Kingdom from 1994. As a paper form it aims to solve some of the problems experienced with its predecessor. But it was designed with the intention of being fully computerised

The image shows a 'Report of Fire' form with several sections. At the top right is the title 'Report of Fire'. Below it is a 'KEY' section with instructions: 'Tick the appropriate box (or boxes)', 'Insert code from codellist or enter number', and 'Write in details'. The form is divided into three main sections: 1. Brigade, 2. Incident Information, and 3. Times. Section 1 includes fields for Brigade incident, Area, and Name. Section 2 includes fields for Address of fire, Postcode, Risk category (A, B, C, D, R), Name(s) of occupier(s)/owner(s), and a checkbox for 'Special risk within area'. Section 3 includes fields for 'Estimated interval from ignition to discovery' and 'Discovery to first call', both with options for 'Immediately', 'Under 5 mins', '5 to 30 mins', '30 mins to 2 hours', and 'Over 2 hours'. There are also fields for 'First call to brigade', 'Mobilising time', 'Arrival of brigade', 'Under control', and 'Last appliance returned'. A table at the bottom right is used for recording times, with columns for hour, mins, day, month, and year. The form is tilted slightly to the right.

so as to reap the benefits of more recent technology.

The future involves a computerised version of the form that allows the firefighter in the fire station to input the information that only he has, but automatically extracts information already available in the brigade, such as the time of call to the fire brigade. The system must code the data, and check the answers and then send the data to the Home Office electronically.

Conclusion

To summarise the main points, the Home Office in the United Kingdom have a method of collecting national fire statistics using paper report forms for individual fires. It is too complicated to be anything but a centrally managed and coded system. It does not meet all the needs of the users, who are principally central government, and the fire brigades who are also providers of the data. Therefore the Home Office decided to change the form so that fire brigades in the United Kingdom collect the most pertinent information in a way that will allow the Home Office and brigades to have a standard way of translating it to computerised data.

The Home Office consulted brigades and other users to determine their requirements from the fire report form. Consultation was followed by the equally important task of finding out what the data providers can give. The replacement form has been developed to be as easy as possible to answer, learning from the principles of good design and the result of the pilot studies. It should also prove cost effective by avoiding duplication of effort and time wasted recording information not required.

The paper gives several 'what not to do' examples based on experience. Many of the issues have a wider application to those involved in establishment surveys. There is still outstanding work to fully computerise the system so that the coding and validation checks can be used by fire brigades to give consistent, reliable and good quality data, and extract the data already available from other fire brigade computer systems. It will then be possible to transmit the data electronically to the Home Office. These are the next steps to produce a fire statistics data collection for the future.



Government Publications

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

Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Basic Horticultural Statistics for the United Kingdom 1983-1992

The 1993 issue of the annual booklet entitled as above was published in July 1993. This publication provides area, yield, gross production, output marketed, farm-gate price and total value for the years 1983 to 1992 for the main fruit, vegetable, ornamental (flowers, bulbs and hardy nursery stock) and potatoes. Overseas trade data on quantity and value of imports and exports are also given.

Available from:

Mr A Kanani
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Room 404B
Ergon House
17 Smith Square
LONDON
SW1P 3JR
Telephone: 071-238 6417
Fax: 071-238 6384

Special Studies in Agricultural Economics

Special Studies in Agricultural Economics are commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food from the Agricultural Economics Departments of seven Universities and a college of Agriculture and Horticulture. The following report has been published recently.

Report No. 20 Pig Production 1991-92

This is the first report on the new *National Pig Survey*. Replacing the separate regional surveys conducted for many years by the Universities of Cambridge and Exeter, this new style survey will in future examine

the economics of pig production on an occasional basis, rather than regularly every year as in the past.

This publication brings together Cambridge and Exeter figures for the first time in a single report, showing results for the year ended 30 September 1992. Askham Bryan College of Agriculture and Horticulture and the University of Reading also collected data in their respective areas during the second six months of the year and these are included in this report as an appendix. Next year, data for the full twelve months to 30 September 1993 from all four centres will be processed and published in a uniform manner in the one report.

A complete list of reports published in the series is available from:

GRS Norris
Economics (Farm Business) Division
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Whitehall Place (West Block)
LONDON
SW1A 2HH
Telephone: 071-270 8616

Reference

Report No. 20: Pig Production 1991-92
Price: £7.00 Net

Agricultural Economics Unit University
of Exeter
Lafrowda House
St German's Road
EXETER
EX4 6TL

Central Statistical Office

Overseas Finance

United Kingdom Balance of Payments 1993 Edition
The CSO Pink Book

The 1993 edition of the CSO *Pink Book*, containing

detailed balance of payments figures for the last eleven years and summary figures from 1971, was published on 9 September. The main summary statistics were published in a *First Release* notice on 5 August and the data released on the CSO Databank.

The *Pink Book* presents more detailed information than is published quarterly. It also gives estimates of United Kingdom transactions with the countries and institutions of the European Community.

Estimates for years prior to 1991 have been reassessed since the 1992 *Pink Book* and now incorporate improved sources and methods. Later information for 1991 and 1992 has been used, especially where firm annual information has replaced less complete quarterly information.

The figures reflect a number of new data sources and methods, including:

Visible Trade

- Larger adjustments (1992), for under-recording of exports from new data compiled by HM Customs and Excise; and imports adjusted to better reflect the cost of freighting goods from their country of consignment

Services

- Sea transport: Earnings of UK shipowners (1983-1990) now reflect the Chamber of Shipping's quadrennial census and improved methodology
- Civil aviation: Improved estimates (1988-1991) of overseas airlines disbursement in the UK by Department of Transport
- Financial and allied institutions: Revised estimates of coverage of earnings of Baltic Exchange members (1990-1992) and later annual (1992) information for insurance companies and banks
- Other services: Reassessment of the coverage of estimates for consultants (1991-1992) and on royalties and miscellaneous services (1983-1992) from extended inquiries and later annual information

Direct Investment

- Revised estimates for 1990 (published in CSO Bulletin 28/93) and later information.

Portfolio and Other Investment

- Insurance companies and pension funds (1987-1992): Later annual information and methodological improvements
- Other financial institutions (banks, unit and investment trusts and Lloyds): Later and improved income information (mainly for 1992)
- Reassessment of overseas investment in UK company bonds and euro-medium term notes (1987-1992)

The data in the *Pink Book*, and where available those for earlier years, are obtainable in computer-readable form as a CSO Databank Dataset. To help use this Dataset the appropriate CSO Databank identifiers are included in the *Pink Book* tables.

Reference

United Kingdom Balance of Payments, 1993 Edition
HMSO, price £13.25 net
ISBN 0 11 620597 0

United Kingdom National Accounts 1993 Edition

The 1993 edition of the CSO *National Accounts Blue Book* was published on 16 September. The *Blue Book* contains statistics of national income, expenditure and output for the years 1971 to 1992 along with, for the same years, summary analyses of transactions by sector. In addition, for the years 1982 to 1992, it provides analyses by commodity and function of consumption expenditures, industrial analyses of income, investment and output, detailed sector accounts showing current, capital and financial transactions and balance sheets. It is the essential data source for everyone concerned with macro economic policies and studies.

The *Blue Book* contains annual data only. Whilst it does not give data for any more recent periods than

previously published elsewhere (for example in *Economic Trends*) there is much more detailed information in this comprehensive annual publication.

This year's edition incorporates constant price estimates and index numbers both rebased on 1990 and revised industrial analyses reflecting the main changes in the *1992 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC(92))*.

The data in the *Blue Book* are obtainable in computer-readable form as a CSO Databank Dataset. To help use this Dataset the appropriate CSO Databank identifiers are included in the *Blue Book* tables.

