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Central Statistical Office

NATIONAL INSTITUTE
20 SEP

IN THIS ISSUE..... Organisation of Statistics in Member Countries of the EC.....GNP it's role in funding the EC..... Training of European Statisticians..... The Stagiare Scheme.

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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.

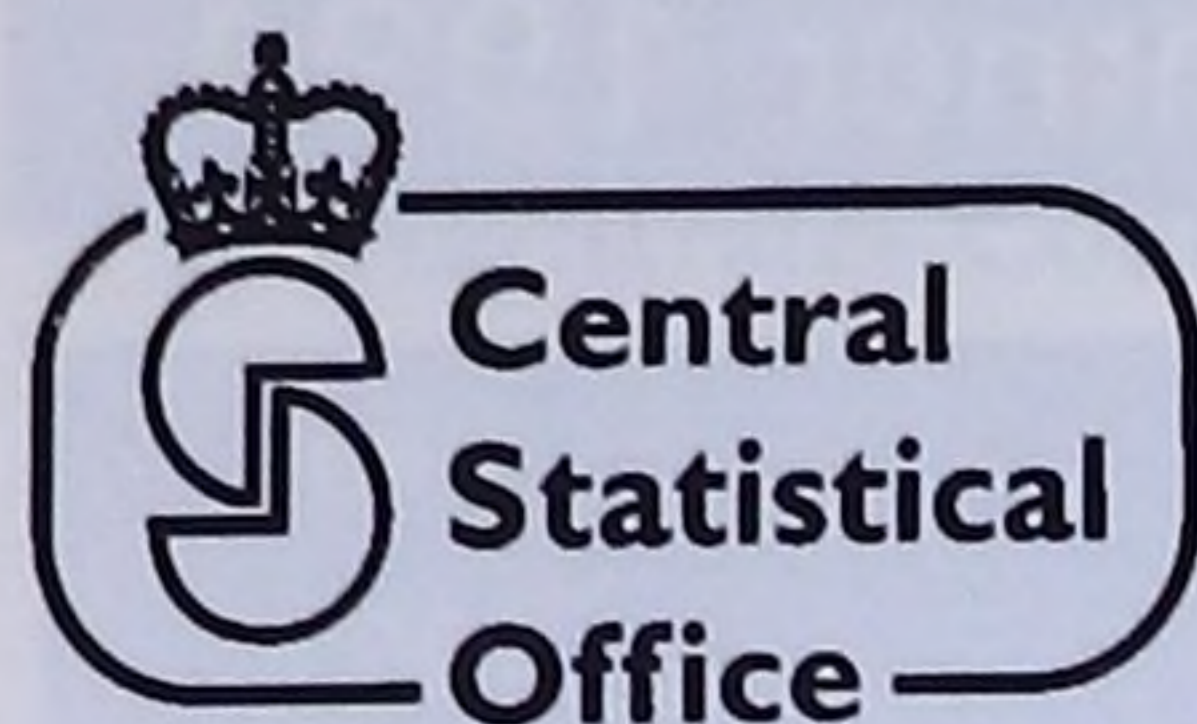
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Statistical News

**Developments in British
Official Statistics**

**No. 105
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Special Editorial

Building on the success of the special International Issue of *Statistical News* in Spring 1993, the current issue is entirely devoted to articles with a European flavour, as the cover suggests. For a change, we have some authors from outside the United Kingdom: Georges Als who was for many years the Director of the National Statistical Office of Luxembourg and Nicolas Jeanprêtre from the Training of European Statisticians organisation. In addition, Andrew Ray writes of his experience working in Eurostat and Ian Cope gives some insight into the European Community's budget. We will continue to cast the net widely for authors.

That is not all that is new: *Statistical News* is also becoming more news orientated. In the next edition we will be introducing several new sections. There will be *News From Around the GSS* with brief reports on GSS issues as well as the latest statistical developments in each department. This will replace the Government Publications section: new publications and surveys will continue to be listed in the insert. In addition, we are starting a correspondence column, with letters from our readers, on various topics. We hope you will approve of these developments along with the further presentational improvements we are planning.

Natalie Williams
Editor

The Organisation of Statistics in the Member Countries of the European Community

by Georges Als

Editor's note

Georges Als is a former Director General of STATEC, the National Statistical Institute of Luxembourg. He was commissioned by Eurostat to study the organisation of statistics in the countries of the European Community. Information about the situation in each country was obtained by means of a lengthy questionnaire and face-to-face interviews with the Director General of each NSI. This article is an abridged version of the concluding chapter of Mr Als' report, 'Essays on the 12 National Statistical Institutes - a Comparative Study'¹. The views expressed in this article are his own.

Subject of the study, and limitations of the results

Despite frequent contact, the National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) in the European Community (to say nothing of the others) do not know one another very well. That was what prompted Eurostat to ask us to carry out this study.

The subjects studied were essentially the legal bases of the organization of statistics, the level of resources and the main problems of internal organization. It was not possible to take the analysis far enough to make a judgement about the efficiency of each organization and the quality of the statistics produced.

This study was very time-consuming, and the national teams in some cases spent many weeks on the questionnaire: the author spent at least a month on understanding the organization of just one particular NSI! Moreover, a study of this type inevitably involves a language dimen-

sion: the discussions were held in five languages and were supplemented by documentation in seven.

The study found that "statistics on statistics" are very scant; it was therefore particularly difficult to compare the manpower and financial resources available to the National Statistical Systems (NSS). The NSI is the central statistical service in a country eg. the Central Statistical Office in the UK; and the NSS is the NSI plus the statistical services of other parts of government.

Main results: summary

While most of the NSIs were founded in the 19th century, the legal bases of their present day organization - statistical obligation and confidentiality - were not laid until between the two World Wars. The structures adopted nationally are, on the whole, the product of each country's history and social development. International statistical collaboration dates back to the middle of the 19th century, but did not flourish and become fully effective until a century later, largely thanks to Eurostat.

The legal foundations of the NSIs are laid down in all the countries by a basic statistical law, except in the UK where a range of legislation supports statistical activity. As well as basic statistical laws, there also exist special statistical laws prescribing various surveys, and other laws affecting statistics (covering, for example, public registers, and protection of privacy), executive regulations authorizing certain types of statistical work and, lastly, internal regulations of the NSIs. It is only in Germany and Spain that a new law is needed for each new survey. At the European level, the legal fabric, which up to

1989 related solely to surveys, now aims, in addition, to provide an organic basis for European statistics.

Strengths of the national statistical organizations

While this analysis may not enable us to decide who is the best pupil in the class, it nevertheless highlights certain strengths. However, we are entering the realm of subjective assessments here.

- 1 The most indisputable strength identified is the *scale of manpower and financial resources*. Disregarding Luxembourg, which constitutes a special case, Table 1 shows that, in terms of statisticians per 10,000 of population, three NSIs are relatively better-off than the others: Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands. This is probably an important factor in the quality of these countries' statistical output. Table 2 shows the financial resources available to each NSS, with the highest spending on the statistical system around 6-8 ecu per capita.
- 2 If we start from the idea that statistics should make maximum use of administrative information held by government, it must be acknowledged that it is a matter of urgency to have single *national identifiers* of people, firms and possibly other units, as well as to be able to use them to gain access to administrative files and, where necessary, to interlink them. The four countries which have national identifiers - Denmark, France, Belgium, Luxembourg - therefore have an advantage over the other eight, where there are no single identifiers. The Danish system, built entirely on this idea, seems to be particularly strong; however, an in-depth study would still have to be carried out on the quality of the information obtained in this way, since it is a well known fact that administrative definitions do not always tally with statisticians' requirements.
- 3 A NSI is probably all the stronger to the extent that its head or management has extensive powers with regard to the statistical programme, limited only by the opinions of an Advisory Board, but not by the intervention of the political powers-that-be (Government and Parliament). In this respect, the Netherlands' Decree of 1899, which is still in force, probably serves as a model when it states that "The Central Bureau of Statistics shall collect, process and publish all statistical data that the Director-General considers useful for practical and scientific purposes".
- 4 Similarly, the *centralization* of statistics in a single institute or in a limited number of services seems more efficient than extensive decentralization, since the latter gives rise to tricky problems of coordination. The UK example of very large-scale decentralization is probably not an argument to the contrary, since the British are a people with a rare team spirit, and besides there is a slight movement towards centralization.
- 5 Still on the same tack, a *compact organization* (such as Denmark, or the Netherlands), with a small number of directorates (maximum 6), is probably more efficient than a very extensive structure, even if the latter increases the chances of internal promotion.
- 6 Clear and simple provisions on statistical *obligation and confidentiality* constitute an asset. Statistical obligation - the existence of legal powers to ensure the co-operation of respondents - ought to be the rule and not the exception. Statistical confidentiality should apply with only a minimum number of exceptions; the involvement of representatives of businesses in decisions on these exceptions, as practised in France, is undoubtedly a good idea.
- 7 The adoption of a multi-annual *statistical programme* implemented through annual programmes, which is beginning to become widespread, is a factor of strength in that it forces the NSI to think about its future and to accept at least "moral" obligations.

8 Lastly, the co-existence within the same institute of the teaching of statistics, the production of statistics and their use for research purposes, as is the case in France, makes a good combination and certainly has considerable advantages. However, it is not within everybody's reach. But some in-house research activity is in all probability a positive factor, in that it requires the NSI to put its own statistics to the test and to put right any shortcomings the research reveals.

9 To be efficient, a statistical organization also needs an appropriate psychological and political climate. These are factors which are more difficult to pin down, but they include:
-highly motivated managers, encouraged by well-defined powers and responsibilities and an absence of inhibiting interference from public authorities;

- hard working staff, with a pleasant working atmosphere, promotions based on merit and seniority and not on political and trade union affiliations, and a motivating system of pay;
- a system of recruitment and in-service training which ensures that staff have the appropriate skills.

Main weaknesses

Detecting "weaknesses" in statistical organization is an even trickier task. However, as already stated, this analysis does not enable an overall judgement to be made on each statistical system but is aimed rather at pinpointing the strengths and weaknesses of various legal, political, and financial environments, over which, in many cases, the NSIs do not have any control. It is clear, moreover, that a particular weakness may be offset by strong points.

1 By symmetry with the previous section, it can be seen that the *shortage of staff and financial resources* is an obvious weakness. Judging by the tables included in this article, several NSIs are well below the Community average in this re-

spect: the United Kingdom, Greece, Spain, Portugal and Belgium. Our analysis should provide arguments for demanding additional resources in these cases. In the case of Belgium, this weakness is compounded by an insufficient proportion of university graduates and in the case of Greece, by qualifications that are often inadequate owing to ill-considered recruitment made by public authorities prior to elections.

2 Other weaknesses arise from the list of strengths.

- A highly *decentralized* organization leads to the dispersal of effort, unless it is counterbalanced by the existence of strong coordination powers.
- An insufficiently *hierarchized* internal organization will lack efficiency owing to the absence of coordination and clearly defined responsibilities. Is it necessary to remind ourselves of the case of Greece, where the top management posts are filled by election, thereby undermining the authority of those who occupy them?
- It has been stressed previously that the obligation to reply to surveys ought to be the rule and not the exception. Similarly, a NSI ought to have control over its *statistical programme*, with the help of its Advisory Board and within the bounds of the resources at its disposal. The requirement for Government approval of each new survey (Belgium, Ireland) and, even more so, the intervention of the legislature (Germany, Spain) appear to be a weakness, since such intervention causes detrimental delays, makes it difficult to draw up a programme of work and, lastly, is liable to politicize questions which are essentially technical in nature.

4 Developments in the field of *protection of privacy* have led to some weakening of statistical work in a number of countries. In the majority of cases, the authorities created by the data

protection laws confine themselves to protecting data without interfering in the internal management of statistics. In a few countries, however (Germany, France, Luxembourg and, outside the Community, Austria), such interference has become a source of irritation.

Furthermore, the constitutional or legal provisions that prevent the introduction of national identifiers represent an obstacle to the progress of statistical documentation. If the fears which lie at the root of the prohibition of national identifiers and the interlinking of files for statistical purposes were well-founded, Denmark ought to be a country where personal freedoms were no longer protected. Since this is not the case, the experience of Denmark constitutes a refutation of these theories.

5 In the federal or quasi-federal States, the *division of statistical power* between the federal entity and the territorial subdivisions is definitely a weakness. It gives rise first of all to co-ordination difficulties in that the federal entity cannot impose a single programme. This is illustrated in Spain, where the statistical services of certain "Autonomous Communities" behave like independent bodies not subject to the influence of federal statistics. In Germany, we have seen how the federal and legal structures together made possible the 1981-1983 anti-statistics revolution which led to the failure of the population census and the weakening of the statistical authority. In fact, the agitation would not have had the time to develop if it had not been for: firstly, the requirement for a law ordering the census; and secondly, the delays due to discussions on the division of costs between the Bund and the Länder.

Towards an ideal NSI ? Some recommendations

Our choice is therefore mapped out: we must avoid the bad examples and imitate the good pupils. Of course, the road to Hell is paved with good intentions. We cannot change a political

and social environment overnight, but here, at least, are some recommendations.

1 There is general agreement on a need for the *scientific independence* of statistics. What goes without saying goes even better if it is said. The first article of any statistical law ought to state that the compilation of statistics is based on the principles of impartiality, objectivity and scientific neutrality.

Questions about the purpose of statistical information and access to it also arise in this context. The most widely held view is that statistics are not intended exclusively for the Government or even for the political powers-that-be in the widest sense, but that they are an instrument of openness serving the citizen and democracy. Hence: *national* statistical institute/system and not *government* statistical service.

2 Following on immediately from this, it could be stated - which also goes without saying - that *statistical confidentiality* aims to protect respondents against any detriment and that there is no question of any individual data being divulged to third parties, *including Ministers and other parts of government*. Exceptions should only be granted with the agreement of the parties concerned, obtained either on a case-by-case basis, or with the agreement of the Advisory Board if a general rule is to apply.

3 As the NSIs are the best judges of the need for surveys, they should have control over the drawing-up of their *statistical programme*, in agreement with the Advisory Board and subject to the resources available. No special authorization from Government or Parliament should be required for individual surveys to be carried out. Only the annual statistical programme might need the approval of the executive. European surveys would, however, continue to be governed by the provisions of the Treaty on European Union.

4 Along the same lines as the autonomy of the NSIs, the *obligation to reply* to surveys ought to be a general legal principle and not an exception requiring special approval. It would be up to the NSI to decide on a case-by-case basis whether it intends to invoke this obligation or to rely on voluntary co-operation.

5 The experiments carried out by some NSIs with regard to *financial autonomy* are worthy of discussion since they might usefully be applied across the board. At present, the Community's financial contributions to statistics do not always achieve their aim because certain NSIs cannot use them and this money disappears into the State's general coffers.

6 In our view, having an *annual programme* of statistical work and an annual report to be submitted for the opinion of an Advisory Board is an excellent practice, essential also for the implementation of the European statistical programme. As we have seen, in certain countries it comes up against the requirement for prior approval of new individual surveys by the political authorities.

7 In the case of certain traditional organizational problems which have been discussed for a long time, there are good arguments for and against, and the solution depends on national traditions and institutional factors. We could therefore fall back on national preferences for problems such as :

- the degree of centralization or decentralization;
- the extent to which a NSI should carry out research work based on its own statistics;
- whether statisticians should be recruited (France) or experts from many special fields called in (the Netherlands);

- the choice between free distribution of publications or selling them on a commercial basis.

There are nevertheless areas where this study puts forward new arguments.

8 As regards the *resources* of the national statistical systems, Table 1 provides at least the starting point for important research. The NSIs should be on a roughly equal footing as far as their resources are concerned, relative to the population of course. Some of them need an increase in staff.

9 The setting-up of a system of *national identifiers*, which itself is a basic prerequisite for a system of administrative and statistical registers, is a logical requirement. Although the potential dangers that this entails for individual freedoms call for in-depth analysis, the experience of Denmark proves that it is possible to devise a solution accommodating both efficiency and the upholding of freedoms.

10 Along the same lines, it has to be acknowledged that the activity of the institutions responsible for *data protection* has become a source of concern and irritation for the NSIs of some countries. However, this is not the case in others, although it does not mean that citizens' freedoms are threatened in these countries. The scales have tipped too far towards protection.

References

¹Als, Georges (1993). Organisation of statistics in the member countries of the European Community. Essays on the 12 National Statistical Institutes. Comparative Study. Eurostat, Luxembourg, December 1992.

