Statistical News

Autumn 1995
Issue 109
Central Statistical Office

THE MOBILITY OF DISABLED ADULTS

Small and Medium Sized Enterprises - *How many and how important?*

IDBR Register

The CSO's Distribution Of Income Estimates

THE LABOUR FORCE SURVEY - *WHAT DO THEY WANT ALL THAT INFORMATION FOR?*

A publication of the Government Statistical Service

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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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Central Statistical Office

Statistical News

Developments in British Official Statistics

No. 109
Autumn 1995

The Government Statistical Service

MISSION

To provide Parliament, government and the wider community with the statistical information, analysis and advice needed to improve decision making, stimulate research and inform debate.

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Autumn 1995

News from around the GSS and beyond

The mobility of disabled adults

BY KERRICK MACAFEE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

The transport needs of disabled adults are a prime concern of the Department of Transport. Questions on the National Travel Survey were designed to identify those who had mobility difficulties and what these difficulties were. This article describes some of the problems faced by disabled adults and shows how their travel differs from other adults.

The main results were:

- In 1991/93, 13 per cent of adults aged 16 or more had a disability that made it difficult for them to travel by foot, bus or car. 37 per cent of those aged 65 or more were disabled in this way.

- Slightly disabled adults, i.e. those who managed to walk without help, made one fifth[1] fewer journeys than those not disabled but twice as many journeys as those more severely disabled. Disabled adults used local buses and taxis as much as non-disabled adults, but made fewer walk and car journeys.

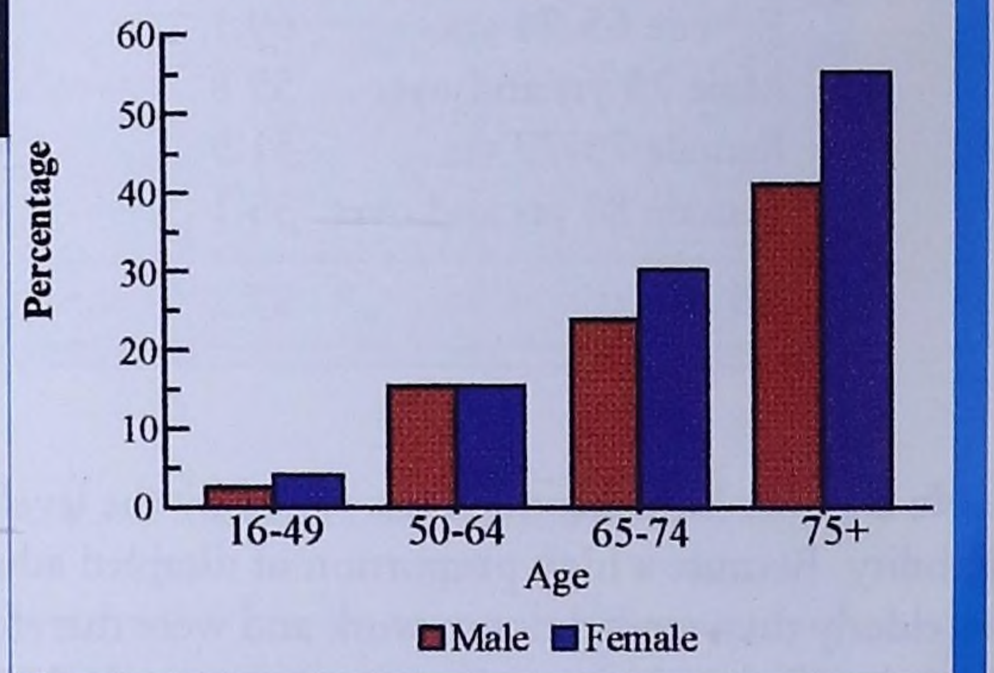
- Distance travelled by those slightly disabled rose by 31 per cent between 1985/86 and 1991/93, compared to 28 per cent for those not disabled and 13 per cent for those severely disabled. Taxi use was sharply up for both groups of disabled adults between the two periods, 101 per cent overall.

- 58 per cent of disabled adults had difficulties in using buses. The main problem was getting on and off the bus.