Reference

United Kingdom National Accounts, 1993 Edition
HMSO, price £15.50 net
ISBN 0 11 620598-9

Standard Industrial Classification 1992

A companion indexes volume to the new *United Kingdom Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities, SIC(92)* was published in July 1993, the main *SIC(92)* was issued in November 1992. *SIC(92)* replaces the *SIC* that was last revised and issued in 1980, *SIC(80)*.

In the indexes volume a numerical index lists each heading of the *SIC* followed by a list of characteristic activities included within each heading, while a second index shows these activities listed alphabetically. The indexes attempt to cover all activities referred to in previous indexes as well as new ones from *SIC(92)*. Wherever possible, therefore, both the *SIC(92)* and *SIC(80)* codes are shown.

From the indexes it can be seen that some codes are directly comparable between *SIC(80)* and *SIC(92)* and can be shown as a one to one match. In other cases though codes have been split or amalgamated so that the links can only be shown as a number of partial correlations. This information has been summarised and published as *Business Monitor PO 1009*

However, what needs to be stressed is that it is not possible to automatically re-code from one classifica-

tion to the other where activities previously covered by one code are now covered by more than one new code. The *Business Monitor* also shows the links of *SIC(92)* to the *United Nations International Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities (ISIC Rev 3)*.

Also now available from the CSO are computer disc versions of the *SIC(92)* and its indexes.

Companion Indexes Volume to the UK Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities - SIC(92)

HMSO, price £17.50 net
ISBN 0 11 620551 2

SIC(92)

HMSO, price 18.00 net
ISBN 0 11 620550 4

Classification of Economic Activities (ISIC Rev 3)

Price £95.00 plus VAT,

Enquiries should be made to:

David Sharp
Central Statistical Office
Telephone 071-217-4750

Business Monitor PO 1009

HMSO, price £26.50 net
ISBN 0 11 536 311 4

The 1993 Share Register Survey

Surveys of the pattern of shareholding in UK companies have been carried out at intervals since the late 1950's. The *1993 Share Register Survey* is the fourth in a new series following a recommendation in the *1989 Pickford Report* on economic statistics.

The 1993 survey is being carried out by Gavin Anderson and Company.

An article describing the survey together with the summary results will be published in *Economic Trends* No. 480 (October 1993) The *1993 Share Register Survey* and an HMSO booklet was published in late October/early November.

Research and Development

Annual Review of Government-Funded R&D

The latest *Annual Review* was published in August 1993. It includes CSO's estimate for UK gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) in 1991 and the final results of the 1993 survey of government R&D, for which provisional figures were issued in March.

GERD for 1991 was estimated at £11.9 billion, compared with £12.0 billion in 1990. Net government expenditure on R&D was £5.0 billion in 1991-92, compared with a (revised) figure of £4.8 billion in 1990-91.

The *Annual Review* also includes sections on Science and Technology, International Comparisons, Supplementary Indicators of Innovative Activity and other funders of R&D.

Economic Trends Article on R&D

An article on Research and Development in the United Kingdom in 1991 was published in the August 1993 issue of *Economic Trends*. It updates the August 1992 article, using the results of the CSO's latest surveys of government R&D and business enterprise R&D.

Economic Trends Article on Innovation Indicators

An article on *Statistical Indicators of Innovation* was published in the September 1993 issue of *Economic Trends*. It provides an introduction to some of the statistical indicators of innovation. These include the measurement of human resources in science and technology, R&D expenditure, patent statistics, bibliometrics, the technological balance of payments and innovation surveys. The use of the indicators is illustrated by summary tables and charts. A reference list is attached for further information on the use and limitations of the indicators.

Enquiries should be addressed to:

Central Statistical Office, PSFA Branch
Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
Newport
GWENT NP9 1XG
Telephone: 0633 812585

References

Cabinet Office *Annual Review of Government-Funded R&D 1993*

HMSO, price £28.50 net

CSO *Economic Trends* No. 478 August 1993 *Research and development in the United Kingdom in 1991*

HMSO, price £12.75 net

CSO *Economic Trends* No. 479 September 1993 *Statistical Indicator of Innovation*

HMSO, price £12.75 net

Business Registers for Statistical Purposes - European Regulation

The establishment of the single market increases the need to improve comparability of statistics about business activity within the European Community. The harmonisation of business registers, which form the basis of the statistical collection system, is seen as an essential step. Harmonised registers are also seen as one way of lightening the form-filling burden on businesses by their use of administrative or legal files to maintain information about businesses. The harmonisation process can be achieved only through Community legislation.

On 22 July 1993 the Council of the European Communities passed Council Regulation 2186/93 on Community co-ordination in drawing up business registers for statistical purposes. An EC regulation has the force of law in each member state. The regulation will make it obligatory for member states to maintain a business register for statistical purposes according to the definitions in the regulation. It permits national statistical offices to obtain information about businesses from administrative or legal sources but only within the terms of existing laws within member states.

The regulation requires registers to be compiled from 1 January 1996 for all enterprises carrying on economic activities and from 1 January 1997 for all legal units that form the basis of these enterprises and for all local units operated by them. The enterprise and the local unit are defined in the regulation on statistical units that was passed in March 1993 (see *Statistical News* 101.26). Within the UK, the classification system used is the 1992 revision to the Standard Industrial Classification (*SIC 92*). The registers exclude households and the coverage of agriculture, mining and quarrying and public administration is optional.

Compulsory information for each type of unit comprises an identity number and the following information for specific business units:

Legal Units

- name and address
- requirement to publish annual accounts
- date of registration
- date of deregistration
- legal form, identifying public undertakings separately
- reference to other files including the register of intra-community traders [INTRASTAT]

Local Unit

- name and address
- activity code [4-digit SIC92]
- size of labour force
- date of commencement of activities
- date of cessation of activities
- geographical location code
- reference to other files and to the enterprise
- indicator of ancillary activity

Enterprise

- reference of the associated legal units
- main and secondary activity codes [4-digit SIC92]
- size of labour force
- date of commencement of activities
- date of cessation of activities
- turnover (optional for small enterprises)

All information on the registers will be updated at least every four years, with key data being updated at least annually. Copies of the register as at the end of March each year will be held for 10 years so that statistical analyses can be produced.

Within the UK the requirements are to be met by the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR) being developed by the Employment Department and the Central Statistical Office. This register will use information held on VAT traders and Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) employers as the administrative inputs. Development of the IDBR is scheduled for completion by March 1995. It will hold all of the compulsory information. In addition, it will provide information on enterprises under common ownership (enterprise groups), which is optional under the Regulation.

Business Monitor PA 1003 Size Analysis of United Kingdom Businesses 1993

The latest Business Monitor in the PA 1003 series has been published for 1993. Based on the Business register maintained by the Central Statistical Office, the publication provides counts of businesses as at mid 1993.

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

Legal unit analyses are by turnover and status (company, sole proprietor etc) with detailed analyses by VAT trade code except for the manufacturing

industries where analyses are by Activity Heading of the Standard Industrial Classification (Revised 1980). Tables giving a regional breakdown of legal unit information are also included.

A table of Legal units at district level within broad industry groups will be available at a cost of £30.00 from the CSO Library, telephone: 0633 - 812973 (GTN 1211).

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

Three tables (1, 2 and 7a) were previewed in CSO Bulletin 49/93 on 11 August 1993.

Further details can be obtained from:

Central Statistical Office
Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
NEWPORT
Gwent
NP9 1XG
Telephone: 0633-812105 (GTN 1211)

Reference

Size Analysis of United Kingdom Businesses
Business Monitor PA 1003
HMSO, price £23.50 net
ISBN 0 11 536316 5

Education

Statistics of Further Education College Students in England 1970/71 to 1991/92

This Bulletin shows how further education enrolments have developed over the last twenty-two years, and describes the proportion of the post compulsory school age population served by further education, the characteristics of further education students and their educational activities in 1991/92.