Table 1: Personnel in Statistics, 1991 (provisional data)

	B	DK	D (a)	GR	E	F (a)	IRL (a)	I	L	NL	P	UK	TOTAL EC
1. NSI: Head Office	885	596	3226	752	1106	2035	500	2665	80	2770	692	1050	
2. NSI: Regional Offices	180	52	9079	240	2026	4635	0	) 2700 (b)	0	0	207	0	
3. NSI: Local Offices	0	89	4625 (b)	0	0	0	0	)	)	)	0	0	
4. Statistical Services of Ministries	150 (b)	250	na.	183 (c)	655	2860 (d)	100 (b)	2700 (b)	5	)	220	3700	
5. Statistical Services of the Central Bank	60	45	300	61	200	270	na.	220	4	)	82	na.	
6. Other Statistical Services	na.	na.	na.	0	713 (b)	na.	na.	0	7	)	na.	na.	
7. TOTAL PERSONNEL (sum 1 to 6)	1275 (b)	1033	17,230 (b)	1053	4700 (b)	9800	600 (b)	8300 (b)	96	3000 (b)	1201	4750	53000 (b)
8. Number of NSI statisticians (in 1+2)	60	140	468 (d) (in 1)	328	720	1320	43	513 (in 1)	12	445	225	611 (in 1+4)	
9. % of NSI staff (in 1+2) who are statisticians = $\frac{8}{1+2} \times 100$	6	22	14 (in 1)	33	23	20	9	19 (in 1)	15	16	25	14 (in 1+4)	
10. Total population of Member State (million)	10	5.1	80	10	38.8	58	3.5	57.8	0.4	14.8	9.8	57	343
11. Statistical personnel per 10,000 of population = $\frac{7}{10} \times 10^4$	1.3	2.0	2.2	1.1	1.2	1.7	1.7	1.4	2.4	2.0	1.2	0.8	1.5

na. not available

(a) 1992 data

(b) estimate

(c) estimate, included in 1 and 2

(d) in 1990

Table 2: Estimated Annual Expenditure and Per Capita Cost of National Statistical Systems (NSS)

Member State	Year	NSS annual budget as a % of Government Current Expenditure	NSS annual budget as a % of GDP (at market prices)	Estimated per capita cost of NSS (ECU)
Belgium (B)	..	0.06	0.019	3.1
Denmark (DK)	1991	0.06	0.034	7.2
Germany (D)	1989	0.06	0.042	7.7
Spain (E)	1991	0.10	0.050	3.6
France (F)	1990	0.11	0.033	5.4
Greece (GR)	1990	0.05	0.024	1.3
Ireland (IRL)	1990	0.07	0.090	3.2
Italy (I)	1991	0.04	0.030	4.6
Luxembourg (L)	1990	0.13	0.041	8.0
The Netherlands (NL)	1990	0.12	0.050	6.7
Portugal (P)	1991	0.11	0.056	2.7
United Kingdom (UK)	1991	0.09	0.027	3.6

Estimated expenditure on the national statistical system is calculated on the basis of the ratio of staff numbers in the NSI to those in the NSS, for the latest year for which data are available.

Gross National Product - It's role in funding the EC and the impact of the 4th Resource on the CSO

Ian Cope,
Central Statistical Office

Introduction

I thought that I should start this article by briefly explaining why an article on UK economic statistics justified inclusion in this 'European' edition of Statistical News. Since 1988 the level of Gross National Product (GNP) in each EC member state has been partly used to determine how much countries pay each year to the European Community. In 1993 the GNP-based '4th resource' raised about £13 billion for the EC, of which the UK contributed some £2 billion. The Central Statistical Office (CSO) is responsible for calculating UK GNP.

The role of GNP in the budget process is set to grow and EUROSTAT (the Statistical Office of the European Community) has a programme of work in hand with member states to ensure that GNP figures are accurate and comparable. This article describes how GNP is used in the EC budget process, the Europe-wide work programme to ensure comparability of GNP figures between EC member states, and the current and likely future impact of this work on the UK national accounts produced by the CSO.

First, some background information. The national accounts for a country are an integrated set of statistics which show the economic transactions taking place in a given year. The national accounts can be thought of as akin to the annual accounts produced by companies. In the same way that there are accounting conventions for companies, there are 'rules' for the production of national accounts. For the EC these are contained in the European System of integrated economic Accounts (ESA).

Gross national product (GNP) is a key aggregate in the system of national accounts and measures the income earned by the nationals of a country; the 'market price' valuation is used for making payments to the European Community (GNPmp).

European Community Finances

This section gives a brief overview of the arrangements for financing the EC and explains the role of GNP in this system. The budget figures are taken from the March 1994 'Statement on the 1994 Community Budget'¹.

The European Community spent about £52bn in 1993; almost 55% of this was spent on agriculture. The Community budget is agreed each year by the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament. Most of the Community spending is financed by payments from member state governments - there is no direct taxation of Community citizens.

The Commission raises so-called 'own resources' from each member state according to agreed criteria. A broad aim of the own resources structure is to make contributions 'fair'. There are four own resources :

1st resource - Agricultural and sugar levies :

Levies paid on agricultural goods imported from non-EC countries and sugar levies raised on production and storage within the Community.

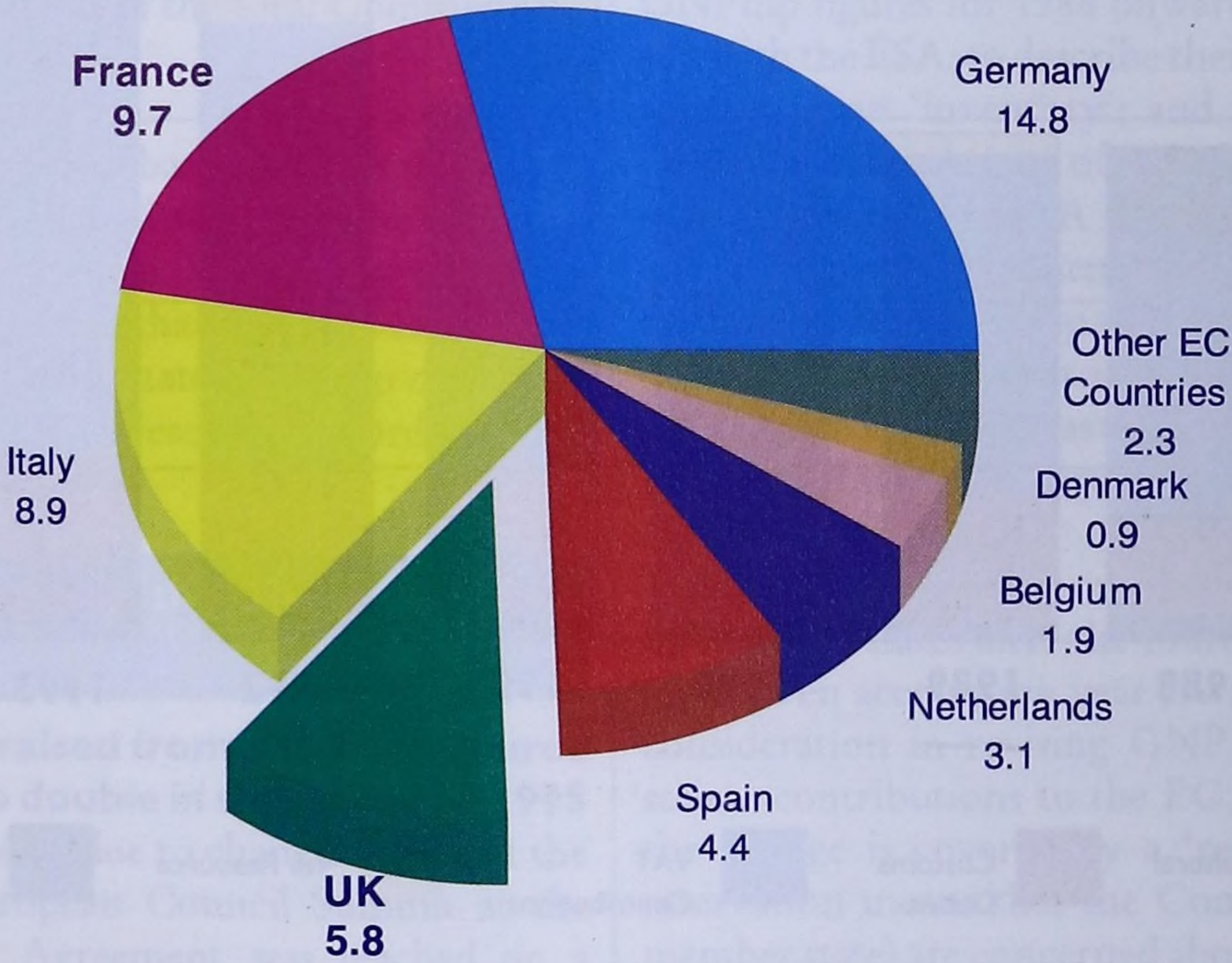
2nd resource - Customs duties :

Common customs tariffs and duties paid on goods imported from non-EC countries

Agricultural and sugar levies	£ 1.7bn	(3.5%)
Customs duties	8.5bn	(16.9%)
VAT	£27.2bn	(54.0%)
GNPmp	£12.95bn	(25.7%)

In 1993 four countries (Germany (29%), France (17.8%), Italy (16.5%), UK (11.4%)) contributed some 75% of the total EC own resources.

EC Contributions £ billion 1993



3rd resource - VAT :

Payments made based on a 'harmonised' VAT base. The amount payable is calculated by multiplying an agreed 'call up rate' (1.248138407% in 1993) to the VAT base. A 'harmonised base' is used to ensure that differences in the VAT systems in each member state do not affect their VAT own resource contributions.

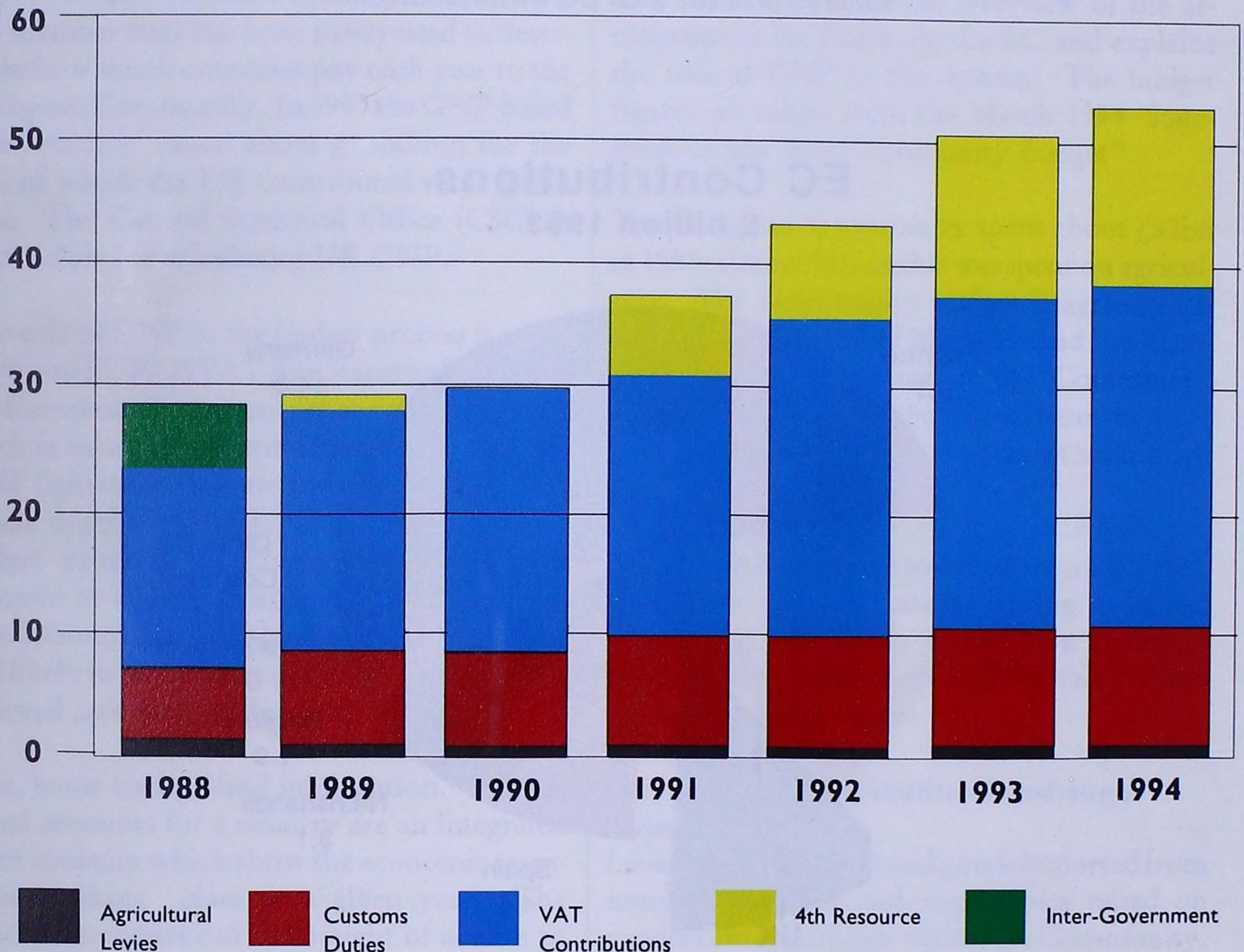
to balance, therefore the call up rate is set so that expenditure and revenue balance in the budget.

The 4th resource was introduced in 1989 and has increased in importance with the growth of the Community's budget. In 1990 it raised £0.3bn (0.7% of the total); by 1993 it raised some £12.95bn (25.7% of the total). Over this period UK

EC Own Resources

£ Billion

1988-94



4th resource - GNP at market prices :

The amount of 4th resource payments is calculated by multiplying an agreed call up rate (0.3003665918% in 1993) by the level of GNPmp in each country. The Community budget has

contributions to the 4th resource rose from £0.05 bn to £2.0bn.

In 1993 the European Community raised £52bn through the four own resources as follows :

UK Rebate

There is a complication to the UK's budget contributions. Since 1984 the UK has received an 'abatement' of its contributions to the Community Budget. The amount of the abatement is broadly equal to two-thirds of the difference between the contribution the UK would have made to the Budget (if its contribution were all made at the level of its VAT payments) and its receipts from the Budget. The level of the abatement is currently about £2bn a year; the figures in the preceding paragraphs are after account has been taken of the abatement.

Role of GNPmp in Budget Process

GNPmp determines the 4th resource contributions, but it also plays an important role in two other budget areas :

- The total Community own resources ceiling is limited to 1.2% of the total Community GNPmp at present.
- The 'uniform VAT base' for the 3rd resource is (currently) capped at 55% of the GNPmp for any member state. In a year for which the VAT base is larger than the 55% cap, revisions to a member states GNPmp can therefore affect both 4th resource and 3rd resource contributions.

Future Changes to the size of the 4th Resource

The amount raised from the 4th resource is expected to double in size between 1995 and 1999. This is due to changes agreed at the Edinburgh European Council Summit at the end of 1992. Agreement was reached on a gradual increase in the Community own resource ceiling from the current 1.2% of total Community GNPmp to 1.27% in 1999. Two important changes to the structure of own resources were also agreed at the Edinburgh Summit :

- There is currently a limit of 1.4% on the rate applied to the VAT base (recall that the rate in 1993 is 1.248%). This limit will gradually be reduced to 1.0% by 1999.
- The cap on the VAT base will gradually be reduced from 55% to 50%.

The first change will have the most significant impact; the second comes into effect in 1995 for the four poorest Member States (Greece, Portugal, Spain, and Ireland). As the amount of money raised under the third resource decreases, the amount raised by the (GNP-based) fourth resource will increase to balance the EC budget.

Legal Framework

There are three main Community legal Acts which 'regulate' the use of GNPmp as 4th resource. In summary, the legislation requires member states to provide EUROSTAT with GNPmp figures for 1988 onwards which comply with the ESA; to describe their methods and sources in an 'inventory'; and to inform the Commission each year of any changes to these sources and methods. A committee (the GNP committee) with representatives from each EC member state was set up to assist the Commission in its work and to formally express its opinions on issues such as the comparability and accuracy of the GNP figures.