Those defined as having a disability were all those who answered 'Yes' to the question "Do you have any physical disability or long-standing health problem which makes it difficult for you to go out on foot (or use buses/cars)?". 12.8 per cent of adults in the sample (equivalent to 5.7 million adults in Great Britain) considered themselves disabled on this definition. 91 per cent of disabled adults had difficulty going out on foot and further questions on the NTS examined the level of difficulty faced. Chart 1 and Table 1 give an age and sex breakdown of the disabled population.

Four levels of disability were identified by the survey questions. The first level included those who only had difficulty travelling on buses or getting in or out of a car. The second level included those who had difficulty going out on foot but could do so unassisted - with or without the help of a walking stick. The third level comprised those who did go out on foot, but either needed someone to help or a special walking aid. The most severely disabled were those who reported that they were unable to go out on foot at all. For the sake of simplicity and in order to ensure sufficient numbers for analyses, the tables in this article simply categorise disabled adults as slight or

CHART 1 - PERCENTAGE OF ADULTS DISABLED: BY AGE AND SEX



[1] After standardising the estimates to the age and sex distribution of those with a walking or other difficulty

severe, with all those with no walking difficulties, or who were able to walk unassisted, coded as slightly disabled. All those with more severe mobility limitations were included as severely disabled. (A fifth set of respondents gave incomplete answers to the questions and are included with severely disabled adults because their travel habits suggest this category is the most appropriate.)

Table 1 shows that the likelihood of each level of disability tends to increase with age, with women generally having greater difficulties than men. Only about a third of women aged 80 years and over were not disabled. Because disability is so strongly related to age and sex, the figures for those not disabled in most of the remaining tables in this section are shown both before and after standardisation to the age and sex profile of disabled adults.

Chart 2 - Journey distance by mode of transport: disabled and non-disabled adults