1992 - GCSE and A/AS Exam Results

This Bulletin presents further analyses from the database used for the publication of comparative tables of school performance for all local education authority areas in England in November 1992. Data is also

included for those independent schools which chose not to have their results included in the comparative tables, and also for Further Education Colleges.

Participation in Education by 16-18 Year Olds in England 1979/80 to 1992/93

This Bulletin updates Statistical Bulletin 14/92 and provides statistics on 16, 17 and 18 year olds in full-time education in England in the academic years from 1979/80 to 1992/93. With only a few exceptions, it covers all students in schools and institutions of further and higher education in England.

Student Numbers in Higher Education - Great Britain 1981/82 to 1991/92

This Bulletin updates Statistical Bulletin 8/92 presenting the latest statistics on, and trends in, the numbers of students at publicly funded higher education institutions in Great Britain. The Bulletin covers all students on higher education courses in universities (including Open University), polytechnics and colleges (funded by the Polytechnics and Colleges Funding Council, Local Education Authorities and Department for Education).

Statistics of Schools in England January 1992

A regular update of the series of Bulletins containing a wide range of information on pupils, teachers, classes and courses of study in both state and independent schools.

International Statistical Comparisons of the Participation in Education and Training of 16 to 18 Year Olds.

This Statistical Bulletin (updating Bulletin 1/90) outlines comparisons of participation in education and training of young people aged 16 to 18 in 8 European Community countries (including the United Kingdom), plus Australia, Canada, Japan, Sweden and the United States. The figures cover the academic year 1989/90 and previous years.

Statistics of Education: Schools 1992

This volume contains information on schools in England in 1992. There are tables showing detailed information on pupils and teachers in primary, middle and secondary schools in each Local Education Authority. Separate tables contain national information on maintained and non-maintained nursery and special schools and independent schools.

Information is also included on schools by size, type and denomination; class sizes in maintained schools; school meal arrangements; and non-teaching staff.

Statistics of Education: Further and Higher Education in Polytechnics and Colleges 1991/92

This volume contains information about student enrolments on courses in Polytechnics and Colleges in England. Most of this information was derived from the Further Education Statistical Record for the academic year 1991/92; FESR was an annual survey of student enrolments on courses in Polytechnics and Colleges Funding Council establishments. This information is presented in the form of tables containing cross classifications of student enrolments broken down by type of establishment and course and student characteristics eg level of education, age and sex, derived from FESR. Other tables contain participation rates, time series from 1980/81 to 1991/92, and information about student enrolments on short courses, derived from the Short Course Record survey, and Initial Teacher Training courses.

Employment

Results from the Winter 1992/3 Quarterly Labour Force Survey

The results of the Winter 1992/3 (December 1992 to February 1993) *Labour Force Survey (LFS)* were released on the 17th of June 1993 by the Employment Department (ED). The *LFS* is the largest household survey carried out in Great Britain, covering some 60,000 households each quarter, providing key information about the labour force using internationally agreed definitions.

The findings are presented in the *Labour Force Survey Quarterly Bulletin*; latest issue No. 4 compares the Winter 1992/3 results with Autumn 1992 and with the earlier annual surveys 1984-1991. The main series are published on a seasonally adjusted basis.

The table below shows the distribution of the total population of Great Britain aged 16 and over by sex and economic activity in Winter 1992/3.

Great Britain, Winter 1992/3

Seasonally adjusted	(Thousands)		
Economic activity	All persons	Men	Women
Employees	21,183	11,055	10,128
Self-employed	3,046	2,294	752
Government			
Employment & Training programmes	312	199	113
Unpaid family workers	154	46	108
All in employment	24,694	13,593	11,101
ILO unemployed	2,931	1,982	949
All economically active	27,625	15,575	12,050
Economically inactive	16,461	5,705	10,755
All aged 16 and over	44,086	21,281	22,805

ED has also published an *LFS Historical Supplement* which gives all the main LFS estimates back to 1984 and in some cases 1979. Copies of this and the *Labour Force Survey Quarterly Bulletin* can be obtained on subscription from ED; if you wish to subscribe please write to or telephone:

Chris Randall
SSD C2
Employment Department
Level 1, Caxton House
Tothill Street
LONDON SW1H 9NF
Telephone: 071-273 6110

LFS Helpline

With the introduction of the quarterly *LFS*, a telephone helpline was set up to give advice on sources of labour market information and provide some LFS data on request. The *Employment Gazette* contains a monthly feature which describes some of the most frequent topics raised, the source of the enquiries and provides the information sought. A list of the topics covered is given in the July 1993 issue of the *Employment Gazette*. For further information about the *Labour Force Survey*, please telephone the LFS Helpline on: 071-273 5585.

Energy

Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics 1993

The 1993 edition of the annual *Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics*, prepared by the Economics & Statistics Division of the Department of Trade and Industry, was published on 29 July. The main body of the Digest contains 69 tables and extensive commentary and charts which together provide a comprehensive review of energy production and use in the United Kingdom over the past five years.

As with previous editions, the first section in the main Digest covers general energy statistics, and includes tables showing inland consumption of fuels on a primary energy input basis, energy consumption by final users, an analysis of consumption by main industrial groups and the estimated value of purchases of fuels. The other sections deal separately with individual fuels, energy prices and values and foreign

trade in fuels. In addition to the text, charts and tables in the main body of the report, the Digest now has four annexes:

- Annex A shows some of the more important series in the main body, but covering the period from 1960 onwards. It provides 19 tables and a number of charts on trends in energy production and consumption, fuels prices and trade over the last 32 years.
- Annex B summarises the results of a study to estimate the contribution that renewable energy sources made to the United Kingdom's energy requirements in the years 1988 to 1992. A summary of the main points was included on the back page of the July issue of *Energy Trends*.
- Annex C, new for 1993, summarises the results of a survey to assess the contribution of combined heat and power (CHP) to the United Kingdom's energy needs. An article in the June issue of *Energy Trends* summarised the main points.
- Annex D looks at the impact which the energy sector can have on the environment. It brings together statistical data for the impact of energy related activities on the environment and provides some historical perspective to reflect trends over time. It looks, in particular, at the importance of fossil fuel use in the generation of air pollutants.

A new development with the 1992 edition of the Digest was the introduction of a disk version, containing tables and text but not charts, for use in most spreadsheets and statistical forecasting software. This has been repeated for the 1993 Digest, and details of the format available and the cost can be obtained from:

David Corse
Economics & Statistics Division It Services
Department of Trade & Industry
Room 4.3.1
1 Palace Street
LONDON SW1E 5HE
Telephone: 071-238 3567

The disk is not available from HMSO.

The UK Environment

Following the publication of *The UK Environment* in October 1992, the Department of the Environment held a one-day seminar on 2 July 1993 to obtain reaction to the report from a wide range of contributors and users and to explore ways of improving future editions. At this seminar, the Department announced that it would be establishing a User Group for environmental statistics, which will consist of representatives from local authorities, other government departments and non-governmental organisations, together with members of the academic and research communities. This should enable the Department to improve the quality of information contained in future editions of *The UK Environment* and other statistical publications.

Housing

Housing in England: Housing Trailers to the 1988 and 1991 Labour Force Surveys

Housing in England presents results from the supplementary questionnaires on housing topics added to the *Labour Force Survey* in 1988 and 1991. The value of *LFS Housing Trailers* lies in their large sample size, about 37,000 households, which allows more detailed analysis than other sources. The *LFS* covers the whole of the United Kingdom but the *Housing Trailers* sponsored by the Department of the Environment cover only England. There were similar *Housing Trailers* in 1981 and 1984.

The report is intended mainly as a reference document, with most of the results presented in tables.