The legislation also sets out that revisions made by member states after the fourth year following a given accounting year are not taken into consideration in revising GNP based 4th resource contributions to the EC, except where the change is covered by a 'reservation'. A reservation means that the Commission (or a member state) are concerned about some aspect of the sources and/or methods used for calculating GNP and either require further explanation or an improvement to the sources/methods. Any revisions to a GNP component subject to a reservation will feed through to a revision in payments to the EC.

The GNP Work Programme

The national accounting systems in member states have been developed over the last 50 years and, although broadly comparable, do not always coincide exactly with the ESA (which dates from 1970). When reporting to the EC, member states may have to make specific adjustments to their GNP figures to bring them more into line with the exact requirements of the ESA. There is still scope for the GNP estimates of different member states to differ for purely 'technical' reasons. Since GNP is used to determine the 4th resource contributions, such differences could affect the payments made to the EC.

EUROSTAT and the member states therefore have a programme of work in train to try to ensure that the GNP figures for each member state comply with the national accounting conventions in the ESA and are comparable with the figures from other member states. Comparability may be achieved by using common methods, or by adopting individual solutions appropriate to each country.

The GNP work programme has been taken forward over the last five years by EUROSTAT through the GNP committee (which met for the first time in 1989). The first task for member states was to draw up an inventory describing their methods for calculating GNPmp and the main data sources. These were to be supplied to EUROSTAT by August 1990; the UK inventory runs to about 900 pages.

The main substantive decision taken during the first two years of the committee was on the economic territory over which GNPmp was to be measured for 4th resource purposes.

It was recognised early on that Greece and Portugal would appreciate outside help to improve their national accounts, so EUROSTAT funded technical assistance from French national accountants.

Methodology for GNP

Detailed consideration by EUROSTAT of the methods used in member states had to await receipt of descriptions in the GNP inventories. Papers were written by EUROSTAT evaluating each member states' methods for calculating GNPmp, based on the descriptions in the inventories. These papers were considered by the GNP committee during the second half of 1992. Discussion of these reports identified issues where countries appeared not to be following the ESA exactly, and also brought out differences between member states in interpretation of certain aspects of the ESA.

The pace of GNP-related work has quickened in recent years, for two main reasons :

- 1988 GNP figures 'went final' in September 1992; this was the first time that reservations were placed on the GNP estimates of member states. Reservations fell into two groups: country specific reservations and those which applied to all member states ('transversal' studies).
- The changes agreed at the December 1992 Edinburgh Council of Ministers summit mean that the fourth resource will likely double in size. This has given an added boost for the work on comparability of GNPmp, particularly the 'problem of the exhaustiveness of GNPmp' (which had merited a specific mention in the 1989 Council Directive).

The current GNP work programme is driven by :

- investigations of the 'exhaustiveness' of GNP;
- 'Transversal' studies of issues that affect all member states;
- Progress on country specific reservations.

Exhaustiveness Work Programme

A separate work programme on the 'exhaustiveness' of GNP was formally adopted by the GNP committee in September 1993 and encompasses four broad investigations to help assess whether the GNP estimates capture in practice all activity that they should (eg do they make adequate allowance for the hidden economy?). The four parts are :

- Descriptions of adjustments which implicitly or explicitly ensure exhaustiveness of GNP (eg adjustments for hidden economy);
- comparison of employment estimates underlying the national accounts with demographic data (Labour Force Survey and population Census);
- an assessment of the treatment of income in kind in the national accounts (eg are company cars allowed for?); and
- a feasibility study into the use of (anonymous) tax audit data (Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise) to make adjustments to national accounts data to allow for economic activity not declared to the tax authorities.

The CSO has, with the co-operation of other government departments, recently completed these four projects (which have identified a couple of minor points for further investigation but have broadly given a clean bill of health to the UK national accounts). All this material needs to be translated into at least three languages and will be considered by the GNP committee during the second half of 1994 (and possibly into 1995).

In the light of the information provided by all member states, EUROSTAT and the GNP committee will assess the exhaustiveness of the GNP estimates of each member state. If weaknesses are discovered it is possible that some

member states will be asked to carry out further investigations or to make specific adjustments to their GNP estimates to make them more comparable with those from other member states. There is still a lot of work to be done by the GNP committee before we reach that stage, however.

Transversal Studies

After evaluating the inventories of member states during 1992, the Commission identified a number of 'difficult' issues which potentially affected all member states. A series of 'transversal' studies are thus being carried out looking into these concerns across all member states. So far, real progress has been made on two issues ('housing services' and the transition from GDP to GNP), although work has started on agriculture and the measurement of the output of financial institutions.

Country Specific Reservations

In addition to the reservations placed on the estimates of all member states, every member state also received country-specific reservations. Improvements to UK national accounts since 1990 have anticipated many of the points raised in the UK specific reservations. It is expected that most UK specific reservations can be dealt with by providing further information to the Commission on UK methods, rather than requiring changes to those methods. Some such information has already been provided.

EC Money

EUROSTAT have made over 6m ECU (about £4m) available to all member states to fund the 4th resource work described above.

The Impact of the 4th Resource on the CSO

The main interest in GDP/GNP within member states tends to be in *movements* in GDP

rather than in its absolute level. The use of Gross National Product as a way of determining member state contributions to the EC has focused more attention on the relative level of GNP between member states.

To date the 4th resource has had no impact on the level of GNP published by the CSO in the UK. There have, however, been extra adjustments introduced to ensure that the figures provided to EUROSTAT match the ESA requirements more closely (eg change in the classification of Domestic Rates).

Improvements which were already in hand as part of the 1990 and 1991 Chancellor's Initiatives programme of developments to national accounts have preempted some of the UK specific reservations (eg improvements to the registers for importers and exporters of services).

The use of GNP as the EC 4th resource has required the CSO to produce detailed documentation of current methods (eg the 900 page GNP inventory) and to carry out investigations that might not have been held just yet (eg the exhaustiveness work programme). In both these areas the 4th resource pressure has been a useful discipline.

Some of the GNP-related work has involved the CSO and other member states in joint investigations of new methodology (eg a 'stratification' approach to estimating imputed rents for owner occupiers); this sharing of ideas and experience is in its early days yet, but promises fruitful dialogue for the future.

The Future of the GNP Related Investigations

There are many differences in the data that is available within each country (eg in some countries taxes on wages and salaries are deducted at source by employers; such systems tend to give better estimates of income than tax systems in which salaries are paid gross and individuals self-

assess their tax liability). Different approaches have been adopted in different countries (eg some countries only estimate GDP from, say, the income approach; others produce separate income, expenditure and output estimates and balance them in detailed input-output tables). These numerous national differences each have the scope to impact on GNP and are potential subjects for investigation.

Even completing the current programme of work covered by transversal studies is likely to take years. The timescale for the 'exhaustiveness' work programme might give some idea of how long these things take. The exhaustiveness work programme was first discussed in September 1992 and was finally agreed in September 1993. The investigations by member states were to be completed by the end of June 1994 (a number are still outstanding). EUROSTAT then need to assess the information provided (the UK alone produced 9 separate reports) and seek the views of the GNP committee (which only meets 4-5 times a year). This assessment process is bound to run into 1995. From start to finish the exhaustiveness work programme will have taken over three years.

EUROSTAT and the GNP committee are only now starting to consider three transversal studies. For two of them we are currently only at the stage of deciding what comparable data it is sensible to collect from each member state.

The changes to the EC budget arrangements from 1995 mean that there is a need to improve the comparability of GNP estimates between member states. However, satisfying member states and the Commission that sufficient comparability has been achieved is likely to be a painstaking and lengthy task. The CSO and other departments can expect to have to participate in many more GNP-related investigations in the coming years.

For further information on the use of GNP as the EC 4th resource, contact :

Ian Cope,
Central Statistical Office,
Room 132A/1,
Government Offices,
Great George Street,
London, SW1P 3AQ.
Tel 071 270 6205.

Statement on the 1994 Community Budget,
Command 2486,
HMSO, £4.10



Passing the TES(t): Training of European Statisticians

This article, written by Nicholas Jeanprêtre of the Training of European Statisticians Secretariat, was adapted for Statistical News by Darren Short of the Central Statistical Office who is the UK TES contact.

Question:

What links Milan, Lisbon, Barcelona, Madrid and Munich?

You might think of great football teams of the past, but what if I then add Stockholm, Wiesbaden, Paris and Athens? You might then suggest that they were all venues in a 'City Breaks' holiday brochure. To complete the picture, I will add Cork, Sheffield and Southampton (which kind of rules out your last answer).

The actual answer to the puzzle is that they are all venues for courses being run in the Training of European Statisticians (TES) programme over the next year. This article tells you about the background to TES and its courses, about UK involvement and experiences of those attending and about how statisticians can apply for future courses.

Origin

The 'Training of European Statisticians' project was initiated by Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, back in 1990. This was in reaction to a European Parliament declaration which stressed the need to develop the European dimension in the training of public administrators in the member states.

The aim of the TES project was, and still is, to create European vocational training and development opportunities for public-sector statisticians at post-graduate level.

With the support of the National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) of the member states, a small TES secretariat was set up to design and organise a programme of courses and seminars.

From a modest start in 1990 with about three hundred participants, the programme has rapidly gained popularity amongst professional statisticians and was attended by more than six hundred participants from twenty-five countries in its 1993/94 programme, including twenty-five from the UK. The first three annual programmes of TES attracted in total about one thousand three hundred participants from all over Europe.

"I am interested in working in European statistics in the future and therefore the TES course was of great use to me" - a GSS participant on the Functioning of the EC and its Statistical System.

Courses and participants

Each year, the TES Secretariat organise 25-30 courses which each last between three days and three weeks. These are run for TES by highly qualified practitioners and university professors at a variety of locations around Europe. English is the language used for most courses although a small number are run in French or German. In addition, the current 1994/95 programme contains two courses with simultaneous interpretation.

These courses provide vocational training with an emphasis on practical work problems encountered by participants and on 'learning-by-doing'. As a result, participants learn a lot from each other, a process which is aided by the large number of countries represented on each course.

"The course consisted of a mix of lectures and group exercises and included a visit to a data collection point which was very useful" - a GSS participant on Demographic Data Analysis.

Courses are open to statisticians working in the public and private sectors of the EU and EFTA member states and to those in the public sector in Eastern and Central European countries.

"One of the great things about the course was the opportunity to discuss national accounts problems with experts from different countries" - a GSS participant on the National Accounts in Practice course

Participants include professional statisticians but generally, in describing those who attend, the term statistician refers more to the work they do rather than their qualifications. In practice, many of those who attend are economists, engineers, scientists, sociologists, etc by profession.

"...The highly professional standards of the TES programme, combined with the opportunity it offers to meet fellow statisticians from all over Europe, provide in my opinion excellent conditions for the participants both to upgrade their professional skills and to enhance the European dimension of their profession" - Yves Franchet, Director General of Eurostat.

Current and future courses

There are twenty-four courses in the 1994/95 programme which started in March of this year. These can be grouped into six different categories:

Technical courses

covering sampling techniques, index numbers, surveys, non-response and classifications;

Official statistics courses

on National Accounts and business registers;

Economic and social statistics courses

on demographic data and level of living indicators;

Analysis courses

on relational databases and the BLAISE (computer-aided interviewing) system;

Statistical project management;

European integration courses

on the European System of Integrated Economic Accounts, INTRASTAT, using Eurostat statistics and the functioning of the EC and its statistical system (the most popular course with UK participants).

The UK hosts three TES courses in 1994/95: Professor Fred Smith of Southampton University runs a course on Sampling Techniques and Practice; Professor Bob Loynes of Sheffield University runs a course on Advanced Methods in Applied Time Series Analysis; and David Hargrave of the Civil Service College runs a course on relational databases.

Future training courses are designed by TES to meet the training needs expressed by the NSIs of the EU and EFTA member countries and are discussed at an annual meeting of NSI representatives, university professors and training experts. As a result, parts of the programme change each year and, to make room for all the topics, some courses only appear every two or three years.

Getting on courses and fees

The annual programme of courses is published each Autumn, usually with an application deadline of the following January. Consequently, the closing date has already passed for the annual programme which started in March 1994 but now would be a good time to put your name

on the circulation list for the 1995/96 programme (call 071-217 4339 in the UK).

To be accepted for a course applicants must meet the specific entry requirements which are published in the programme. These often require a particular level of qualifications and work experiences.

Courses cost around 1,250 ECU per week in 1994/95. However, those employed in NSIs (the Government Statistical Service in the UK) are exempted from paying these fees and only pay for travel and accommodation.

Other TES activities

The other main activities of the TES secretariat include:

Seminars

TES have run six seminars since 1990. These are based on contributed papers and operate through an exchange of experiences and know-how. The first five seminars were

“Strategic Issues in Statistical Policy”

(Dublin - November 1991),

“Dissemination Policy for National Statistical Institutes Outputs”

(Wiesbaden - January 1992),

“Statistical Project Management”

(Rome - February 1992),

“International Comparison of Survey Methodologies”

(Athens - April 1992),

“Quality Control of Statistics”

(Athens - January 1993).

The most recent seminar, on “Training Methods for Professional Adult Training” was aimed at trainers on TES courses and was run with the help of the training specialists from the UK’s Civil Service College.

Former Soviet Union (FSU)

Since 1992, the TES Secretariat have been or-

ganising training for statisticians from the former Soviet Union in the context of Technical Assistance provided by the Commission of the European Communities to the Commonwealth of Independent States (TACIS).

Training databank

This year TES activities have been enlarged even more as work has started on developing a data bank on post graduate training for statisticians in Europe.

Future developments are likely to include the organisation of workshops for experts in a particular field as well as of *stages* of early in-career statisticians at the Statistical Institute of another country.

Further information on TES

To receive the annual programme of course details and an application form please contact

Darren Short
UK TES Correspondent
Central Statistical Office
PO Box 1333
Millbank Tower
Millbank
LONDON SW1P 4QQ

Tel: 071-217 4339 Fax: 071-217 4338

Questions on TES policy should be put directly to:

Prof. Rudolf Teekens
TES Project Director
TES Secretariat
2-6 Route de Treves- Bloc B/6
L-2633 SENNINGERBERG

Tel. (+352) 346 8691 Fax. (+352) 346 873

The Stagiaire Scheme

By Andrew Ray
Senior Assistant Statistician at the DSS

The Stagiaire Scheme

From March 1 to July 31 1993 I was employed as a stagiaire by the European Commission, work-

The typical stagiaire is a polyglot and a Europhile, trained in law or international relations, desperate to be a highly-paid fonctionnaire (permanent civil servant) but surviving for five months on the commission's stagiaire grant. I was therefore atypical. The UK has a special agreement whereby it sends about fifteen existing

Civil Servants on the stagiaire scheme and on the Summer stage up to four of these are assistant or senior assistant statisticians, bound for Eurostat. We received our full salary, plus expenses and accommodation and were given slightly more demanding jobs than the other stagiaires.

You do not have to be in the GSS to be a stagiaire at Eurostat.

One of my fellow

stagiaires was a recent graduate in maths and German who had applied for her stage in the same way as the other non-Civil Servant UK stagiaires. She was assigned to Eurostat because of her background and interest in statistics.

My work at Eurostat

My job was to compile statistics from the Member States on benefits relating to 'general neediness'. These ranged from income support in the UK to help for the poor provided by church organisations in Portugal. The aim was to produce a book on general neediness, as part of a series which attempts to cover all aspects of social protection. I found that this kept me busy



Stagiaires nr Frederick the Great Palace Potsdam

ing at Eurostat in Luxembourg. 'Stagiaire' is French for trainee and the stagiaire scheme is a work experience programme for potential Eurocrats. My stage (training period) was one of two run every year; the second begins in October and ends in February. On each stage there are about 500 stagiaires aiming to find out what it is like to work for the Commission. They are drawn mainly from the twelve Member States of the EU and most work in Brussels, where the Commission is based. Luxembourg is home to some parts of the translation service, to a few of the Commission's administrative units and to Eurostat, the statistical office. On my stage there were about 25 stagiaires working in these outposts, ten of whom were in Eurostat.



Working on my French

most of the time, but was not as challenging as my previous post in the DSS.

Eurostat is based mainly in the Jean Monnet Building, a huge glass box that makes Marsham Street look friendly. Inside, as well as the maze of corridors and offices, there are banks, shops, a leisure centre and a canteen which caters for everyone except vegetarians. You know you are not in a Civil Service canteen when you see the range of dressings available for your side salad. Two-hour lunch breaks are the norm throughout the Commission, with people tending to work later in the evening to compensate.