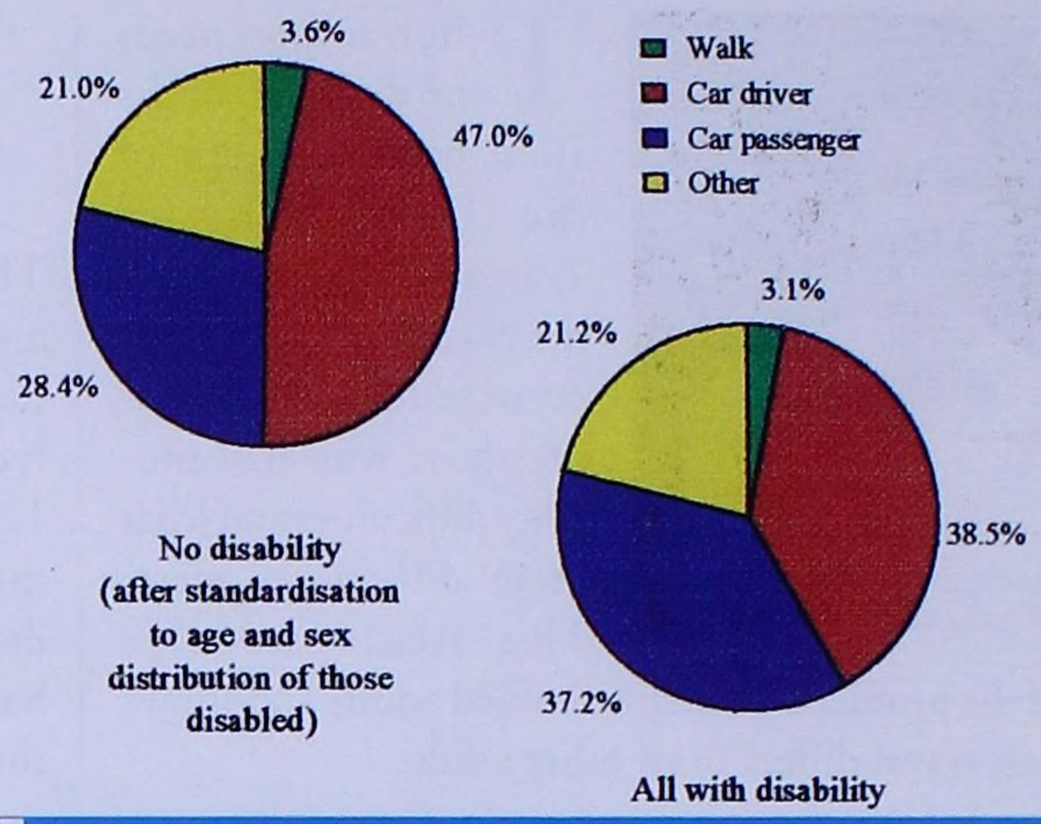


Table 1 Age and sex of disabled adults: 1991/93

%

	No disability	All with disability	All with slight disability	All with severe disability	All adults
Male 16-49 yrs	97.1	2.9	1.9	1.0	100.0
Female 16-49 yrs	96.2	3.8	2.5	1.2	100.0
Male 50-64 yrs	85.6	14.4	9.8	4.6	100.0
Female 50-64 yrs	84.9	15.1	10.2	4.8	100.0
Male 65-74 yrs	74.4	25.6	18.3	7.4	100.0
Female 65-74 yrs	69.1	30.9	19.1	11.8	100.0
Male 75 yrs and over	59.8	40.2	25.1	15.1	100.0
Female 75-79 yrs	51.9	48.1	24.5	23.6	100.0
Female 80 yrs and over	35.1	64.9	24.9	40.0	100.0
All adults	**87.2**	**12.8**	**7.8**	**4.9**	**100.0**

Table 2 shows how income levels varied by the level of disability. Because a high proportion of disabled adults was elderly they tended not to work and were therefore often classified to the lower income categories. In 1991/93, 66 per cent of disabled adults were in the lowest two income categories. This compares with the standardised total of 51 per cent for those without a disability. Because of their lower-than-average income, disabled adults tended not to have access to a car. However when age, sex and income level are taken into account, disabled adults appear almost as likely to live in a household with a car as those who are not disabled.

Table 2 Real household income equivalent quintiles and level of disability: 1991/93

%

	No disability[1]		All with disability	Slight disability	Severe disability	All adults
Lowest	14.1	(24.2)	34.2	33.8	34.9	16.7
Second	15.6	(26.8)	32.1	30.7	34.3	17.7
Third	23.3	(20.2)	16.4	16.9	15.8	22.4
Fourth	23.7	(16.0)	11.9	12.0	11.8	22.2
Highest	23.3	(12.7)	5.3	6.7	3.3	21.0
All adults	100.0	(100.0)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

[1] *Figures in brackets show values after standardising the estimates to the age and sex distribution of those disabled*

As might be expected, those slightly disabled made more journeys than those severely disabled (about twice as many), but about 20 per cent less than those not disabled (after standardisation). Reflecting their lower income and lower access to a household car, Table 3 reveals that disabled adults made fewer journeys by car than those without a disability. Despite this, slightly disabled adults still made about 40 per cent of their journeys by car as a car driver and those severely disabled made 37 per cent of their journeys as a car driver.

Table 3 Journeys[1] per adult per year by main means of transport and level of disability: 1991/93

Journeys

	No disability[2]		All with disability	Slight disability	Severe disability	All adults
Walk	63	(65)	30	44	7	59
Car driver	502	(308)	169	208	108	459
Car passenger	166	(145)	127	136	113	161
Other private	29	(19)	16	14	18	27
Local bus	67	(86)	65	89	27	66
Rail	22	(12)	6	8	1	20
Taxi	9	(6)	12	11	13	10
Other public	3	(3)	2	3	2	3
All modes	861	(644)	427	514	289	806

[1] *Excludes journeys under 1 mile.*

[2] *Figures in brackets show values after standardising the estimates to the age and sex distribution of all those disabled*

Table 4 Distance travelled per adult per year by main means of transport and level of disability: 1991/93