Topics include

- Tenure and the characteristics of households and their homes
- The housing of ethnic minorities
- Regional differences
- Changes in the source of mortgages
- Purchase by local authority tenants as sitting tenants

- Numbers who believe they are on a waiting list for a council house, their characteristics and time on the list
- Mobility, tenure change and the tenure of new households

and for 1988 there is information from the rating lists on floor area and rateable value for the properties in the sample.

Three chapters explore their topics in greater depth:

- The changing circumstances of council tenants
- Sales by local authorities to sitting tenants: the dwellings sold, the circumstances of buyers and sources of finance
- Age at which children leave their parents' home

Reference

Housing in England: Housing Trailers to the 1988 and 1991 Labour Force Surveys
HMSO, price £14.00 net

Health

Residential Accommodation for Elderly and for Younger Physically Disabled People: All Residents in Local Authority, Voluntary and Private Homes. Year ending 31 March 1992. England (Department of Health 1993)

This booklet presents information on the numbers of residential homes for elderly and physically disabled younger persons, along with the numbers of places and persons within them. Information on the age groups and stay lengths of the occupants is given. The data are presented at the level of the local authority. Requests for this publication should be sent to:

Department of Health
Statistics Division 3B
Area 453C Skipton House
80 London Road
Elephant and Castle
LONDON SE1 6LW

Residential Accommodation for Elderly and for Younger Physically Disabled People: All Residents in Local Authority, Voluntary and Private Homes. Year ending 31 March 1987 to Year ending 31 March 1992. England (Department of Health 1993)

This booklet presents historical information on the numbers of residential homes for elderly and physically disabled younger persons, along with the numbers of places and persons within them. Data are given for the years between 1987 and 1992 inclusive. Information on the age groups of the occupants is given. The data are presented at the level of the local authority. Requests for this publication should be sent to:

Department of Health
Statistics Division 3B
Area 453C Skipton House
80 London Road
Elephant and Castle
LONDON
SE1 6LW

Home Office

Asylum Statistics United Kingdom 1992

The regular annual Home Office Statistical Bulletin on asylum applications and decisions, was published on 15 July 1993. It provides detailed information for 1991 and earlier years, and summary provisional information for 1992 and the first three months of 1993.

Asylum applications to the United Kingdom (excluding dependants) fell back noticeably in 1992, to 24,600, following measures to deter multiple and other fraudulent applications, but the total remained over five times that in 1988. The largest applicant nationalities in 1992 were the former Yugoslavia, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Pakistan, Ghana and Somalia.

The number of decisions made increased substantially to 34,900 in 1992 from 6,100 in 1991. Of the total decisions in 1992, 1,100 were to recognise as a refugee, 15,300 were not so recognised but granted exceptional leave and 18,500 were refused. The proportion recognised as a refugee has fallen considerably in recent years.

As well as analyses of applications and decisions the Bulletin includes further information on the demographic characteristics of applicants, on dependants, on persons detained for more than a months and (for the first time) information on removals of applicants and on unaccompanied child applicants.

Reference

Asylum Statistics United Kingdom 1992
Home Office Statistical Bulletin Issue 19/93

Control of Immigration: Statistics - Third and Fourth Quarters and Year 1992

The regular six monthly Home Office Statistical Bulletin on the control of immigration was published on 6 May 1993. This contains summary information on acceptances for settlement in the United Kingdom; on entry clearance applications made in the Indian sub-continent; and on enforcement action.

52,600 persons were accepted for settlement in the 12 months ending June 1992. This was some 1,300 fewer than in 1991 though 6,600 more than the low in 1987. The somewhat lower number of acceptances in 1992 mainly reflected a temporary slowdown in the rate of processing applications because of the need to give more careful consideration to certain spouse cases. 6,100 persons left the United Kingdom in 1992 as a results of enforcement action, 500 more than in 1991 and more than double the 2,700 in 1987.

Reference

Control of Immigration: Statistics - Third and Fourth Quarters and Year 1992
Home Office Statistical Bulletin Issue 14/93

Persons Granted British Citizenship, 1992

The annual Home Office Statistical Bulletin on citizenship statistics was published on 24 June 1993. It contains information on grants of British citizenship in the United Kingdom analysed by basis (residence, marriage, etc) and type (discretionary, entitlement), and by previous nationality, for 1992 and earlier years. 42,200 persons were granted British citizenship in the United Kingdom in 1992, and citizens of New Commonwealth countries accounted for over 50 per cent of this total.

Reference

Persons Granted British Citizenship, United Kingdom, 1992

Home Office Statistical Bulletin, Issue 16/93

Offences of Drunkenness England and Wales, 1991

This Bulletin gives 1991 figures for persons found guilty or cautioned for offences of drunkenness, together with similar information for previous years. Offences of drunkenness comprise simple drunkenness and drunkenness with aggravation.

The following main points are described:

- 75,400 persons were found guilty of or cautioned for offences of drunkenness, 11,000 (13 per cent) less than in 1990
- The Metropolitan Police District had the highest rate of offending for drunkenness at 613 per 100,000 population
- The peak ages of known offending for drunkenness offences were 19 and 20 years for females and males respectively
- The percentage of offenders cautioned for offences of drunkenness has increased rapidly from under 2 per cent in 1981 to 61 per cent in 1991

Reference

Offences of Drunkenness England and Wales, 1991

Home Office Statistical Bulletin, Issue 20/93, available free of charge

Time Intervals for Indictable Proceedings in Magistrates' Courts: February 1993

This Bulletin presents the results from the first collection for 1993, which covered indictable (including either-way) cases completed in a sample week in February. The completed proceedings on which information is provided include cases committed to the Crown Court, those dismissed, discharged and cases adjourned sine die as well as those in which a sentence was passed.

The following main points are described:

- In February 1993, the average time taken to process indictable cases through the magistrates' courts was 122 days, 7 days less than in February 1992
- The reduction in the time taken to process cases was due to a shortening of intervals between offence to charge or summons, 37 days (down 3 from February 1992) and first listing to completion, 60 days (down 7)

Reference

Time Intervals for Indictable Proceedings in Magistrates' Courts: February 1993

Home Office Statistical Bulletin, Issue 22/93, available free of charge

Northern Ireland

Department of Environment

Quarterly Northern Ireland Housing Construction Bulletin

Central Statistics and Research Branch have recently produced the above Bulletin which is available, free of charge, from:

Central Statistics and Research Branch
Department of Environment (NI)
Room 318, Parliament Buildings
Stormont
BELFAST
BT4 3SS

Department of Finance and Personnel

1992 Labour Force Survey Religion Report

This publication reports on the relative employment experiences of Protestants and Roman Catholics in Northern Ireland using information from the 1992 *Labour Force Survey*. Topics covered in the report include labour force participation rates and reasons for non-participation, employment and unemployment rates, qualifications, training, methods of job search used by the unemployed and the length of time the unemployed had been seeking work.

The publication is available, free of charge, from:

Employment Equality Branch
Room 260, Parliament Buildings
Stormont
BELFAST
BT4 3SW

Department of Health and Social Services

Regional Information Branch, DHSS have recently produced three publications:

NI Personal Social Services Statistics 1988-1990

This publication presents a summary of data from Korner Personal Social Services returns.

NI Mental Illness Statistics 1990-91

This publication presents a summary of data on mental health admissions and discharges.

NI Psychiatric Census Data 1991

This publication presents a summary of data on long stay and detained patients collected in the psychiatric census at 31 March 1991.

All three publications are available, free of charge, from:

Regional Information Branch
Department of Health and Social Services
Annex 2, Castle Buildings
Stormont
BELFAST
BT4 3UD

Northern Ireland Social Security Statistics 1992

Social Security Statistics Branch have recently produced this publication which presents a summary of the major social security benefit statistics relating principally to the years 1986 to 1990.