In general the atmosphere at Eurostat is relaxed and friendly, although there are also the inevitable tensions in such a diverse collection of people with widely differing backgrounds and experiences. I found the attitude to management markedly different to what I was used to, with little in the way of formal planning or appraisal. On the other hand, some aspects of the working environment were reassuringly familiar, in particular the computer packages used.

The working languages at Eurostat are French and English. I brushed up my O Level French before I left for Luxembourg but I only needed to speak it for work purposes on a few occasions. The commission in Luxembourg runs language course at six different levels and varying degrees of intensity

which stagiaires can attend. My French improved enormously through daily conversations with my office colleagues so that by the end of the stage I was using phrases like "J'en ai ras le bol" along with everyone else. If you are thinking of applying and find statements such as "a good working knowledge of French is required" in any forms or guides to the stage, do not be put off. I found that the most important thing (especially socially) was to be fluent in English.

Luxembourg, Brussels, Strasbourg, Berlin ...

Naturally the stage is not all work, work, work and most stagiaires try to pack as much in to their five months abroad as possible. The Brussels stagiaires elect a committee and organise national parties, plus a Euroball at the end of the stage, along with numerous trips and other activities. Although Luxembourg is hardly the entertainment capital of Europe, you can find a lot to do within easy reach, ranging from alsatian wine tasting to the Wallibi theme park (populated by smurfs). The simple things like clean

streets, reliable buses and Belgian beer in outside cafes on warm summer evenings did not leave me nostalgic for home.

Living in Luxembourg provides ample opportunity for some serious travelling during the weekends and public holidays, with Paris, Rome or

stagiaires over the five months, especially on the trips to Strasbourg and Berlin.

Trips to Strasbourg are timed to coincide with sessions of the European Parliament. Unfortunately, an afternoon watching the proceedings and talking to an MEP tend to reinforce any

negative preconceptions about the quality of the democratic process in Europe. However, most of us had emerged with our pro-European ideals unscathed from a few months working in the commission's Byzantine bureaucracy, so we were not going to be deterred by the sight of a vast, near-empty debating chamber.



Some of the Luxembourg Stagiaires in Strasbourg

Amsterdam just a train ride away. In addition there are official stagiaire trips you can make, in work time. The first, in March, is a chance to meet all the other stagiaires in Brussels.

The Brussels trip is centred on a series of lectures about the European Union. You sit in a large conference hall with hundred of other stagiaires, painful headphones on, listening to an interpreter grappling with the intricacies of EMU or Maastricht. Some of the lectures were interesting, others were only just bearable. Networking is not easy if you are going to be based in Luxembourg - the Brussels stagiaires react with a mixture of pity and boredom. It does not help matters if you then admit to being a paid civil servant or a statistician. However, we managed to get to know quite a few of the Brussels

The German government is very popular with stagiaires because it partly funds a week's trip to Berlin. It is currently a fascinating time to visit Berlin anyway and we stagiaires had the added bonus of tours (eg the Reichstag) and talks (eg from a Berlin MP) not available to the tourist. These were all enjoyable and gave us an insight into the challenges facing local and national government there.

Final thoughts

The stage provides a valuable insight into the way Eurostat works and leaves you with a much better understanding of the EU generally. It is also a hugely enjoyable five months, so much so that many stagiaires, like Ian Thorpe from the 1992 stage, stay on as national experts or



Ex - Stagiaire Ian has taken up European Folk Dancing

fonctionnaires nationales detachees. There is clearly a danger of going native if you stay in Luxembourg too long (see the photo of Ian above) but for a short secondment it is perfect.

How to apply

If you are an assistant or senior assistant statistician, you should get in contact with Bill Wilson at SGMU who will be able to give you more information. There are basically two hurdles to becoming a stagiaire: obtaining permission to leave your department for five months and getting the required funding (currently it will cost your department about £10,000 on top of the salary). I successfully convinced my Grade 3 that the stage was good for my personal development and was paid by the DSS's overseas secondment budget.

If you are not in the GSS but are interested in being a stagiaire, more information can be obtained from the commission's office in London or the Bureau des Stages in Brussels. The addresses are:

Commission of the European Communities,
Jean Monnet House,
8 Storey's Gate,
London,
SW1P 3AT;

Bureau des Stages, rue Belliard 68, Brussels 1049.

Department of Social Security
10th Floor
The Adelphi
11 John Adam Street
LONDON
WC2N 6HT

Tel: 071 962 8908
GTN 391 28908

17 May 1994

Tim Thair
CSO-SGMU
PO Box 1333
Millbank Tower
Millbank
London SW1P 4QQ

Government Publications

Central Statistical Office

Presenting the Balance of Payments Account

This article on future changes to the presentation of the Balance of Payments accounts was published in the May issue of Economic Trends. The revised Balance of Payments Manual (published by the International Monetary Fund, after extensive international consultation) adapts the presentation of the Balance of Payments to new economic and financial developments. The UK accounts have already moved in the direction of the new standards. However, further changes are required.

The key features of the new Manual are:

- More attention to services, including financial services;
- Clearer boundaries to reflect growth in cross border employment, study, etc;
- Redefining the current account to exclude some "capital" elements;
- Redefining the concept of portfolio investment to reflect growth in "securitisation" and derivatives and improving the coherence of the financial account by linking income, investment flows and balance sheet levels.

References

Economic Trends No 487
HMSO, May 1994,
price £13.25 net.
ISSN 0013 0400, ISBN 0 11 620636 5.

Balance of Payments Manual, Fifth Edition,
1993.

International Monetary Fund,
ISBN 1 55775 339 3.

Education

Pupil - Teacher ratios for each Local Education Authority in England (including grant maintained schools) and information on the length of the taught week - January 1993

This bulletin is an annual publication. It contains, for each Local Education Authority (LEA), details of pupil and teacher numbers and pupil-teacher ratios (PTR's) and information on the length of the taught week (or lesson time). Analyses by school international comparisons are also shown.

Education Expenditure from 1979-80

This bulletin updates bulletin 13/93 and provides further background to the Departmental Report, 'The Government Expenditure Plans 1994-95 to 1996-97' (Cm2510) published in March 1994. Its purpose is to present comparison of education expenditure in a longer time-series than appears in Cm 2510. The bulletin also provides some supplementary analyses and shows greater detail about the content of certain local education authority (LEA) expenditure. Most of the data included are for England.

Curriculum Provision in Maintained Secondary Schools in England

This bulletin reports further information from a survey of 20,000 teachers in 500 maintained secondary schools in England at January 1992, plus first sight of information from a more recent survey collecting detailed information on science and technology provision. It pro-

vides details of the subjects taken by pupils (including the impact of the introduction of the national curriculum), class sizes, examination aims and the way in which science and technology is delivered.

Pupils Under Five Years of Age in Schools in England - January 1993

This regular bulletin shows information about pupils under compulsory school age in maintained nursery and primary schools at national level as well as in each local education authority and region. Results are also shown for independent and special schools. Tables include information on staffing levels in maintained nursery schools and nursery classes in maintained primary schools as well as information on nursery assistants in early admission classes in maintained primary schools.

GCSE and GCE A/AS Examinations Results 1992/93

This bulletin shows summary statistics derived from the information about GCSE and GCE A/AS level examination entries and results for each candidate, which was collected for the preparation of the 1993 School and College Performance Tables, published in November 1993. It also provides further information on examination entries and results by gender, type of establishment, and subject. Final 1992/93 figures for each Local Education Authority are also included in this bulletin, taking account of all amendments by schools in checking their own data or made after the publication.

Statistics of Schools in England - January 1993

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.

Comparison between GCSE and GCE A/AS- Level Performance of Candidates attempting 2 or more GCE A- levels

This bulletin provides a comparison of the GCE A-Level performance of 17 year old students taking at least 2 GCE A-Levels in, or before 1992/93 with the GCSE performance of the same candidates. Figures are given for different types of educational establishment, for male and female candidates and for three subject groups.

Participation in Education by 16-18 year olds in England: 1983/84 to 1993/94

The bulletin gives the percentages of 16, 17 and 18 year olds who are in school, or in colleges of further education or higher education. For full-time students, the levels of courses studied are indicated, as well as the type of school, college, or higher education institution. Participation by part-time students is also shown, but not detailed by course. The number of students and the total population are also given; there are separate figures for males and females throughout.

Annual volume :

Statistics of Education - Schools: 1993

This volume contains information on schools in England in 1993. 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.

Annual volume :

Statistics of Education : Further and Higher Education in Polytechnics and Colleges 1992/93

This volume contains information about student enrolments on courses in (former) Polytechnics and Colleges in England in the academic year 1992/93. Most of this information was derived from the Further Education Statistical Record for November 1992 and is presented in tables containing cross classifications of student enrolments by type of establishment and course and student characteristics eg level of education, age and sex. Other tables contain participation rates, time series from 1980/81 to 1992/93, and information about student enrolments on short courses and Initial Teacher Training courses.

Employment

Results from the Autumn 1993 Quarterly Labour Force Survey

The results of the winter 1993 (December 1993 to February 1994) Labour Force Survey (LFS) were released by the Employment Department (ED) on the 15th of June 1994.

The LFS is the largest regular household survey carried out in Great Britain, with about 150,000 people in 60,000 households being interviewed each quarter. The survey covers a wide range of labour market topics on the basis of internationally standard concepts and definitions. The topics covered include employment, self-employment, hours of work, unemployment, redundancies and education and training, all of which can be analysed by demographic characteristics to give, for example, information on women, young people and ethnic minority groups. Comprehensive information is available for regions and metropolitan districts and now, as a result of enhancements to the sample design in spring 1992, selected data are also

available for TEC/LECs, counties and Local Authority Districts (LADs).

Up-to-date LFS data are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week via the Quantime Bureau Service. In addition, direct access to the data for analysis and use on your own PC can be obtained by using the Quanvert data base interrogation package. The data can be exported in a range of formats and full training and technical support is available if required. For further details about the Quantime LFS service telephone

071 625 7111

In addition to this, all the local area information (REC/LECs, counties, LADs) that is available from the LFS can be obtained via the NOMIS service. For more information about NOMIS contact

091 374 2468/2490

The main findings are presented in the Labour Force Survey Quarterly Bulletin (LFSQB). The latest issue (No.8), which presents the winter results, has been considerably extended to include more detailed analysis than appeared in previous issues. The bulletin is divided into separate chapters to aid reference and the results, which are presented in full colour with easy to follow text, tables and charts, make some comparisons with earlier surveys. although most of the analysis relates solely to Great Britain, some information is also given at a regional level. In addition, some of the main series are published on a seasonally adjusted basis.

ED has also published an LFS Historical Supplement which gives all the main estimates back to 1984 and in some cases 1979. Copies of this and the LFSQB 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
Tel: 071 273 6110

LFS results also appear regularly in the monthly Employment Gazette. Every edition contains an LFS Help-Line feature which concentrates on the otherwise unpublished information that is more regularly sought by enquirers; a list of the topics covered is given in the July 1994 issue of the Gazette. Additionally, the May Gazette included a detailed analysis, based on LFS results, of 'Ethnic Groups and the Labour Market', while the June edition featured an article analysing 'Economic Activity in Local Areas'. A further article analysing the 'Characteristics of the ILO Unemployed' is scheduled for the July Gazette.

For further information about the Labour Force Survey, please telephone the LFS Help-Line on

071 273 5585

British Labour Force Projections 1994 to 2006

An article in the April 1994 edition of Employment Gazette presents projections of the civilian labour force in Great Britain up to the year 2006. They incorporate information from the Spring (March-May) 1993 Labour force survey and mid-1992-based population projections. Trends in the population and economic activity rates are explained and the new projections are compared with those published previously.

In the year 2006 the labour force is projected, on the conventional assumption of an unchanging level of unemployment, to reach a level 1.5 million higher than its estimated mid-1993 level of 27.9 million. Of the projected total rise of 1.5 million, 1.2 million is accounted for by women.

As a result, women are projected to make up 46 per cent of the labour force in 2006, compared with 44 per cent in 1993. The labour force in 2006 will be older on average than in 1993. The projected rise of 2.4 million people aged 35-54 and 0.7 million aged 55 and over contrasts with the projected fall of 1.6 million people under 35 in the labour force. Projections by the Government Actuary's Department suggest that the population of working age will increase by 1.5 million between 1993 and 2006 compared with a rise of 1.9 million in the previous 13 years.

Reference

Employment Gazette, April 1994
Harrington Kilbride plc
price £4.95 net

Environment

Land Use Change in England No 9

The latest edition of this series of Statistical Bulletins was published by the Department of the Environment in July 1994. The Bulletin presents the Department's statistics on changes in land use in England which took place in 1989. Details of changes in land use are recorded for the Department by Ordnance Survey (OS) as part of its map revision work throughout Great Britain.

The statistics relate to both the new use and previous use of land, and the gross and net changes between uses. Results are presented for ten land use groups, of which the vacant land group has been disaggregated to provide separate figures for previously developed and previously undeveloped vacant land. The land use groups can be divided broadly into "rural" and "urban" uses.

To examine changes to urban uses in a particular year, five years of data collection are necessary to provide reliable results. Hence the most recent

year for which results can be presented is 1989, based on information collected between 1989 and 1993. Changes to residential use are recorded more quickly, and the bulletin presents preliminary results for changes which occurred in 1990 and 1991, based on information collected between 1990 and 1993.

Early bulletins in this series presented results for changes of use recorded by OS in the latest year. To enable comparison with previous bulletins, results are also presented for changes recorded during 1993. A summary table has been included to compare key results presented by year of change and by year of recording. Definitions of the land use categories are given in the Bulletin.

Reference

Department of the Environment Statistical Bulletin

Land Use Change in England No.9

Price and copies of the Bulletin are available from

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

Feasibility Study for Deriving Information About Land Use Stock

The purpose of this research project was to determine how to meet the Department's needs for land use stock data in the most cost effective way. The aims of the research were to assess to what extent the Department's needs could be met by using existing data sources and new data handling techniques, and to recommend a strategy for collecting new data where necessary.

The report addresses five related issues: the nature of user requirements for land use stock data, existing data sources of land use and land cover, technological developments in the collection and handling of geographic data, issues of spatial sampling, and land use definitions and classifications.

The report recommends the establishment of a National Land Use Stock System to meet the Department's needs for information on the distribution of land use. It proposes a national parcel based census of land use based on Ordnance Survey digital mapping with original data collection by ground survey in urban areas and Aerial Photography Interpretation in rural areas. The stock data would then be continually updated as a by-product of the Ordnance Survey map revision procedure.

Recommendations are made in the report for pilot studies to be undertaken to address unresolved technical issues, cost recover mechanisms and organisational issues. Research is currently underway on these issues.

The research was carried out for the Department by Dr Dunn, an independent consultant, and Dr Andrew Harrison of the University of Bristol. Available from:

Dr A Harrison
Department of Geography
University of Bristol
University Road
Bristol BS8 1SS

Year Published: 1994

Price: £20 + p&p

Local Government Financial Statistics England No.4 1990/91 - 1993/94

This report published by the Department of the Environment in November 1993, contains a summary of financial and manpower information returned by English local authorities. This

edition contains outturn (final) figures for revenue and capital expenditure for 1990/91 and 1991/92. It also covers the last year of the Community Charge system (provisional figures for 1992/93) and the beginning of the Council Tax system (budget figures for 1993/94). It contains several new tables among which are those covering data on the average council tax by region, local authority investment etc. In addition there are new tables reconciling local authority expenditure definitions used by the Department of the Environment with those used by HM Treasury and with those used in National Accounts.

In addition to over sixty summary tables and associated charts, the publication includes an annex of detailed revenue and capital outturn data, a glossary and index of terms and an outline of the changes which have taken place in the local government finance system.

Some of the key points are:-

- Local Authority gross spending was nearly £65 billion in 1991/92, of which 34% was on education and 15% on housing;
- Local authority spending accounted for 27% of General Government Expenditure in 1991/92 and for 9% of domestic expenditure in 1992;
- About 17% of local government expenditure will be met by the council tax in 1993/94;
- In 1992 2.4 million people were employed by local authorities

Reference

Local Government Financial Statistics England
No. 4 1990/91 - 1993/94,
ISBN 0-11-752900-1,
copies available from HMSO,
priced £11.50.

Health

NHS Workforce in England; 1981-1991

The latest edition of NHS workforce in England was published in early April; it contains statistics on staff directly employed within the hospital and community health services (HCHS) of the NHS and supplements the annual Statistical Bulletins on the medical and dental, and non-medical NHS workforce. It gives detailed statistics on the various staff groups in the NHS NSHS workforce. The volume's aim is to provide users with an easily accessible source of detailed information about workforce and education trends in the NHS in England.