Miles

	No disability[1]		All with disability	Slight disability	Severe disability	All adults
Walk	184	(189)	99	143	29	173
Car driver	4,456	(2,479)	1,232	1,520	778	4,045
Car passenger	1,807	(1,494)	1,192	1,229	1,133	1,728
Other private	252	(206)	144	155	126	238
Local bus	290	(340)	241	332	99	238
Rail	511	(311)	122	174	38	462
Taxi/minicab	40	(29)	38	33	44	39
Other public	184	(221)	136	173	77	178
All modes	7,724	(5,269)	3,202	3,760	2,326	7,148

[1] *Figures in brackets show values after standardising the estimates to the age and sex distribution of all those disabled*

Table 4 shows the average distance travelled per year for disabled adults. The slightly disabled travelled about 60 per cent more per year than those severely disabled, but, after standardisation for age and sex, about 30 per cent less per year than those not disabled. As would be expected, those severely disabled did very little walking[2]. The survey suggests that they averaged just 29 miles per year - equivalent to just half a mile per week.

Questions on mobility difficulties were included for the first time on the National Travel Survey in 1985/86. In that survey, 11.8 per cent of adults said that they had mobility difficulties (12.2 per cent after standardisation to the age and sex population of 1991/93). This is less than the 12.8 per cent observed in the 1991/93 survey (see Table 1).

[2] Walking includes travelling in a non-motorised wheelchair

Table 5 Changes in distance travelled per adult per year 1985/86 to 1991/93 by means of transport and level of disability[1]

%

	No disability	All with disability	Slight disability	Severe disability	All adults
Walk	-2	(5)	(3)	(-18)	(13)
Car driver	39	29	30	27	31
Car passenger	29	42	42	42	20
Other private	3	(23)	9	(-50)	(8)
Local bus	-3	13	11	22	(12)
Rail	23	6	(42)	(63)	6
Taxi/minicab	39	101	73	(149)	23
Other public	(50)	14	(88)	(-52)	20
All modes	28	26	31	13	21

[1] *Figures apart from those in the last column show changes after standardising the 1985/86 estimates to 1991/93 age and sex distribution of those disabled. Figures in brackets are based on small sample numbers and should be treated with caution.*

Table 5 shows the percentage increase in the distance travelled by adults since 1985/86, after standardisation to the age and sex profiles of disabled adults in 1991/93. It reveals a marked contrast in changes of travel behaviour for the two categories of disabled adults. The rise of 13 per cent in average distance travelled by severely disabled adults was much smaller than the 31 per cent recorded for those slightly disabled, which was itself slightly higher than the 28 per cent recorded for adults with no disability. Increasingly, disabled adults are relying on cars and taxis. Distance travelled by them in taxis doubled between the two periods, whilst as a car passenger it rose by 42 per cent. Bus usage increased by 13 per cent over the period, though bus usage by severely disabled adults remained as low in 1991/93 as it had been in 1985/86 - 99 miles per adult per year.

Table 6 Journeys[1] per adult per year by journey purpose and level of disability: 1991/93

Journeys

	No disability[2]		All with disability	Slight disability	Severe disability	All adults
Work & education	278	(119)	42	58	17	248
Shopping	169	(183)	132	159	90	164
Medical reasons	9	(11)	20	21	19	11
Escort	18	(22)	7	10	2	17
Oth. pers. business	145	(109)	82	96	60	137
Visit friends	159	(124)	97	115	69	151
Other leisure	53	(42)	26	33	15	50
Holiday/day trips	30	(32)	21	23	16	29
All purposes	**861**	**(644)**	**427**	**514**	**289**	**806**

1. Excludes journeys under 1 mile

2. Figures in brackets show values after standardising the estimates to the age and sex distribution of all those disabled