This publication is available, price £19.80 net, ISBN 0 337 07769 X from:

HMSO
16 Arthur Street
BELFAST
BT1 4GD

Registrar General Northern Ireland

Workplace and Transport to Work Report

The above report from the 1991 Northern Ireland Census of Population was published recently. It gives details on the employed population of Northern Ireland in relation to area of workplace/residence. Workplace movement by socio-economic group, occupation, industry and means of transport to work are detailed to local government district level.

The report is available, price £8.00 net, ISBN 0337 077533 3 from:

HMSO
16 Arthur Street
BELFAST
BT1 4GD

Northern Ireland Court Service

Northern Ireland Judicial Statistics 1992

Northern Ireland Judicial Statistics is a compendium of statistics describing the operations of the court system in Northern Ireland. It covers the Court of Appeal, the Divisions of the High Court, the Crown Court, County Court, Magistrates' Courts, together with various other courts and tribunals and the Enforcement of Judgements Office.

This publication is available, price £5.00 net, ISBN 0 9521715 0 3, from:

Management Information Branch
Northern Ireland Court Service
Windsor House
9-15 Bedford Street
BELFAST
BT2 7LT

Royal Ulster Constabulary

The Royal Ulster Constabulary - Road Traffic Accident Statistics, Annual Report 1992

Central Statistics Unit, RUC have recently produced this report, which is available, free of charge, from:

Central Statistics Unit
RUC Headquarters
Lisnasharragh
Montgomery Road
BELFAST
BT6 9LD

Office of Population Censuses and Surveys

Childhood Mortality in 1991

Statistics on childhood mortality in England and Wales in 1991 were published recently by OPCS.

The report includes, for the first time, results from a new method of classifying neonatal deaths, developed by OPCS with a group of leading experts in the field. It is based on the stage of development of the foetus when the causes of death first acted.

In the period 1986-1991, 79 per cent of neonatal deaths (deaths of babies aged under 28 days) were due to conditions which probably originated in the pregnancy, while 12 per cent occurred during or shortly after labour, and the remaining 10 per cent to conditions which occurred after delivery (percentages are rounded).

Between 1990 and 1991, the infant mortality rate (deaths of babies under 1 year of age) fell for both sexes, from 8.9 per thousand live births to 8.3 for boys, and from 6.8 to 6.4 for girls.

Reference

Mortality Statistics: Childhood 1991
Series DH6 No. 5
HMSO, price £11.90 net
ISBN 0 11 691537 4

Abortion Statistics 1991

Statistics derived from the analysis of notifications of legally induced abortions within England and Wales during 1991 were published recently in an OPCS report. In 1991, 179,522 legal abortions were performed in England and Wales, compared with 186,912 in 1990, a decrease of 4 per cent. This was the first decrease in the annual number of abortions since 1983.

The volume presents a wide range of statistical analyses of abortions notifications, covering factors such as demographic, statutory grounds, procedure, complications, deaths, area of residence, and medical condition.

Reference

Abortion Statistics 1991
Series AB no. 18
HMSO, price £9.75 net
ISBN 0 11 691546 3

Congenital Malformation Statistics for 1991

Statistics derived from an analysis of notifications of babies born with congenital malformations in England and Wales in 1991 were published recently by OPCS.

There were 7,127 notifications of congenital malformations in 1991, compared with 8,202 in 1990, a decrease of 13 per cent. The rate of notifications decreased from 116 to 102 per 10,000 live and still births.

From 1990 certain minor malformations were no longer notified to OPCS and as a result notifications fell by 34 per cent between 1989 and 1990 (from 12,462 in 1989). The decrease in notifications between 1990 and 1991 probably reflects the continued notification of malformations in 1990 which should have been excluded.

Only malformations detected at, or within ten days of birth are currently included in the OPCS monitoring system. The primary purpose of the system is to detect changes in the frequency of reporting any particular malformation or group of malformations rather than trying to estimate the prevalence at birth.

Reference

Congenital Malformation Statistics: Notifications 1991

Series MB3 No. 7
HMSO, price £8.30 net
ISBN 0 11 691545 5

Deaths from Injury and Poisoning in 1991

Information on deaths from injury and poisoning in England and Wales in 1991 has been published in an OPCS report. There were 17,286 such deaths registered, a decrease of 4 per cent since 1990 and 1 per cent since 1989, continuing a long-term downward trend. Since 1971 the number of such deaths has fallen by 24 per cent.

The volume includes such information as month of occurrence and sex, place of death, external cause, nature of injury, and whether injuries were accidentally or purposely inflicted or undetermined.

Reference

1991 Mortality Statistics: Injury and Poisoning England and Wales

HMSO, price £8.50 net
ISBN 0 11 691544 2

Electoral Registration in 1991

The main findings from the report of a survey on the coverage and quality of the 1991 electoral registers in Great Britain were published recently. The survey was carried out by the Social Survey Division of OPCS for the Home Office and the Scottish Office Home and Health Department.

The survey was carried out shortly after the 1991 Census of Population, as part of the Census Validation Survey (CVS). A random sample of about 6,000 households that had returned a census form was selected, together with an additional sample of about 2,600 households in England and Wales which the census did not contact but were interviewed by the CVS.

The survey found that 7.1 per cent of eligible voters recorded by the 1991 Census at private households in Great Britain were not included on the electoral

register. This compares with 6.5 per cent in 1981. The corresponding non-registration rates for England and Wales in 1991 and 1981 were 7.2 per cent and 6.7 per cent respectively, and for Scotland 6.6 per cent and 5.3 per cent.

Reference

Electoral Registration in 1991

SS 1301
HMSO, price £6.85 net
ISBN 0 11 691543 9

First National Health Survey Published

The findings of the first in a new series of national health surveys of the adult population of England were published recently.

The survey was carried out by the Social Survey Division of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys for the Department of Health. Some 3,300 adults were interviewed between September and December 1991.

The 1991 survey provides the baseline data for a nationally representative sample from which to monitor trends in the nation's health. The overall aim of this first survey is to obtain important information on aspects of health relevant to cardiovascular disease (CVD) and nutrition.

The 360 page report includes an overview of the survey methods used to obtain the data, and examines the main risk factors for cardiovascular disease. These include anthropometric measurements of obesity, blood pressure, cholesterol, smoking, alcohol consumption, and physical activity. It also reports on the prevalence of symptoms relevant to CVD and the related conditions, before drawing together and reporting on the various combinations of CVD risk factors. More general aspects of health and nutritional status are also covered.

Reference

Health Survey for England 1991

Series HS No. 1
HMSO, price £27.50 net
ISBN 0 11 691532 3

Review of Statistical Information on Population and Housing

The findings of a major review carried out by the UK Census Offices of future needs for country-wide local statistical information on population and housing and the means of meeting those needs were published recently. The aim of the review was to assess how far the traditional form of Census of Population would meet statistical users' future needs and to see whether the information could be collected as well or better by any other means.

The review was originally planned to be carried out in two main stages: the first to identify users' needs and a short list of possible options for meeting them; and the second to evaluate and test these options. However, in the light of users' responses in the consultation phase and the need to limit public expenditure, the review was terminated in its first stage.

The key conclusions of the review were as follows:

- Users from all sectors see a continuing need for country-wide local statistics on population and housing to help with resource allocation and the planning and running of services
- Users are generally satisfied with the form of Census as the primary means of providing the statistics, though they would like to have better information for the years between 10-year censuses
- There are no alternative sources which could be readily developed to provide the kind of detailed statistics currently available from the census

As a result of the review, the Census Offices have decided to concentrate through the 1990s on developing the conventional form of census rather than developing possible alternative methods. They are planning on the assumption that the next census in Great Britain and Northern Ireland will be held in 2001. They aim to develop methods of collecting, processing, and disseminating data which will give the best possible value for money and service to users. Among the improvements to be sought will be the improved use of data sources such as sample surveys,

to provide fuller information for users during the years between censuses.