The most recent statistics presented in this volume relate to staff at 30 September 1991. Comparative information is presented over 10 years (1981-91), five years (1986-91) and one year (1990-91). In some tables, information is provided for individual years from 1986 to 1991.

NHS workforce in England has been completely revised since the last edition in order to provide a more clearly structured set of tables. This edition runs to 200 pages including commentary and more than 70 tables.

It is hoped to produce the next edition of NHS workforce in England, covering the period 1982-1992, in the autumn of this year.

Copies of NHS workforce in England can be obtained from:

BAPSS: (Health Publications Unit);
No 2 Site;
Manchester Road;
Heywood;
Lancashire;
OL10 2PZ

Price £5.00

Drug Misuse Statistics, England - October 1992 to March 1993. (Department of Health March 1994 £2.00)

This statistical bulletin summarises data collected about people with drug problems presenting to services for the first time, or after an absence of six months or more. The information includes details of age, sex, drug misused, whether injected and type of agency attended by region DHA. There are also a few tables for Great Britain. Requests for this publications should be sent to:

Department of Health
Statistics Division
Room 7110
Norcross
Thornton Cleveleys
Lancashire
FY5 3TA
(0253) 333-075

Home Office

Prison Population in 1993

The annual statistical bulletin providing summary information on the prison population in England and Wales was published in June. The bulletin includes monthly data for 1993 by type of prisoner together with a breakdown of the sentenced population on the 30 June by offence group and ethnic origin. The population figures include prisoners held in police cells. Annual data is given for the period 1988 to 1993. Receptions into custody are given annually since 1984 and quarterly since 1991, separately for untried and sentenced prisoners.

Although the average prison population in 1993 (44,600) was 800 lower than in 1992, the population rose dramatically from 42,200 (seasonally adjusted) in January to 47,500 in December. The increase was greatest for remand and short sen-

tenced prisoners. It partly reflected an increase in the proportion of defendants remanded in custody by the courts, seen in the increase in untried receptions and the introduction of the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) 1993 in August 1993 which led to an increase in sentenced receptions.

An increase in the amount of prison accommodation available led to a significant reduction in the use of police cells in 1993; the 1993 average of 10 compares with 1,100 in 1992.

The bulletin also sets out the latest projections of the prison population and accommodation annually up to the year 2000-01. The population projections are an interim update of the projections published in March 1993 to reflect the provisions of the CJA 1993; the effect of this Act and other changes has been an upward adjustment of 5,000 in the population projections. The population projections will be reassessed when further information becomes available about sentencing practice since the introduction of the CJA 1993.

More detailed information on the prison population together with statistics on receptions and discharges will be published later in the year in the annual command paper 'Prison Statistics 1993.' Further information may be obtained from Billy Burns, telephone

071-217 5073

References

'The Prison Population in 1993' Home Office Statistical Bulletin. 'Projections of long term trends in the prison population to 2001', Home Office Statistical bulletin 6/93. Available free by telephoning

081-760 2850

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

This bulletin presents the results of the October 1993 survey of the time taken to process indictable (including either way) cases. It also contains more detailed analyses for 1993 as a whole, featuring breakdowns by charge of summons, types of offences, proceedings, remand and court and by area. The completed proceedings on which the information is provided includes 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:

- For 1993 as a whole, the average time from offence to completion for indictable offences fell substantially to 120 days from 129 days in 1992, with falls from 64 to 56 days in the period from first listing to completion and from 43 to 39 days between offence and charge or summons.
- The falls in the period from first listing to completion are likely to reflect initiatives from the Working group on Pre-Trial Issues, implemented in October 1992 and a fall in Magistrates' Court proceedings.
- The percentage of defendants charged has increased to 91 per cent in 1993, from 87 per cent in 1992 and 77 per cent in 1987 and led to the reduction in 1993 in the average period from offence to charge or summons. There was a particularly sharp fall at youth/juvenile courts.
- For those remanded in custody throughout their proceedings, the average period from first listing to completion increased by 4 days to 51 days in 1993.
- During 1993, there were reductions in the average number of adjournments (from

2.4 to 2.3) and the average length of adjournments (from 27 to 24 days). The percentage of cases completed at first appearance, increased by 1 percentage point to 21 per cent.

Reference

'Time Intervals for Indictable Proceedings in Magistrates' courts - October 1993' (Home Office Statistical bulletin, Issue 5/94, available free of charge from;

Dissemination Unit,
Research and Statistics Department,
Home Office,
Room 1804,
Lunar House,
40 Wellesley road,
Croydon, CRO 9YD
Tel 081 760 2850).

This issue of the Time Interval bulletin is the last to be produced by the Home Office. Responsibility for future Time Interval Surveys has been passed to the Magistrates' Courts Division of the Lord Chancellor's Department.

Control of Immigration: Statistics third and fourth Quarters and Year 1993

The regular six monthly Home Office Statistical Bulletin on the control of immigration was published on 5 May 1994. This contains summary information on acceptances for settlement in the United Kingdom; entry clearance applications in the Indian sub-continent; admissions to the UK and extensions of stay in selected categories; asylum; and enforcement action. The information on extensions of stay and on asylum is included for the first time in this series.

55,500 persons were accepted for settlement in 1993. This was 2,900 more than in 1992 (when acceptances were reduced somewhat by a temporary slowdown in the rate of processing ap-

plications) and 9,500 more than the low of 1987. The increase in 1993 reflected rises of 2,000 in recognised refugees and exceptional leave cases, 1,800 in spouses and 600 in work permit acceptances. 6,100 persons left the United Kingdom in 1993 as a result of enforcement action, compared to 6,200 in 1992 and 2,700 in 1987.

Applications for asylum made in-country or at ports totalled 22,400 (excluding dependants). This was 2,200 less than in 1992 but over 5 times the level in 1988. 23,400 decisions were made in 1993, 11,500 less than in 1992 but still substantially higher than in previous years. 1,600 decisions were to recognise as a refugee and grant asylum, 11,100 were not to recognise but grant exceptional leave and 10,700 were to refuse.

Reference:

“Control of Immigration: Statistics - Third and Fourth Quarters and Year 1993” (Home Office Statistical Bulletin Issue 9/94)

Fire Statistics United Kingdom 1992*

The Home Office statistical publication presenting the full 1992 fire statistics was published on 14th June 1994. Fire Statistics United Kingdom 1992 expands on the summary information previously published in November 1993 (Summary Fire Statistics United Kingdom 1992*), including historical tables of fires attended by fire brigades and more detailed tables of fires by location, cause, source of ignition etc and fatal and non fatal casualties resulting from those fires.

The publication is divided into 7 chapters, the main findings of which are described more fully below. The chapters contain commentary, graphics and some statistical tables, while the bulk of the tables are found together at the end of the publication.

The chapters in Fire Statistics United Kingdom 1992 are as follows:

Review of Fire Statistics 1982-92 (chapter 1)

This chapter is broadly similar to the 1992 bulletin but with revised figures. The main findings are:

- Local authority fire brigades attended 426,000 fires in 1992 in the United Kingdom, 2 per cent fewer than in 1991 because grassland and heathland fires fell by over 16 per cent.
- There were 107,400 fires in occupied buildings, about the same number as in 1992.
- Accidental fires in dwellings and other occupied buildings decreased slightly from the 1991 level but the number of malicious fires increased.
- As in previous years, the misuse of appliances, such as cookers, was the largest single cause of accidental building fires, accounting for 41 per cent of all building fires.
- The number of fire deaths fell to their lowest level since 1967. Most fire deaths (74 per cent) and fire casualties (76 per cent) occur in dwellings.
- Six per cent of dwelling fires were caused by upholstery catching fire but nearly 30 per cent of fire deaths in dwellings were caused by these fires.
- The number of car fires attended by fire brigades in 1992 reached a record high of 65,400, an increase of 13 per cent on 1991, mainly due to the increase in the number of malicious fires.
- Malicious car fires accounted for 63 per cent of all car fires although they caused only 23 per cent of car fire deaths. Most

car fire deaths occur where the vehicle is involved in a crash or collision.

Where fires and casualties occur (chapter 2)

The chapter looks at where in the country the different types of fires and associated casualties occurred in 1992. Some of the main findings are:

- Dwelling fires accounted for nearly half of fires in Scotland (excluding secondary and chimney fires) compared to two fifths in Northern Ireland and one third in England and Wales. In Scotland there was a much greater proportion of fires in dwellings of multiple occupation.
- Cooking appliances were the source of one third of fires in occupied buildings in Scotland compared with a quarter in England and Wales and Northern Ireland.
- In England and Wales the number of fire deaths rose by 30 to 686, while in Scotland they dropped dramatically to 102, 34 less than in 1991. In Northern Ireland the number of fire deaths continued to fall.
- Death rates are still highest in Scotland at 20 per million population compared with 13 deaths per million population in England and Wales and 12 per million population in Northern Ireland.

Causes of accidental building fires (chapter 3)

The chapter discusses the sources and causes of accidental building fires and finds that:

- Cookers were the source of ignition of nearly half of accidental dwelling fires and two thirds of these fires were started by electric cookers. Fires started by gas cookers resulted in higher casualty rates.

- The highest death rates in accidental dwelling fires result from fires caused by smokers' materials (35 deaths per 1,000 fires).

Malicious fires (chapter 4)

The findings of the chapter are that:

- The number of malicious fires has trebled since 1982. Forty per cent of primary fires in 1992 were malicious compared with 18 per cent in 1982.
- Malicious ignition caused 7 per cent of fires in single occupancy dwellings but 20 per cent of fires in multiple occupancy dwellings.
- Over 50 per cent of fires in schools, construction industry premises, private garages and recreational and other services are of malicious ignition.
- Most malicious fires in occupied buildings are started with paper, cardboard or packaging (37 per cent of malicious fires in dwellings and 36 per cent of malicious fires in other occupied buildings).

Fires discovered by smoke alarms (chapter 5)

Fires discovered first by smoke alarms can be identified from fire statistics. The chapter describes the differences between these fires and others.

- The number of fires in occupied buildings discovered by smoke alarms rose by 20 per cent between 1991 and 1992 but still only accounted for 7 per cent of occupied building fires.
- There are 3 deaths per 1,000 fires for fires discovered by smoke alarms, compared

with 10 deaths per 1,000 fires for fires not discovered by smoke alarms.

- 70 per cent of dwelling fires discovered by smoke alarms are discovered within 5 minutes of ignition compared with only 53 per cent of fires discovered by other means.

Fire false alarms (chapter 6)

The Home Office records information of fire false alarms attended by local authority fire brigades. The records show whether the false alarm was malicious, due to apparatus or believed to have been made with good intent.

- The number of fire false alarms attended by brigades continued to rise, totalling 449,000 in 1992.
- In the UK as a whole most fire false alarms were made with good intent (41 per cent). But in some areas of the country the proportions of malicious false alarms were up to 60 per cent (Cleveland and Gwent). False alarms due to apparatus averaged 23 per cent over the UK.

Household fires in England and Wales (chapter 7)

This chapter presents the results from the 1992 British Crime Survey on household fires. It found that:

- Fire brigades attend an estimated 13 to 17 per cent of household fires.
- Fires not attended by brigades are more often cooking fires, tend to be less serious and involve fewer casualties.
- Overall fire risks were higher in council housing areas, among single parents and manual workers. Also families with children were more fire prone.

Enquiries about fire statistics should be referred to:

Home Office Fire Statistics Section
Room 714
Horseferry House
Dean Ryle Street
London
SW1P 2AW
Telephone 071-217-8783

* All fire statistics publications are available from:

Home Office Research and Statistics
Department,
Room 1834B,
Lunar House,
Wellesley Rd,
Croydon,
Surrey,
CRO 9Yd
Telephone 081-760-2850

Fire statistics United Kingdom 1992 costs £6

National Institute of Economic and Social Research

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

International Financial Markets: the Performance of Britain and its Rivals

Anthony D Smith

Cambridge University Press, 1992, pp. 206, £30.00 (hardback).

This book seeks to analyse the performance of major nations in international financial services. Performance is assessed on the basis of shares won by commercial, universal, investment, and merchant banks, or security houses of the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom, and principal European competitors. Explanations for contrasts in performance were sought through interviews with senior officials of financial institutions. The results help to

assess how banking sectors of different nationalities are likely to fare as international trade in financial services is liberalised.

Economic Convergence and Monetary Union in Europe

edited by Ray Barrell

Sage Publications, 1992, pp. 275,
£35.00 (hardback), £12.95 (paperback)

This book arises out of a conference in December 1992 on Preconditions for Monetary Union in Europe organised in conjunction with the Association for Monetary Union in Europe. The book contains chapters on convergence in Europe, experience with common currencies, the effects on smaller countries and on the world economy, and on cohesion, growth and convergence.

Achieving Monetary Union

A J C Britton and D G Mayes

Sage Publications, 1992, pp. 160,
£25.00 (hardback), £9.95 (paperback)

This informative and accessible guide to monetary union in Europe is essential reading for anyone affected by the profound changes it will bring about, in particular the business and industrial communities, policymakers, economists and students of contemporary Europe.

Macroeconomic Policy Coordination in Europe. The ERM and Monetary Union

edited by Ray Barrell and John Whitley

Sage Publications, 1992, pp. 294,
£37.50 (hardback), £14.95 (paperback)

There still exists considerable disagreement between economists about the relative merits of the current European Monetary System (EMS), EMU and a return to independent policy under floating exchange rates. This volume results from a conference held at the University of Warwick in March 1992, under the auspices of the SPES programme of the European Commission. The conference was attended by multi-

country modellers from different parts of Europe, academic economists, and economists from European central banks, the OECD and the EC. Many of the contributions are highly empirical and are based on large-scale multi-country models which are regularly used for forecasting and policy analysis, thus increasing the practical relevance of many of the findings.

The empirical chapters illustrate some of the findings of studies which have attempted to evaluate EMS and EMU and highlight some of the critical features which influence the different findings. The volume also includes some more theoretically based analyses which are also highly relevant in contemporary European discussions.

The SPES programme has financed a network of multi-country modellers; the London Business School and the National Institute of Economic and Social Research with their jointly developed NiGEM model; the Observatoire Francais des Conjunctures Economiques (OFCE) and the Centre d'Etudes Prospectives et d'Informations Internationales (CEPII) with their MIMOSA model; the Deutsches Institute fur Wirtschaftsforschung using the EC's QUEST model; Oxford Economic Forecasting; and the OECD with their INTERLINK model.

The UK Economy (second edition) The National Institute of Economic and Social Research

Heinemann Educational Books, 1993, pp. 96,
£4.50 (paperback)

This book is an update of the highly successful first edition of the core book in Heinemann's series of studies in the UK economy. The series is intended to include readable in-depth studies for A and AS level students.

The UK Labour Market: Comparative Aspects and Institutional Developments

Edited by Ray Barrell

Cambridge University Press, March 1994 ISBN

0 521 46160 X (hardback)
£35.00 or ISBN 0 521 46825 (paperback) £12.95

A conference was held jointly by the National Institute and the London School of Economics in April 1993. Its purpose was to inform the debate on labour market policy and a book has now been published drawing on the papers presented at the conference.

The book is organised into four sections. The first contains the overview paper by Anderton and Mayhew and reflects work undertaken at the National Institute, NEDO and Oxford. The second section is a vowedly microeconomic in approach and contains papers by Blanchflower and Freeman, Gregg and Machin, and Metcalf. They are all concerned with the consequences of the reforms of the 1980s and especially with their effects on economic efficiency and inequality. In the third section, Gregory and Sandoval outline the differences in the scope and impact of minimum wages throughout Europe, whilst David Grubb casts a sceptical eye over the effectiveness of active labour market policies in reducing unemployment. The final section returns to the macroeconomic themes discussed in the overview. The paper by Barrell, Pain and Young suggests that there are both significant differences and similarities between the UK, France and West Germany, especially with respect to factor demands and wage formation. In the final chapter Minford and Filey put the view that, by 1986, the labour market reforms of the 1980s had cut sustainable unemployment to under one million in the UK. They then go on to explain why actual unemployment has been so high for the last eight years.

Productivity and Growth. A Study of British Industry 1954-86

Nicholas Oulton and Mary O'Mahony
Cambridge University Press, February 1994
ISBN 0 521 45345 3 (35.00)

This book presents estimates of the growth of multifactor productivity (MFP) in some 130 industries, mostly in manufacturing, for the period 1954-86. An estimate of multi-factor productivity growth in total manufacturing is derived by a theoretically consistent aggregation over the industry and aggregate levels and growth of imports for the sub-period 1973-79. MFP growth is found to be positively correlated with output growth and negatively correlated with price growth. Consideration is then given to the issue of how much of the productivity slowdown in the 1970s can be accounted for by the rise in raw materials prices. Finally, the book looks at the validity of the growth accounting measure of the contribution of fixed capital to productivity growth and the role of increasing returns in explaining productivity growth.

FORTHCOMING BOOKS

1992: A Stimulus for Change in British and German Industry

Peter Hart, Duncan Matthews and David Mayes
Cambridge University Press, 1994

This study has some striking conclusions. Far from finding that 1992 has been a major stimulus to change in British and German industry it suggests that, in most of the industries studied, European strategies had been in place for many years. One clear conclusion which emerges from this study is that those who did not move before the single market programme started, or at least in its early stages, are finding themselves excluded from the means of market access - not through regulation but because the number of channels of access are limited. British firms have on the whole been more global in their strategies than their German counterparts, whose approach has been more focused on Europe. As a consequence many German companies have been better prepared for the single market. However, global strategies can prove the more important, particularly when market access is easier outside Europe.

An Economist Among Mandarins. A Biography of Robert Hall

Kit Jones

Cambridge University Press, 1994

Robert Hall was the highly respected and influential Economic Adviser to the government between 1947 and 1961. He came to England from Australia as a Rhodes Scholar, became an Oxford don and a wartime civil servant. Within two years of returning to Oxford after the war, he was recalled to Whitehall. His appointment as Director of the Economic Section, first in the Cabinet Office and then in the Treasury, came at a crucial time in the development of the modern economic state, when governments were just taking on responsibility for managing the general course of the economy. As the senior members of the Treasury were rooted in a pre-Keynesian age, Hall's influence grew rapidly and was at times dominant with ministers. He was involved in all aspects of economic policy. This book puts a new slant on the events of these years as well as assessing Hall's role in them.

Office of Population Censuses and Surveys

Population Trends, the quarterly journal of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, (OPCS), published in March, contained the following articles:

A review of 1992

by Daniel Capron, Population Statistics, OPCS

The review summarises recent changes in the size and composition of the population of England and Wales in 1992, with particular emphasis on fertility, conceptions, abortions, marriages, cohabitation, deaths, and migration.

Long term illness: Results from the 1991 Census

by John Charlton and Merryl Wallace, Health Statistics, OPCS, and Ian White, Census Division, OPCS.

A question on limiting long-term illness 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 a brief analysis of the results. A comparison is made between the Census results and those from the General Household survey.

Homicides in England and Wales

by Barbara Noble and John Charlton, Health Statistics, OPCS.

This article explains some of the complications of classifying deaths as homicides in OPCS mortality statistics and looks at the differences between OPCS and Home Office homicide statistics. It also discusses recent trends in homicide deaths and makes some international comparisons.

Centenarians: 1991 Estimates by Population Statistics, OPCS, and Government Actuary's Department

This article updates previous estimates of the numbers of centenarians in England and Wales. Trends in numbers since 1951 and the geographical distribution of centenarians are also examined.

Health Survey for England 1992

The findings of the second in the series of national health surveys of the adult population of England was published recently by OPCS.

The survey was carried out by the Social Survey Division of OPCS for the Department of Health. Some 4,000 adults aged 16 or over were inter-

viewed between September and December 1992. Over half of them also provided a blood sample.

The 1991 Health Survey, the first in the series, provided baseline data for a nationally representative sample from which to monitor trends in the nation's health. The 1992 report combines data from the 1991 and 1992 surveys to provide a larger sample size and enhance the reliability of the estimates.

As in 1991, the overall aim of the 1992 Health survey was to obtain important information on aspects of health relevant to cardiovascular disease (CVD).

In addition to an analysis of the data from the combined 1991 and 1992 surveys on the prevalence of CVD, and measures of obesity, blood pressure, cholesterol, smoking, and alcohol consumption, a number of topics were analysed for the first time in 1992. These include results for some blood analytes such as fibrogen; an analysis of parental death due to CVD; an analysis of prescribed medicines; and an analysis of psychosocial measures included in the survey.

Reference

Health Survey for England 1992
(Series HS no. 2) HMSO
Price £27.50 net
ISBN 0 11 691569 2

Prevalence of back pain in Great Britain

Findings from a series of questions commissioned in 1993 by the Department of Health in the OPCS Omnibus Survey, carried out by the Social Survey Division of the OPCS, were published recently.

The findings show that nearly two fifths (37 per cent) of adults aged 16 and over in Great Britain suffer from lower back pain in a year, and that one in seven may suffer it on any particular day.

One in six adults see their GP about back pain in a year.

The questions were asked of 6,000 adults aged 16 and over and just over 2,200 back pain sufferers were identified and asked about their pain. The questions were included in the Omnibus Survey for three months (March, April and June) in 1993.

The OPCS Omnibus Survey is a multi-purpose survey developed by OPCS for use by government departments and other public bodies. It is a vehicle for questions on topics too brief to warrant a survey of their own, and for topics of immediate interest. Interviewing is carried out every month. Each month's questionnaire covers a variety of topics, and results are available to users within four weeks of the end of fieldwork.

Reference

The prevalence of back pain in Great Britain.
OPCS Omnibus survey.
HMSO
Price £6.15 net
ISBN 0 11 691574 9

Communicable Disease Statistics 1992

Statistics on the numbers and cases of infectious diseases notified in 1992 under the Public Health Act and Infectious Disease Regulations were published recently in an OPCS report.

Cases of infectious disease are notified by the doctor in attendance to the Proper Officer for each local government district, who in turn submits statistical summaries to OPCS. Weekly summaries of notifications are issued by OPCS in the Registrar General's Weekly Return; quarterly corrected figures in the OPCS Monitor Infectious diseases series; and annually as Communicable disease statistics.

Reference

Communicable disease statistics 1992
(Series MB2 no.19)
HMSO Price £10 net
ISBN 0 11 691572 2

International Migration in 1992

Statistics on the estimated numbers of migrants entering and leaving the UK in 1992, derived from the International Passenger Survey, are published in OPCS report.

These figures exclude both migration between the UK and the Irish Republic, and people who entered the UK as short-term visitors but were subsequently allowed to stay for a year or more. There was a net inward migration after allowing for these two factors.

The report showed that in 1992, 216 thousand people migrated to the United Kingdom, 51 thousand fewer than in 1991. Of these, 99 thousand (over 45 per cent) were British citizens. A total of 227 thousand people left the UK during 1992, 12 thousand less than in the previous year. Of these, 94 thousand (over 40 per cent) were non-British citizens, leaving after a period of time in this country.

Reference

International migration 1992
(Series MN no.19)
HMSO Price £8,50 net
ISBN 0 11 691570 6

Mortality Statistics, Area 1992

Statistics of deaths in 1992 by area of usual residence of the deceased and analysed by cause of death, sex and age are published in an OPCS report.

The volume contains tables on death rates by sex and ten year age groups, and standardised mor-

tality ratios by cause of death for England, Wales, the standard regions of England, Greater London, metropolitan and non-metropolitan counties and regional health authorities. The table on deaths by cause, sex and age-group is presented on twelve microfiche and gives detailed statistics for each local authority and for each health area.

Reference

Mortality statistics, area 1992
(Series DH5 no.19) HMSO
Price £15.25 net
ISBN 0 11 691571 4

Conceptions Statistics for Residents of Health Authority Areas in England and Wales in 1991

For the first time statistics on the numbers of conceptions to women resident in regional and district health authority areas in England and Wales were published recently in an OPCS Monitor.

Included in the 1991 statistics are numbers and rates of conceptions by woman's age, whether the conception occurred inside or outside marriage, and whether it resulted in a maternity or abortion. Summary data on all conceptions and for those to girls under 16 are given for selected years back to 1986.

Conception statistics include all the pregnancies of women usually resident in England and Wales which lead either to a maternity at which one or more live or still births occur and are registered in England and Wales, or to a termination of a pregnancy by abortion under the 1967 Abortion Act in England and Wales.

Reference

Conceptions in England and Wales 1991: residents of regional and district health authority areas. OPCS Monitor FM1 94/1 OPCS

Price £5.00 net
ISSN 1353-5501
(Available only from OPCS,
tel. 071 396 2208/2243)

First Results from the Census Validation Survey Quality Check

Preliminary results from the survey which checked the accuracy of information collected about people covered by the 1991 Census in Great Britain are now available in an OPCS Monitor.

The findings of the Census Validation Survey (CVS) form a major part of the evaluation of the 1991 Census, and provide a guide to the accuracy of data for users of census statistics.

The 1991 survey found that the accuracy of the answers given by people to the questions in the 1991 Census was similar to those in the 1981 Census - confirming that the Census's standards of reliability have been maintained.

For many questions, those about the number of people in the household, their relationship to each other, marital status, amenities such as bathrooms and toilets, migration within Britain, and whereabouts on census night, the level of agreement between Census and CVS answers was around 98 per cent, or even higher.

The CVS was based on a nationally representative stratified sample of over 1,200 enumeration districts (EDs) covering England, Wales, and Scotland. About 6,000 households were selected from these EDs for the quality check. 89 per cent of households agreed to take part in the survey. Interviews were carried out in June and July 1991, between 6 weeks and 3 months after Census day. Census information for each adult was checked, where possible, with the person to whom it referred, and for children with a 'responsible adult' (usually a parent). The questionnaires used in the CVS interview were more detailed than the census form and were designed

to obtain the most accurate answer - according to census definitions.

Preliminary results on coverage were published in October 1992 as a supplement to the OPCS Monitor, Provisional mid - 1991 population estimates for England and Wales and constituent local and health authorities based on the 1991 Census results. The final coverage report is due to be published in summer 1994.

The final report on the quality check will be published about the end of 1994.

Reference

First results from the Quality Check element of the 1991 Census Validation Survey OPCS Monitor SS 94/2 OPCS

Price £3.20

ISSN 0262-8392

(Available only from OPCS,
tel. 071 396 2208/2243)

Trade and Industry

Recently available statistical publications

Energy Trends

At the end of each month the Department of Trade and Industry publishes its statistical bulletin ENERGY TRENDS, giving monthly and quarterly data for many aspects of the energy supply and demand scene in the United Kingdom.

ENERGY TRENDS, which was first published in 1974, includes text and charts but is largely composed of tables covering energy production and consumption; production, use and trade in individual fuels; and prices of fuels for industrial and domestic consumers.

In addition each issue has a supplementary article on a specific aspect of the energy market. Amongst the items covered during 1993 and

early 1994 were trends in energy supply and demand; trends in energy prices; the oil refining industry in the United Kingdom; combined heat and power; renewable sources of energy; domestic energy consumption for water and space heating; and investment and drilling activity in the North Sea.

ENERGY TRENDS is available on subscription only, direct from the Department of Trade and Industry. Details of subscription periods and rates may be obtained from:

Mike Ward
EPA4a
Department of Trade and Industry
Room 3.3.15
1 Palace Street
London SW1E 5HE
Tel: 071-238 3576
Fax:071-238 3572

Transport

Cross Channel Passenger and Freight Traffic - Transport Statistics report published

This report provides a comprehensive set of statistics on Cross Channel traffic against which the effect of the opening of the Channel Tunnel can be judged. Cross Channel traffic is defined quite widely as all flows from which there may be some diversion to the Channel Tunnel (ie passenger travel between the UK and continental EC countries (except Greece) plus Austria, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland; and freight transport to and from the whole of Continental Europe (including Eastern Europe, the former USSR and the Balkans). In 1992 this traffic amounted to some 39 million passengers by air and 30 million by sea and some 100 million tonnes of 'non fuel' freight. The report updates the previous 1991 edition.

The report contains over 40 tables including:

- time series (1982-1992) of Cross Channel passenger traffic by air and by sea, using data from the Civil Aviation Authority and from returns to the Department of Transport on sea passengers;
- analyses for 1982 and 1992 of the International Passenger Survey to show country of origin and destination, purpose, mode on board ferry and nationality of traveller;
- the first published analyses of the Travel Trends surveys of detailed passenger origins and destinations which were added to the International Passenger Survey and the Civil Aviation surveys in 1991 - showing flows at a regional level;

For freight traffic, overseas trade statistics are used to show movements to and from continental Europe. Other sources are the 1991 'Surveys of Origins, Destination and Transport of International Trade', the Department of Transport Ports Statistics and the survey of Roll-on/Roll-off Goods Vehicles to Mainland Europe.

The report is published by HMSO on 25 May, priced at £19.95. Further details are available from:

Bob Garland,
Branch STB5,
Directorate of Statistics,
Departments of Transport,
Room A720,
Romney House,
43 Marsham Street
London SW1P 3PY
(071 276 8519)

Northern Ireland

Department of the Environment

Northern Ireland Housing and Construction Bulletin - March 1994

Quarterly compilation of Northern Ireland housing statistics which includes information on:-

House prices, private sector housing starts, Northern Ireland Housing Executive housing starts, Housing Association housing starts and Northern Ireland Index of construction.

Available free of charge from:-

Central Statistics and Research Branch,
DOE (NI)
Room 436-B
Clarence court
10-18 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8GB

Belfast Residents Survey

In 1992 the Department of the Environment, in conjunction with Making Belfast Work, carried out a random sample of some 4,500 households within the Belfast District Council area. The survey was part of a wider study of the Department of the Environment's physical regeneration initiatives in Belfast. The main aim of the survey was to help assess the attitudes of Belfast residents to the City Centre and their local area. It was also designed to be consistent with the Northern Ireland Continuous Household Survey and therefore allows trends in socio-economic conditions between the early 80s and early 90s to be measured on a comparable basis.

Available from:-

Central Statistics and Research Branch,
DOE (NI)
Room 436-B
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT2 8GB

(price £15.00)
ISBN 0 9522256 6 2

Department of Finance and Personnel

Northern Ireland Annual Abstract of Statistics No 12, 1994

The 1994 edition of the Northern Ireland Annual Abstract of Statistics was published recently. Compiled by the Policy Planning and Research Unit, it contains a wide range of statistics on the Northern Ireland population, households, health and social services, security and justice, education, housing, the environment, transport, tourism, fire statistics, labour, earnings and income, production and energy, agriculture, forestry and fishing, regional accounts and finance.

(price £16.50)
ISBN0951213296

PPRU Surveys of Disability Report 3: Disability and Employment in Northern Ireland

This is the third in a series of seven reports emanating from the Policy, Planning and Research Unit (PPRU) Surveys of Disability and is concerned with the economic activity and employment experience of disabled adults under

state pension age. Twenty-five percent of disabled adults were in paid employment while 49% said that they were permanently unable to work. Using data from the PPRU Continuous Household Survey (CHS), patterns of economic activity among the disability survey respondents were compared to the general private household population.

(price £6.00)

Both available from:-

Room 250
Policy Planning and Research Unit
Department of Finance and Personnel
Parliament Buildings
BELFAST
BT4 3SW

Current Developments

PPRU Survey of Disability

In 1994 we intend to publish two further reports in the Policy, Planning and Research Unit Surveys of Disability series. These will deal with a range of topics including use of health and personal social services by disabled adults and children; their mobility and use of transport; and social and leisure activities.

Enquiries about the proposed reports should be addressed to:

Bernie Duffy
Social Policy Branch
2nd Floor
Londonderry House
21-27 Chichester Street
BELFAST BT1 4SX
Tel: (0232) 244477 Ext 241

Department of Education

The Compendium of NI Education Statistics 1977/78 to 1991/92

This Compendium contains key statistical indicators for the period 1977/78 to 1991/92 covering every level of educational activity from nursery schools to universities.

Available free of charge from:-

The Department of Education
Rathgael House
Balloo Road
BANGOR
Co Down
BT19 2PR

Department of Agriculture

Northern Ireland Agricultural Census Data

Data from the Northern Ireland Agricultural Census covering the years 1981 to 1993 are now available on a floppy disc. Data series include the acreage of main crops and livestock numbers, recorded in June of each year. Updates will be available for 1994 and subsequent years.

(price £45.00)

Requests for a copy of the disc should specify the data format required and be addressed to:-

DANI Farm Census Branch
Annexe B
Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
BELFAST
BT4 3SB
Tel: 0232-524528

Northern Ireland Social Security Statistics 1993

Tables and graphs showing 5-year trends for each of the Social Security benefits.