Reference

Report on Review of Statistical Information on Population and Housing (1996-2016)

Occasional Paper 40

OPCS, price £4.00 net

ISBN 0 904952 95 9

1991 Census Publications

Report for Great Britain Part 1

Detailed results from the 1991 Census for Great Britain are published in the first of a two part report.

Part 1 of the *Report for Great Britain* contains 66 tables of statistics based on the answers given by householders and people in communal establishments in the 1991 Census. Each of the tables contains statistics for Great Britain, its constituent countries, and for standard regions and metropolitan countries in England.

Statistics are grouped into four main subject areas covering demographic and economic characteristics; housing; households and household composition; and household spaces and dwellings.

Report For Great Britain Part 2

This volume contains 29 tables of statistics based on a 10 per cent sample of people counted in the 1991 Census. It includes people in both households and communal establishments. The topics covered include occupation, industry, hours worked, workplace, journey to work, higher qualifications, and family composition.

Reference

1991 Census Report for Great Britain Part 1

CEN 91 RGB

HMSO, price £85.00 net

ISBN 0 11 691536 6

1991 Census Report for Great Britain Part 2

CEN 91 RGB

HMSO, price £40.00 net

ISBN 0 11 691526 9

1991 Census Health Area Monitors

A series of OPCS 1991 Census Monitors containing summary statistics on population and housing for the Health Authority areas of England and Wales, and Scotland has recently been completed by Office of Population Censuses and Survey and General Register Office (Scotland).

Each Monitor - one for each Health Authority region - contains a summary of the key Census findings for that region and its constituent District Health Authority areas. There is a separate Monitor covering Great Britain and the constituent Regional Health Authority areas of England. They precede a full health areas report covering a wider range of census topics for regional health authorities in England, which will be published later this year.

Monitors for England and Wales may be obtained, price £2.00 from:

OPCS Publications,
Room 501,
St Catherine's House
10 Kingsway
LONDON
WC2B 6JP
Telephone: 071-396 2208 or 2045

and those for Scotland from:

Census Customer Services
GRO(S)
Ladywell House
Ladywell Road
EDINBURGH
EH12 7TF
Telephone: 031-314 4254

Limiting Long-Term Illness in Great Britain

A census report containing detailed statistics on the population of Great Britain with limiting long-term illness has been published recently. The report was preceded by summary statistics in an OPCS Census Monitor.

The volume contains seven tables of statistics analysing the resident population with limiting long-term

illness by age, sex, and marital status, and by type of establishment for people resident (non-staff) in communal establishments. Statistics are also shown by ethnic group, by economic activity, and by housing and household characteristics.

All the tables give figures for Great Britain and for its constituent countries. Statistics by sex, age and marital status are additionally given for regions of England, metropolitan counties, Inner London, Outer London, regional remainders, Wales and Scotland.

Reference

OPCS 1991 Census Topic Monitor: Limiting Long-Term Illness
CEN 91 TM LLI
OPCS, price £2.00 net

1991 Census Limiting Long-Term Illness, Great Britain
CEN 91 LLI
HMSO, price £16.90 net
ISBN 0 11 691515 3

Persons Aged 60 and Over in Great Britain

Detailed statistics on the population of Great Britain aged 60 and over are published in a Census report, and summary statistics in a 1991 Census Monitor.

The report contains six tables of statistics analysing the resident population aged 60 and over by age, sex, and marital status, by long-term illness, by whether present or absent in the household, by the number of earners in the household, by long-term illness separately in communal establishments and households, and by housing characteristics.

All the tables give figures for Great Britain and for its constituent countries. Statistics on all tables except for housing are also given for regions of England, metropolitan counties, Inner and Outer London, and regional remainders.

Reference

OPCS 1991 Census Topic Monitor: Persons Aged 60 and Over
CEN 91 TM PEN
OPCS, price £2.00 net

*1991 Census Persons Aged 60 and Over
Great Britain*
CEN 91 PEN
HMSO, price £16.90 net
ISBN 0 11 691511 0

1991 Census: Usual Residence, Great Britain

Statistics on the resident, student, and visitor population of Great Britain are published in a 1991 Census report.

The volume contains six tables of statistics. They cover the resident population of Great Britain and its constituent countries; students and schoolchildren by their area of usual residence and term-time address; visitors to England; visitors to Wales; and visitors to Scotland; and population counts on various definitions.

The tables give national figures, together with statistics for regions of England, counties of England and Wales, Scottish regions, and all local authority districts.

Reference

1991 Census: Usual Residence, Great Britain
CEN 91 UR
HMSO, price £22.80 net
ISBN 0 11 691510 2

Full Results for Greater London

Detailed 1991 Census results for Greater London complete the series of 1991 Census County Reports Part 1.

Part 1 of the Greater London Report contains 66 tables of statistics grouped into four main subject areas. These are demographic and economic characteristics; housing; households and household composition; and household spaces and dwellings.

County Report Part 2 for Greater London is planned for Autumn 1993, and will contain statistics covering such topics as employment by industry, travel to work, social class as defined by occupation, and socio-economic group.

Parts 1 and 2 of the County Reports for Inner London and Outer London, covering the same subject areas for both Inner London and Outer London and their constituent local authority areas are already available.

Reference

*1991 Census County Report: Greater London
Part 1*
CEN 91 CR17
HMSO, price £27.00 net
ISBN 0 11 691535 8

Population Trends

The latest edition of *Population Trends*, the quarterly journal of the Office of Population Censuses and surveys, (OPCS), was published in June, and contained the following articles:

Ethnic Group: First Results from the 1991 Census

by Andy Teague of Census Division, OPCS.

An ethnic group question was included in the Census for the first time in 1991. This article gives an overview of the reasons for including the question and presents brief analyses of the first results. A comparison is also made between the census and the *Labour Force Survey*, the only previous reliable source of information on ethnic group.

Using the Labour Force Survey to Estimate Britain's Ethnic Minority Populations

by Charlie Owen of the Thomas Coram Research Unit, Institute of Education, University of London

The *Labour Force Survey (LFS)* is used by OPCS to estimate the size of Britain's ethnic minority populations when census data are not available. The most recent *LFS* estimate gave a proportion of the population lower than that found in the 1991 Census. This article looks at the basis of the *LFS* estimates and examines some potential sources of bias in them.

The conclusion is that the *LFS* underestimates Britain's ethnic minority population mainly because of higher levels of non-participation, through refusal or non-contact, and, to a lesser extent, greater likelihood not to answer the question on ethnic group.

First Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage: Birth Cohort Analyses

by John Haskey of Population Statistics Division, OPCS

This article uses birth cohort analyses to show the large variations in the patterns of first marriages, divorces, and remarriages, since the early part of this century. Thus, of those born in 1905, 31 per cent of men and 44 per cent of women had married by age 25, but the corresponding proportions for the first cohort to be born after the Second World War, in 1945, were 63 and 82 per cent respectively, approximately double those for the 1905 birth cohort.

Lone Parents and Married Parents with Dependent Children in Great Britain: A Comparison of their Occupation and Social Class Profiles

by John Haskey of Population Statistics Division, OPCS

This article examines the kinds of work which lone parents with dependent children do, and also the status of their jobs. It analyses the occupations and social classes (based on occupation) of both lone mothers and lone fathers and compares them; with those of their counterparts in married couple families with dependent children.

The results from this study need to be seen against the background that, working lone parents are in the minority, with only four in every ten lone mothers and six in every ten lone fathers in employment.

1991-Based National Population Projections for the United Kingdom and Constituent Countries

by Chris Shaw of Government Actuary's Department

The 1991-based national population projections, carried out by the Government Actuary in consultation with the Registrars General, show the population of the United Kingdom rising from 57.6 million in mid-1991 to over 62 million in around forty years' time before starting to decline. The annual rate of increase is projected to be 0.4 per cent in the early years of the projection, and then to fall steadily. There will be a gradual shift to an older age distribution with, in particular, the number of persons aged 75 and over projected to double by the middle of the next century. Compared with the previous (1989-based) projections, important changes have been made to the

underlying assumptions regarding future fertility, mortality, and migration, and these combine to produce some significant changes in the results of the projections.

Scotland

Scottish Office Education Department

Pre-Service School Teacher Training

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

(September 1993)

School Meals Milk and Transport

This Bulletin gives data obtained from education authority schools by the census of school meals and milk and data from the survey of school transport.

(October 1993)

Scottish Higher Education Statistics

This Bulletin draws together information from various sources in order to present a statistical description of the main aspects of higher education in Scotland.

(October 1993)

Scottish Office Environment Department

Quarterly Trends Bulletins

HSG/1993/6 Housing Trends in Scotland - Quarter ended 31 March 1993 Published August 1993

This Bulletin presents the standard quarterly analyses of housing stock by tenure, new housebuilding, council house sales and the improvement of existing dwellings.

HSG/1993/Housing Trends in Scotland - Quarter ended 30 June 1993 Published November 1993

This Bulletin presents the standard quarterly analyses and annual information on public authorities stock and vacant stock and housing for the elderly and disabled.

Future Issues

The Bulletin on housing trends for the quarter ended 30 September 1993 is scheduled for publication in February 1994. Annual tables will present statistics on rent registration.

Topic Bulletin

HSG/1993/4 The 1991 Post Census Survey of Vacant Property (PCVS) Published July 1993

This Bulletin presents the findings of the 1991 Post Census Vacant Survey (PCVS). The PCVS is the most comprehensive source of data on vacant properties available and includes details of dwelling type, tenure, and reason for vacancy.

General Register Office for Scotland

Census Results

Part 2 of the Reports for the Regions and Islands Areas of Scotland were published between 16 April - 30 April and are now available from HMSO.

Parts 1 and 2 of the Scotland National Summary were published on 17 June and 31 August respectively. They also are available from HMSO. The tables contained in the National Report are of the same format as used for the Regional Reports.

Topic Reports published since the last *Statistical News* are Limiting Long-Term illness, Persons Aged 60 and Over, and Usual Residence.

GRO(S) will be producing separate Topic Monitors for Housing and availability of Cars, Gaelic Language, Economic Activity, Workplace and Transport to Work and New Towns. They are expected to be available late Autumn 1993 and will cost £2.00 each. An order form can be requested from:

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

Vital Statistics: Scotland

The Vital Statistics Return, Weeks 33 to 36 was published on the 17 September and included the tables for the second quarter. Also included was an article entitled *Publication Review - 1992 World Health Statistics Annual* which gives an outline of the content.

Scottish Transport Statistics 1991/92

The 1991/92 edition of *Scottish Transport Statistics* was published by The Scottish Office in July 1993. The publication provides comprehensive statistics on transport in Scotland including; passenger and freight transport by road, rail, sea and air, vehicle licensing; road maintenance and construction and expenditure on transport in Scotland.

Improvements to the latest edition include a new summary table on transport in Scotland and revisions to the Road Traffic and Air Transport sections, and a new table showing the origin and destination of domestic air traffic to and from Scotland. Public spending on Scotland's motorways and trunk roads in 1992/93 was estimated at £231 million, an increase of 14 per cent on the previous year.

Vehicles Licensed: the total number of vehicles licensed in Scotland rose between 1990 and 1991 by 2.3 per cent to 1.8 million, in contrast to the fall of 0.7 per cent for GB as a whole.

Bus and Coach vehicle kilometres in Scotland increased by 5 per cent in 1991/92 on the previous year and Scotland's local (stage services) bus kilometres per head of population in 1991/92 were 58 per cent above GB.

Road Freight in 1991 saw 68 per cent of goods leaving Scotland by road to other GB regions destined for the 3 northerly regions of England (North, Yorkshire & Humberside and North West) while goods lifted in these regions accounted for 73 per cent of goods entering Scotland by road from the rest of GB.

Toll Bridges: nearly 49,000 vehicles per day crossed the Forth Road Bridge in 1992, an increase of 5 per cent on 1991. Over the 10 year period 1982-92 the average number of vehicles crossing the bridge each day has increased by 56 per cent.

Air Transport: in 1991 55 per cent (1,188 thousand) of passengers on domestic flights to or from Glasgow Airport were on journeys to or from Heathrow. At Edinburgh Airport 65 per cent (1,229 thousand) of domestic passengers travelled to or from Heathrow.

Reference

Scottish Transport Statistics 1991/92, can be obtained from:

The Scottish Office Library
price, £8.00 net
ISBN 0 7480 0722 9

Department of Social Security

The Department of Social Security produces regular Statistical Bulletins on most benefits, including unemployment benefit, retirement pensions, child benefit, sickness, invalidity and disability benefits and income support. There are also analyses of National Insurance Contributors and members of Personal Pension schemes. Extracts and summaries for these series are published in:

Social Security Statistics
DSS Annual,
price, £19.80 net

Other statistical publications by the Department of Social Security are:

Abstract of Statistics for Indexing of Retail Prices, Earnings, Social Security Benefits and Contributions
DSS Annual
price, £15.65 net

Income Support Quarterly Statistical Enquiry
DSS Quarterly,
price £5.00 net

Income Support Annual Statistical Enquiry
DSS Annual,
price £25.00 net

Tax Benefit Model Tables
DSS Annual,
price £4.25 net

Households Below Average Income Statistics
DSS Annual,
price £9.95 net

Statistics on Take-Up of Income-Related Benefits
DSS Annual,
price £4.00 net

Further information can be obtained from:

Mr I Paton
Department of Social Security
Room B2711
Longbenton
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE
NE98 1YX
Telephone: 091-2257373
(GTN 522 ext 57373)

Transport

Port Statistics 1992

The latest edition of the annual series *Port Statistics* was published by the Department of Transport in October as a Statistics Bulletin.

Port Statistics 1992 provides details of the total of foreign and domestic tonnage through the principal ports of the United Kingdom by mode of appearance, that is disaggregated into bulk, container, roll-on/roll-off, semi-bulk and conventional traffic. Some commodity detail is given for bulk traffic. Other statistics include container and roll-on traffic by numbers of units as well as by tonnage, international passenger and passenger vehicle movements, port manpower, port finance, international trade by value and volume (from the Overseas Trade Statistics database), and ship arrivals.

Port Statistics 1992 is available from:

The Department of Transport's Publication
Sales Unit
Room 1, Spur 2, Block 3
Government Buildings
Lime Grove, Eastcote
MIDDLESEX, HA4 8SE
Telephone: 081-429 5170

Price £15.00 net including postage

The 1991 Survey of Origins, Destinations and Transport of UK International Trade

This survey was described in the article by Mike Collop and Jeremy Grove in *Statistical News* 101 (Summer 1993, pp 4-8). Results are published in the Department of Transport Statistics Bulletin SB(93)32, *Origins, Destinations and Transport of UK International Trade 1991*, ISBN 1-85112-202-8, May 1993, available, price £50.00 including postage and packing, from:

Port Statistics Branch (STB1)
Department of Transport
Room A706
Romney House
43 Marsham Street
LONDON SW1P 3PY
Telephone 071-276 8525

The Bulletin contains 139 pages, including tables, commentary, maps and charts. It gives estimates of UK international trade flows (apart from bulk fuels),

by regions of origin and destination, UK and foreign port areas of loading and unloading, modes of appearance of cargo, broad groups of commodities, and modes of inland transport. Descriptions of the sample design and methodology are also included, with copies of the questionnaires.