(price £20.50)
ISBN 0 337 07855 6

Available from:-

HMSO Bookshops

Provision for Young Children

Forthcoming publication: PPRU Occasional Paper No 26 The Use of and Demand for Early Years Services in Northern Ireland

This report summarises the findings of a large scale postal survey which investigated the use of and demand for daycare, nursery education and playgroup services among the parents of children under 8 years of age in Northern Ireland. A total of 6648 parents answered a range of questions about their use of services including the costs they incurred, their satisfaction with the services and types of services they would prefer to use if they had the choice. The responses indicated that a large percentage of parents rely on grandparents and other relatives and friends to care for children in this age group. However, patterns of use of services varied with parents' incomes, whether or not the child had a disability or special need, and between lone parent and dual parent families.

Enquiries should be made to:

Dr Mary O'Brien
Social Policy Branch
Londonderry House
21-27 Chichester Street
BELFAST BT1 4SX
Tel (0232) 244477 Ext 240

Daycare for Children - A Survey of Employers

This survey is currently at the pilot stage. Information will be collected from a random sample of employers in Northern Ireland by a short telephone interview. The aims of the survey are to establish what is being allowed in terms of flexible working arrangements; assistance with childcare; and the reasons why employers do or do not provide help.

Queries on any aspect of the work on provision for young children should be directed to:

Dr Mary O'Brien
Social Policy Branch
Londonderry House
21-27 Chichester Street
BELFAST BT1 4SX
Tel (0232) 244477 Ext 240

Input-Output Tables, Scotland 1989

Input-Output tables were last produced for Scotland relating to 1979. Up until now, although increasingly dated, these tables have continued to be widely used in Government and by academics, to allow for an assessment of the total impact on the economy of a major change (such as the opening or closure of a factory or plant), by providing detailed analysis at the links between different sectors of the economy.

These tables have now been updated for 1989, following a major project carried out over the past two years by The Scottish Office, in conjunction with the Fraser of Allander Institute, The Scottish Council Development and Industry, Scottish Enterprise and KPMG Peat Marwick.

The 1989 Input-Output tables provide a more up to date detailed, and internally consistent, picture of the Scottish economy and highlight the sectoral structural changes since 1979. A full report on this project including detailed tables, and a description of sources and methods, will be published in 3 volumes in the summer of 1994.

The Scottish Office Environment Department

Statistical Bulletins - Housing Series

Quarterly trends bulletins

Latest issue

HSG/1994/1 Housing Trends in Scotland -
Quarter ended 30 September 1994
Published March 1993

This bulletin presents the standard quarterly analyses and annual information on housing for the elderly and disabled.

Topic bulletin

HSG/1994/2 Operation of the Homeless
Persons Legislation in Scotland
1982/83 to 1992/93
Published March 1993

This bulletin presents statistics on how local authorities assessed and dealt with applicant households under the homeless persons legislation in Scotland from 1982/83 to 1992/93.

HSG/1994/3 Operation of the Homeless
Persons Legislation in Scotland
1982/83 to 1992/93: District
Analyses
Published March 1993

This bulletin presents statistics on how local authorities assessed and dealt with applicant households under the homeless persons legislation in Scotland from 1982/83 to 1992/93 by district council area...

Future issues

BTS houses in Scotland: Estimates by Local Authorities for March 1993 and details of action on such dwellings.1

This bulletin gives estimates from local authorities of the number of dwellings in Scotland which failed to meet the Tolerable Standard for the period to 31 March 1993. This includes information on the number of dwellings which lacked certain of the standard amenities. It also gives information on local authority action in dealing with such dwellings over the period 1979 to 1993

Education Department

Notes on Current Developments

Scottish Education Statistics

Placing Requests in Education Authority Schools

The Education (Scotland) Act 1981 conferred upon parents the right to make a request nominating the school which they wish their children to attend. This bulletin gives provisional information on placing requests received between 1 August 1992 and 31 July 1993 and final details for the period 1 August 1991 and 31 July 1992.

(Published June 1994)

The National Certificate 1991 - 92

This bulletin, the seventh in the series, gives information on the National Certificate awarded by the Scottish Vocational education Council (SCOTVEC) for session 1991-92.

(Published June 1994)

General Register Office

Population Statistics - Scotland

The Registrar General's mid-1993 estimates of the population of Scotland were released in April 1994. A booklet summarising these estimates was published by HMSO in May 1994¹.

¹ GRO(S). Mid-1993 Population Estimates, Scotland.
HMSO, 1994.
Price £3.75

More detailed analyses of population estimates and projections, by sex, single year of age and area, are available for a small charge from:

General Register Office for Scotland
Population Statistics Branch
Ladywell House
Ladywell Road
EDINBURGH EH12 7TH
Telephone: 031-314 4301
FAX: 031-314 4344

Vital Statistics - Scotland

The Registrar General's Preliminary Returns 1993 was published on 29 April 1994.

The Registrar General's Vital Statistics Return, Weeks 9 to 12 was published on 29 April 1994.

The Registrar General's Vital Return, Weeks 13 to 16 was published on 30 May 1994.

The Registrar General's Vital Statistics Return, Weeks 17 to 20 was published mid-June.

The Registrar General's Annual Report 1993 published mid-July.

Other Publications

Bank of England

Inflation Report

The May Inflation Report provided a detailed analysis of recent price and cost developments in the UK economy and put forward the Bank of England's analysis of future prospects. Inflation on the Government's target measure had fallen to 2.4% in March and on the Bank's RPIY measure (which excludes the effect of indirect taxes) to 1.9%. Some short-term measures of inflation had turned upwards. Economic activity continued to recover, with unemployment falling and robust sales growth. On the assumption of unchanged interest rates, the most likely outcome for RPIX inflation two years hence was 3%-3 1/2%, and for RPIY inflation just under 3%.

Quarterly Bulletin

In addition to regular articles providing commentaries on the operation of UK monetary policy, and developments in the world economy and in financial markets, the May issue of the Bank's Quarterly Bulletin contained the following items:

Asset-backed securitisation in the United Kingdom

This article examined the factors behind the growth in the UK asset-backed securities market since the first issue in 1985. It analysed the incentives for issuers and investors to participate, and outlined the mechanics for securitisation and the regulatory framework that influences the market. It also considered the advantages of asset-backed securities, and their risks.

Personal and corporate sector debt

The article analysed the influence of debt on the behaviour of firms and households in the recent recession. As well as comparing their levels of debt, it looked at each sector in detail. By supplementing the available sectoral information with an analysis of disaggregated data, it sought to develop a more accurate picture of the influence of debt on consumer and corporate behaviour.

Inflation over 300 years

In the Bank's tercentenary year, this article looked back, offering some reflections on the history of inflation - and on how thinking about inflation has developed - since 1694.

The development of a UK real-time gross settlement system

This article explained the decision to move to real-time gross settlement arrangements, and described the main features of the new system, which is due to be implemented by the end of 1995.

SINES - Pointing you in the right direction

by John Garnsworthy, Department of the Environment, and Clare Hadley, Ordnance Survey

Have you ever tried to find out about spatial data held by central government and not known where to look? Do not despair as help is at hand! "The Inter Departmental Group on Geographic Information" has collated details, on a standard questionnaire, of around 500 spatially referenced data sets held by over 40 government departments and associated bodies. This "information about information" has been passed to Ordnance Survey which has established a FREE telephone Spatial INFORMATION Enquiry Service, known as SINES, from the details provided. In addition, this summary information is available on a non-exclusive basis to anybody requesting it.

Anyone interested in finding out what data are available should first call Ordnance Survey direct on 0703 792711. For each data set, a wide range of information has been recorded and OS can provide you with details of the following:

- title of the data set
- purpose for which the data were collected
- method and source of data collection
- time period covered by the data set
- geographic area covered
- data items
- spatial references used
- base map usage
- systems/software used to store the data
- data availability
- contact point for further information

What OS cannot provide you with, though, are the data sets themselves - you will need to contact the appropriate departmental contact points (recorded on SINES) if you wish to obtain the actual data. However, a word of

warning - the appearance of the information about data sets on SINES does not necessarily imply the availability of the data sets themselves. Not all spatial data, especially those that are highly disaggregated, can be released at the most disaggregated levels, because of confidentiality or other reasons.

SINES is not for government use alone and it has dealt with a large number of enquiries from academics, marketing companies, libraries, data information companies and the public at large. In order for the usefulness of SINES to continue, there will be annual updates about both existing and new data sets. This is necessary in view of the frequency with which new data sets are created and as information, particularly about contact points, can rapidly become out-dated.

Looking further ahead, it is hoped that the amount of information held on SINES will continue to increase and that the service will evolve to include data sets held by non-government organisations.

"Further details about IGGI are available from its Secretary,

Mr J Garnsworthy,
PLUS Division,
Department of the Environment,
Room P1/177b,
2 Marsham Street,
London SW1P 3EB,
Tel 071 276 3999".

Gaps in Social Statistics: Consultation with Users

Jenny Church, Central Statistical Office

Introduction

In late 1993, the Central Statistical Office, on behalf of the GSS Committee on Social Statistics (GSS(S)), undertook a consultation exercise with external customers for social statistics to find out where they perceived gaps in the availability of social statistics. The CSO was given a remit to contact those customers where there was no obvious lead department, whilst individual departments undertook to contact organisations in their own spheres of interest. This note reports on progress so far in the consultations and describes the findings. GSS(S) is now considering how to take them forward through an action plan. This will be published in due course.

Response

The list of organisations contacted by the CSO is given in Annex A. Most provided written responses. In addition, meetings were held with the Social Science Forum, the House of Commons Library, and the No 10 Policy Unit. Open letters were also placed in the RSS News and the Times Higher Education Supplement.

Summary of findings

The general tenor of all the responses was that the provision of statistics in each area of social policy is reasonably good. (This contrasts with the emerging findings of a parallel exercise on gaps in regional statistics, where there is a long "wish list" of missing statistical series). There are some "absolute" gaps which are listed in Annex B, together with the organisation identifying them, but set against the vast array of social statistics produced by the GSS they are not extensive.

Nevertheless, there was dissatisfaction with a number of aspects of the GSS's social statistics output. Users want:

- better "sign posting" of what statistics are available, easier access to those producing statistics and more dissemination via electronic media, in particular better access to microdata;
- more effective co-ordination between the countries of the UK so that UK level statistics can be compiled;
- better harmonisation of concepts and classifications across EU\G7 countries;
- better linkage between data on different social policy areas, and thus for example improved ability to link an individual's social and economic circumstances;
- more longitudinal data, for example on income.

These concerns are discussed in more detail below. However the points made by respondents were perhaps best summed up by Professor Bynner at the Social Statistics Research Unit at City University:-

"Although each series in itself is impressive and meets probably a good proportion of needs, overall there is fragmentation and inconsistency in content and approach. There is no feeling of a statistical profile\compendium of Britain coming through them. Links between national statistics coming from different sources, is tenuous and links with the continuous surveys designed to supplement them, often non-existent. Within each series the attention to user needs could be improved both in content and presentation."

Although one might have hoped that Social Trends fulfilled the role of a "statistical profile", it is evidently not considered adequate. However, the CSO's new publication to be introduced this August, Social Focus, which will present statistics on a different social group in each edition, may help to fill this gap.

Dissemination

A number of respondents commented on the difficulty of knowing exactly what social statistics are available and with what frequency they are updated. The need for the "Guide to Official Statistics" to be structured by subject area rather than by department was stressed. More frequent updating, and perhaps on-line electronic access, would be welcomed.

The House of Commons and House of Lords Libraries commented on how useful they found the GSS Directory in enabling them to identify the appropriate individual to talk to, either about availability of data or interpretation of statistics in a particular area. Named contacts and telephone numbers in publications go some way towards meeting this need for other users, but they do not help the user who is trying to find out about availability from scratch. The "Guide to Official Statistics" could not fulfil this function with its current frequency (every 4 years).

User-friendly on-line public access systems were called for, both for survey micro-data and for statistical series. The Employment Department's NOMIS database and on-line access to the LFS through Quantime were cited as examples of the approach to dissemination which users would like to see extended to other areas of social statistics. There is frustration amongst researchers in having to rely on pre-set tabulations, for example from the Census.

Discontinuities over time

The problems caused by definitional changes made to variables in surveys or derived from administrative statistics which necessitate breaks in time series are of course well-known. Action is probably always taken when feasible to overlap "old" with "new" definitions\methods of measurement, but there will still be occasions when it proves impossible. However, departments need to be aware of the importance of this issue to users, and indeed the effect that it has on the image of the GSS.

Comparability between countries of the UK

Apart from the differences arising through different administrative systems in the constituent countries of the UK, respondents drew attention to what they perceived to be a need for better co-ordination before changes are made or new series collected. Health statistics was a particular area quoted. This is an issue which will be taken up in the consultation exercise on gaps in regional statistics.

International comparison

Many respondents drew attention to the growing demand for international comparisons, and to the lack of consistent data to meet it. It was pointed out that EU comparisons are not the only ones of interest: OECD and G7 groupings are also needed. Eurostat's "Social Portrait of Europe" seems not to be well-known. Its second edition, currently being prepared, will contain a much wider range of statistics which may go some way to meeting users' needs, but difficulties caused by lack of harmonisation in concepts, definitions, methodology and classifications will remain.

Linkage across social policy areas

The fragmentation of social statistics as perceived by users is perhaps an inevitable consequence of the decentralised GSS, which impacts more on social than economic statistics. However, the general issue of constructing systems of social indicators and their linkage across different policy areas is one which has not reached any satisfactory conclusion, despite much work throughout the world over the last thirty years or so.

Social reporting, through publications such as *Social Trends* and *Social Focus*, is recognised by users as having an important role to play. Some also feel the need for more detailed briefing bringing together social statistics from a number of fields.

Users also commented that there often seems little attempt to achieve coherence between the social surveys, and between data derived from surveys and administrative sources, which makes it even more difficult to link social indicators. A more co-ordinated approach to dissemination might lead to more standardisation of definitions and classifications. However, there seems considerable scope for exploitation of our social surveys in a much more co-ordinated way, viewing them together as a body of information rather than as separate instruments serving particular purposes.

Longitudinal data

This represents another facet of linkage; linkage over time. The Longitudinal Survey and the various birth cohort studies provide much valuable information, though they are not as well-used outside the research network as they might be. However, users expressed a need for longitudinal data on people's incomes. There should be some improvement over the next few years, as data from the British Household Panel

Survey become available, and further into the future, those from the EC Household Panel Survey.

Comparison with internal consultation exercise

This consultation exercise was preceded by an internal consultation exercise to identify gaps in social statistics, carried out in 1992. There is a high degree of agreement between the findings of the internal exercise and those described above, though inevitably internal users placed more emphasis on developing performance indicators for monitoring social policy. Thus it would appear that filling gaps identified internally would go a long way towards also meeting the needs of external users.

Next Steps

The GSS(S) Committee is now considering how to turn the findings of this exercise into an Action Plan. Some work is already in hand, for example improvement of the Guide to Official Statistics and the possibility of releasing it on CD-ROM. The introduction of *Social Focus* is also a response to the expressed desire of users for more 'bringing together' of social data. When finalised the Action Plan will be published. Meanwhile, if any readers who have not already been asked to contribute to this exercise would like to do so, it is not too late. Please write to me:

Jenny Church,
Central Statistical Office,
Room 1816,
Millbank Tower,
London SW1.

Gaps in Social Statistics as Reported by Users

Language literacy (Social Science Forum, UN)

- No centrally collected statistics on the languages spoken by persons in the UK.
- No nationally representative data collected on literacy levels in the UK

Measurement of the extent of human capital

- Lack of statistics on qualified people, amounts of training, skills acquired, (ie stocks, rather than flows through the education\training system). (NIESR)
- Gap between post-16 training statistics and education statistics. (Social Statistics Research Unit, City University).
- No information on the number of years schooling received by adults. (UN)

Multiple discrimination

(EOC)

- Inadequate data on gender and disability;
- No reliable source of information on pay by gender and ethnicity;
- More information needed on social security benefit receipts and take-up by gender;

Labour market indicators for women

(ESRC Centre on Micro-Social Change)

- Survey-based time series data on women's labour supply, since register measures are considered less reliable than they are for men.

Distribution of income

(House of Commons Library)

- Most recent "Blue Book" distribution of income statistics are for 1984\85 (this work is being revived by CSO).