Under an agreement between Eurotunnel, the Department of Transport and HMSO, Eurotunnel have been given rights as marketing agent, to market the ODIT data outside Government. They have appointed MDS-Transmodal as their agents to handle data sales. Enquiries should be addressed to:

MDS-Transmodal
5-6 Hunters Walk
Canal Street
CHESTER CH1 4EB
Telephone 0244 - 348301

Enquiries from Government Departments should be addressed to Department of Transport at the address above.

Other Publications

Bank of England: Quarterly Bulletin

In addition to the new quarterly Inflation Report and regular articles providing commentary on developments in the world economy and on domestic and international markets, the August issue of the Bank's Quarterly Bulletin contains the following items:

Company Profitability and Finance

This article, in an annual series, compares how companies have performed in the last two recessions, and reviews company performance in 1992 and the first quarter of 1993. It notes that during the recent recession company profitability and investment were much stronger than in the early 1980s. Nevertheless, companies have also seen significantly more indebted this time round and, although the financial processes which contributed to recession have subsided, the effects of prolonged periods of long financial deficits and borrowing requirements may continue to affect company behaviour for some time.

Cross-Border Alliances in Banking and Financial Services in the Single Market

This paper looks at the cross-border alliances undertaken by banking and financial service groups in the EC since 1987 and the extent to which these have been prompted by the single market. Two hundred and forty-seven identified cross-border alliances by financial institutions are analysed. Trends in the behaviour of firms by nationality and type are discussed, as are some of the factors which are likely to affect such activity in the future.

The Houblon-Norman Fund

The Houblon-Norman Fund was established by the Bank of England in 1944 on the 250th anniversary of the Bank's foundation. Later this year the resources of the Fund will be increased by £500,000 as a permanent celebration of the Bank's tercentenary. This will enable the Fund to continue to award fellowships to researchers of high calibre and to increase the number of such fellowships. This article

describes the history of the Fund and the type of fellowship which will be offered in the future.

Other Items

The August issue also reprints the June Mansion House speech by the Governor, and a speech by the then Deputy Governor on the need for price stability to achieve sustainable growth in output and unemployment. Jonathan Charkham, who retired from the Bank in June after eleven year's service (first as Chief Adviser in the Finance and Industry Area and then as an Adviser to the Governors) also looks back at his involvement in the debate over corporate governance, and presents a personal view.

The Bank's Quarterly Bulletin may be obtained, £7.50 per copy or £27.00 for an annual subscription from:

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

The Inflation Report is also available separately, £4.00 per copy or £16.00 for an annual subscription from selected bookshops or the above address.

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

For details of CSO Quinquennial reviews carried out in 1992-93 please refer to David Blunt's article on page 101.9

Surveys to Local Authorities

Land with Outstanding Permission for Private Housing Development

Mr Richard Laux
DoE
LGS
Room P1/168B
2 Marsham Street
LONDON SW1P 3EB

Appointments and Changes

Retirement

Mr P B Kenny, Grade 5, CSO on 31 July 1993

Transfer

Mrs M F Haworth, Grade 5, DTI to CSO (RPIB) on 1 June 1993

Temporary Promotion

Miss K M Barratt, SO on 30 June 1993

Personal Promotion

Mr P H Atkinson, Grade 6, DTI (OFTEL) on 25 June 1993

Articles in recent issues of Statistical News

No 94 Autumn 1991

Improvements to Economic Statistics: A Progress Report
General Medical Practitioners' Workload Survey 1989 - 90
The National Food Survey 1940 - 1990

David Daniel
Michael Barker
Carolyn Hamilton
and Sheila Dixon

No 95 Winter 1991

Central Statistical Office launched as Executive Agency
A Classification of Local Housing Authorities Expenditure Characteristics
and Imputation
The Enhancement of the Labour Force Survey in Great Britain

Sir Jack Hibbert

Richard Laux
Elaine Chamberlain,
Tony Manners and
Michael Bradley
Tony Manners

Computer Assisted Interviewing for the Labour Force Survey
Desk-Top Publishing: Production of Statistical Publications in the Department of the
Environment

John Garnsworthy
and Stephen Peters

No 96 Spring 1992

A New Head for the GSS
Official Statistics in the UK: Is there cause for concern?
Defence Statistics Organisation - Risk Management within the MoD
The Home Office Offenders' Index

Sir Jack Hibbert
Sean Whellams
Sylvia Keith

No 96A Summer 1992 Supplement Issue

GSS Conference: European Developments and the GSS

No 97 Summer 1992

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

John Kinder
and Reg Kilpatrick
Christine Jeannette
Irene Rauta

ASSIST
OPCS Omnibus Survey - The first twelve months

No 98 Autumn 1992

Challenges in Energy Statistics
Firm Agreements for Supplying Data to the National Accounts
Statistical Liaison with Local Government: Recent Developments
Recent Developments in Balance of Payments Statistics

Jill Marson and Matt Semple
Stephen Penneck
Richard Laux
Bruce Buckingham

No 99 Winter 1992

Official Pay and Earnings in Great Britain
Family Resources Survey

Mike Janes and Alan Spence
Sharon Blackburn and
Sue Lincoln

No 100 Spring 1993 - International Edition

Introduction
Official Statistics: The International Dimension seen from the CSO
ODA Assistance to Statistical Services in Developing Countries
A Day in the Life of an ODA Statistician in Africa
Sharing GSS 'Know How' with Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union
UK - Hungary Workshop: November 1992 Looking to the Future
Statistics and Developing Countries - Reflections Approaching Retirement

Bill McLennan
Alwyn Pritchard
Tony Williams
Richard Butchart
Jenny Church
Jenny Church
Dick Allen

No 101 Summer 1993

The 1991 Survey of Origins, Destinations and Transport of UK International Trade

CSO's First Release Makes its Debut
The 1992 Statistics Users' Conference.

Measuring Traffic Speeds in London
Households Below Average Income

Mike Collop and
Jeremy Grove
Ian Scott
Paul Cook, Martin Duckworth
Mike Prestwood and
Debra Richards
Neil Benn
Nick Adkin and Martin Uglow

Copies of the above and earlier articles may be obtained from: Central Statistical Office, Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent NP9 1XG, Library Room 1.001. The cost is £5 a copy, inclusive of postage and handling, for the articles listed, and for articles from earlier issues. The appropriate remittance should accompany each order. Cheques, etc., should be made payable to 'The Central Statistical Office'.

Statistical News - a quarterly publication from CSO.

Statistical News provides a comprehensive account of current developments in British official statistics to help all who use or would like to use official statistics.

Every issue contains two or more articles dealing with a subject in depth. Shorter notes give news of the latest developments in many fields, including international statistics. Some reference is made to other work which, though not carried out by government organisations, is closely related to official statistics. Appointments and other changes in the Government Statistical Service are also given. A cumulative index in the winter edition provides a permanent and comprehensive guide to developments in all areas of official statistics.



HMSO publications are available from:

HMSO Publications Centre

(Mail, fax and telephone orders only)

PO Box 276, London, SW8 5DT

Telephone orders 071-873 9090

General enquiries 071-873 0011

(queuing system in operation for both numbers)

Fax orders 071-873 8200

HMSO Bookshops

49 High Holborn, London, WC1V 6HB

(counter service only)

071-873 0011 Fax 071-873 8200

258 Broad Street, Birmingham, B1 2HE

021-643 3740 Fax 021-643 6510

33 Wine Street, Bristol, BS1 2BQ

0272 264306 Fax 0272 294515

9-21 Princess Street, Manchester, M60 8AS

061-834 7201 Fax 061-833 0634

16 Arthur Street, Belfast, BT1 4GD

0232 238451 Fax 0232 235401

71 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH3 9AZ

031-228 4181 Fax 031-229 2734

HMSO's Accredited Agents

(see Yellow Pages)

and through good booksellers

£8 net

(Annual subscription £30 including postage)

ISBN 0 11 620556 3

ISSN 0017-3630

ISBN 0-11-620556-3



9 780116 205568