Addresses

Social Science Forum

Economic and Social Research Council

ESRC Data Archive

Statistics Users Council

Policy Studies Institute

Radical Statistics Group

Confederation of British Industry

Trade Union Congress

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Social Statistics Research Unit, City University

Centre for Economic Policy Research

ESRC Research Centre on Micro-Social Change

Joint Nuffield/SCPR Unit for the Study of social Trends

Social Policy Research Unit, York University

National Institute for Social and Economic Research

Social Research Association

Joseph Rowntree Memorial Trust

Association of Learned Societies in the
Social Sciences

House of Commons Library

House of Lords Library

No.10 Policy Unit



Obituary - Sir John Boreham

Sir John Boreham, Director of the Central Statistical Office and head of the Government Statistical Service from 1978 to 1985, died on 8 June aged 68. He was born on 30 July 1925.

John Boreham had an impressively wide range of abilities and interests, combined with considerable charm and a distinctive personal style. He was educated at Marlborough and Trinity College, Oxford. He recalled that when he arrived in Oxford after service in the RAF he chose philosophy, politics and economics because this did not close many options. In the event statistics, an optional extra, provided the focus of his professional career.

Following a short spell at the Agricultural Economic Research Institute in Oxford, John joined the statistics division of the Ministry of Food in 1950. His subsequent civil service career saw him working in statistical posts at increasingly senior levels in various departments, gradually acquiring the wide knowledge of different subjects which proved so valuable later.

In 1963 he returned to the General Register office on promotion to Chief Statistician, where his responsibilities included the 1966 sample census of population. Four years later, in 1967, he became director of economics and statistics at the Ministry of Technology. After four years in that post (which he found particularly stimulating) he moved to the Central Statistical office in 1971. Then in 1972 he was appointed deputy to Sir Claus Moser, who was then Director of the Central Statistical Office. John contributed enthusiastically and imaginatively to the developments, particularly in social statistics, that occurred at this stage.

Six years on, when he was appointed director of the Central Statistical Office and Head of the Government Statistical Service, it was reported

that "Sir Claus Moser's leaving present to John Boreham was a 40-page survey of his period in office and a blueprint for the next ten years". But circumstances changed, for a new government came to office in 1979. Its policy was to reduce the size of the Civil Service, and the Rayner review of the Government Statistical Service was an early part of its programme.

John knew that the Government Statistical Service could operate effectively only if it had the confidence of both Ministers and the public. "This means," he said, "we must be prepared to look at existing work with fresh eyes, to weed out that which is not necessary for government to do, to identify any gaps which are really worth filling, and to ensure that what we do is done to maximum effect". It also meant that statistics had to be compiled and presented with complete integrity, a point which he maintained indefatigably throughout his career.

The Rayner review team concluded that the primary duty of the Government Statistical Service was to serve the needs of central government. It fell to John Boreham to oversee cuts that meant shedding about a quarter of the civil service posts providing statistical services. Like most statisticians, he saw the post-Rayner period as a major challenge to the professionalism of government statisticians. It is to his credit that he was able to comment later that "the broad framework of statistics remains intact, and we have an increased confidence in its value".

John had a strong sense of the need to present statistics in clear and comprehensive terms. When he retired after 35 years service with the GSS, he said: "A good statistician must be at least as good with words as he is with figures. It is not good just delivering figures. We have got to deliver them in words". He was able to

recognise quickly the implications of emerging results. He was also effective in communicating those findings to specialists and non-specialists alike. He did so invariably with an enthusiasm, directness and precision that were both refreshing and stimulating, and he was more than happy to engage in a good-humoured discussion about a point he had made.

As Director of the Central Statistical Office he led very much by the example and suggestions he was able to provide on the basis of his earlier experience. He practised literally an open door policy and was pleased when staff responded to it. He believed strongly in management by walk-about and new recruits soon ceased to be surprised to see the tall, slim, colourfully dressed figure of the Director entering their room on a Friday morning.

John was a highly sociable person, at ease with people from many different backgrounds. Each summer, for several years, he and his wife Heather hosted a gathering at their home in Sevenoaks to bring together compilers and users of social statistics. Statistician cricketers also benefited from their hospitality at the time of the annual match between the Central Statistical Office and the rest of the Government Statistical Service. The day before he died John attended a cricket match between the Government Statistical Service and the Bank of England.

For many years right up to his death John Boreham played a prominent role in the statistical profession both in the United Kingdom and more widely. He spoke frequently and eloquently at meetings of the Royal Statistical Society. He was for eight years President of the Institute of Statisticians and was President of the Association of Social Research Organisations. He was also for two years Chairman of the Conference of European Statisticians. In the years since his retirement from the CSO in 1985 he spent a substantial proportion of his time with his wife in the Caribbean and the Bahamas

advising on the development of statistical programmes and the training of statisticians.

Retirement provided John slightly more time to enjoy his interests in music, literature, including French literature, philosophy and poetry. It also provided more time for golf, and indeed the heart attack from which he died occurred while he was playing golf in Knole Park. He enjoyed life and lived it to the full. The death of such an active and visibly healthy person with so much still to offer is a loss to many of us, but above all to his wife Heather, whom he married in 1948, their four children and ten grandchildren.

David Wroe

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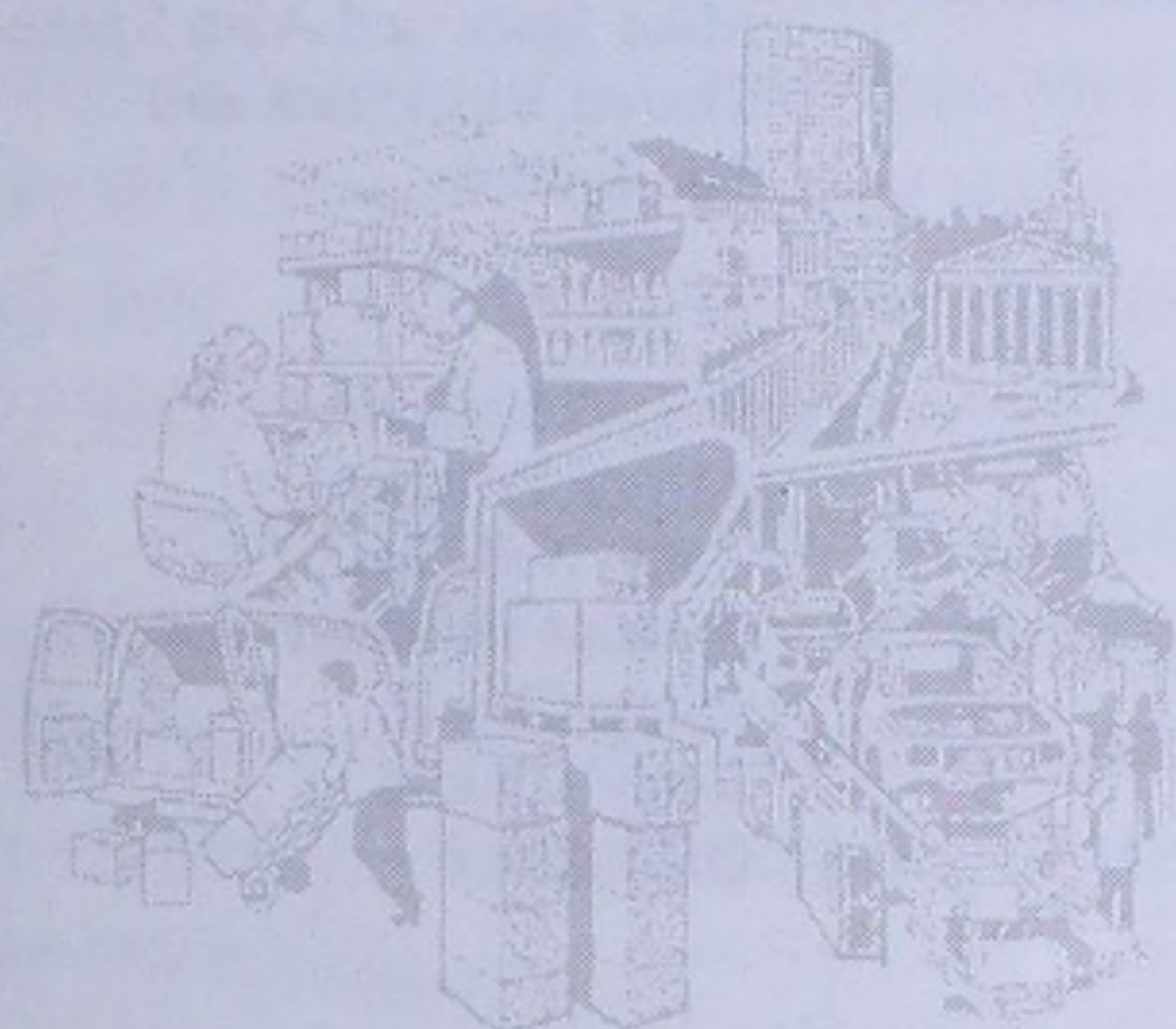
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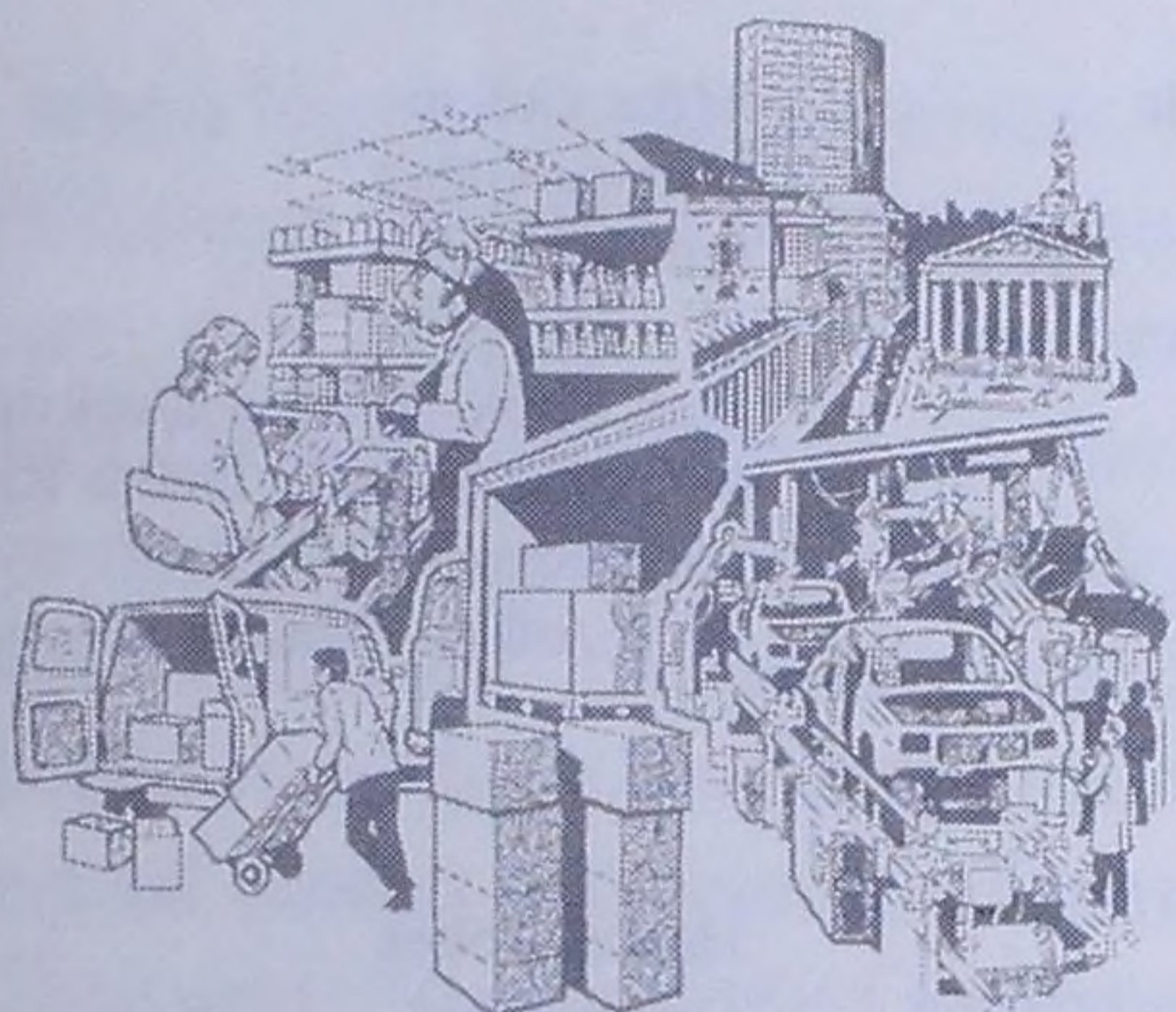
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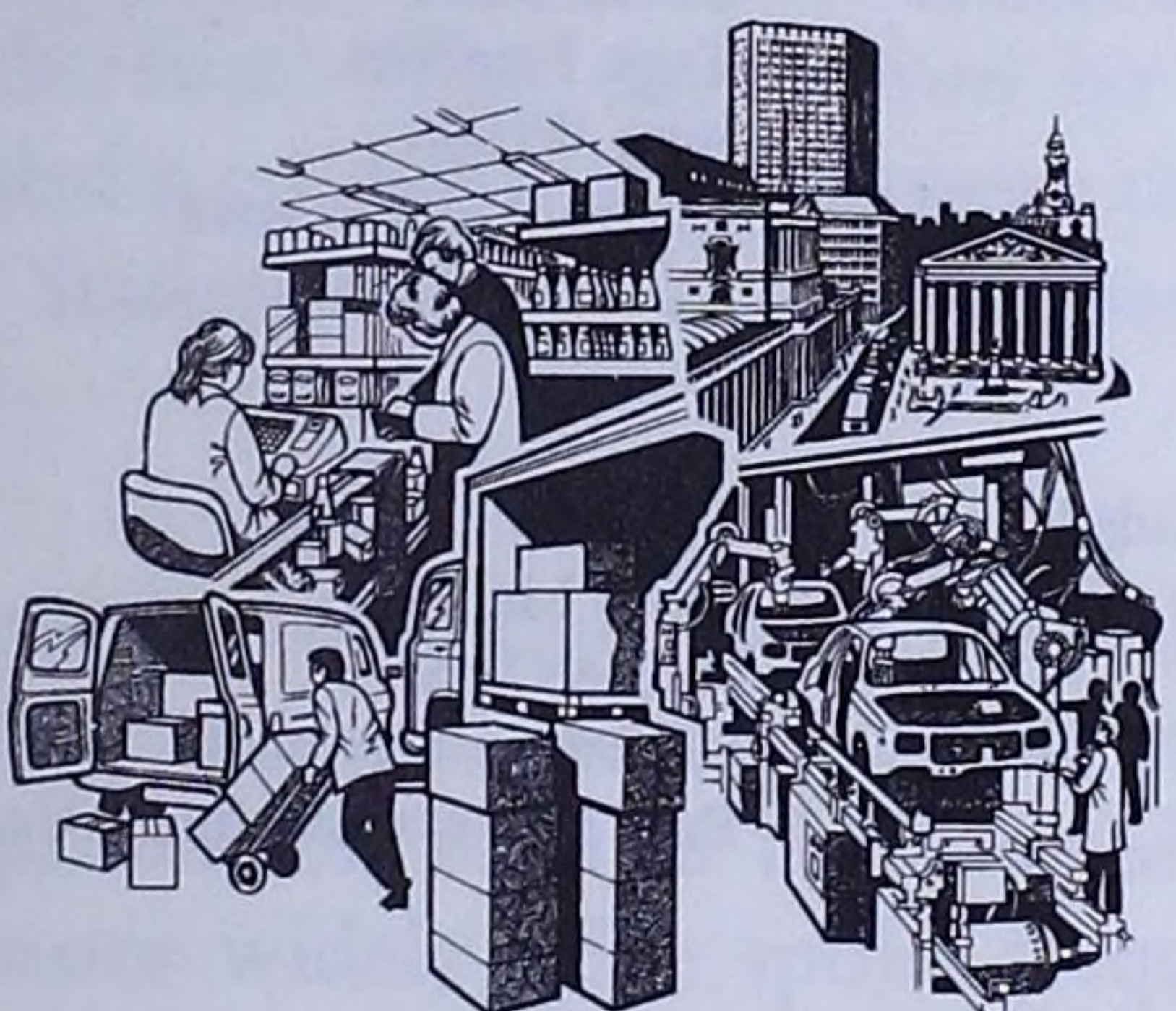
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