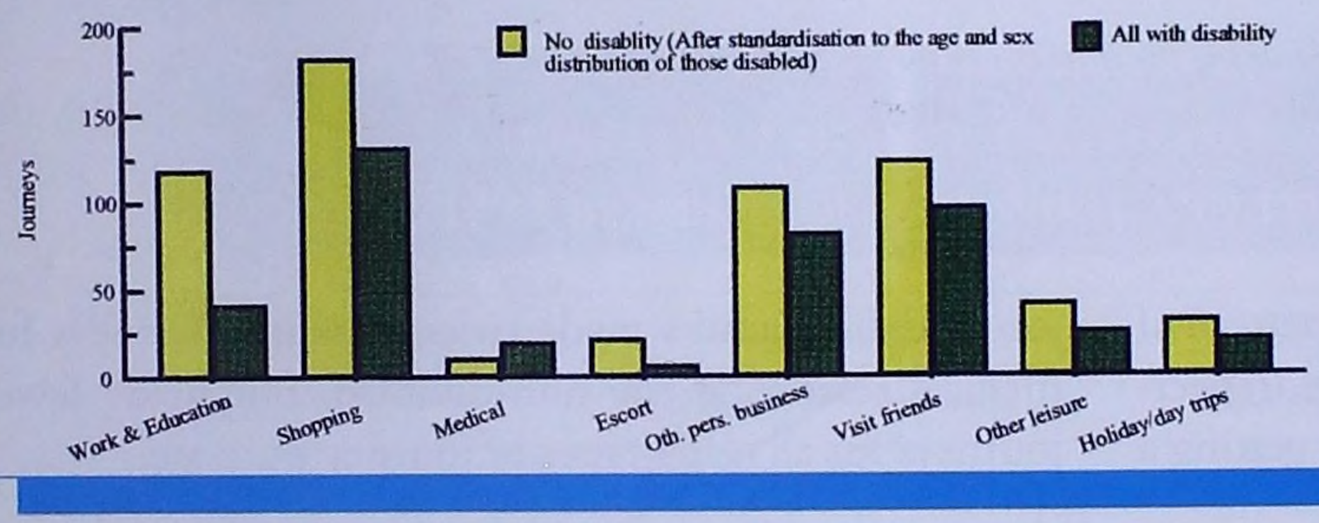
Table 6 shows that the main difference in the pattern of journey purposes was in work-related journeys, reflecting the difficulties faced by disabled adults in getting a job. Disabled adults made twice as many journeys for medical reasons as the non-disabled, but made fewer journeys for all other types of journey purpose.

The National Travel Survey (NTS) is the only comprehensive national source of information on personal travel in Great Britain. The survey relates different kinds of travel with the characteristics of travellers and their families. The first survey was undertaken in 1965 and was followed by further ad hoc, one-year surveys in 1972/3, 1975/6, 1978/9 and 1985/6. A new, continuous survey was started in July 1988.

Each year about 3,400 households in Great Britain agree to partake in the survey. They provide information on a range of topics: personal details (such as age, working status, type of driving licence held, season ticket possession, etc.); details of household vehicles (eg type, engine, size, age); and details of all journeys carried out over a sample period of seven days (such as journey purpose, mode of travel, time of day, the distance and duration of the journey and the cost of any tickets bought). The current response rate is about 76 per cent.

Particular uses of the NTS include: forecasting traffic levels, measuring exposure rates for road accidents, profiling public transport users, assessing take-up of concessionary fare schemes, estimating vehicle occupancy, monitoring the travel patterns of disabled adults and evaluating options for road and car taxation.

CHART 3 - JOURNEYS PER ADULT PER YEAR: DISABLED AND NON-DISABLED ADULTS



Because of the small sample size of the continuous NTS, data from the survey is normally analysed in three-year blocks. The block for the period 1991/93 and a report covering this period was published in September 1994 (ISBN no. 0-11-551632-8). The next report was published in September 1995.

The main classificatory question for identifying persons as disabled was: "...I want to ask you some questions about any health problem of physical disability that affects travelling. Do you have any physical disability or other long standing health problem that make it difficult for you to go out on foot?...use buses or coaches?....get in or out of a car?". Anyone answering "Yes" to any of the prompts was coded as being disabled.

[1] After standardising the estimates to the age and sex distribution of those with a walking or other difficulty.

[2] Walking includes travelling in a non-motorised wheelchair.

The Labour Force Survey? What do they want all that information for?

by Frances Sly
Labour Market Statistics Group
Central Statistical Office

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a quarterly household sample survey carried out by interviewing people about their personal circumstances and work. In parallel with its key role of providing labour market statistics needed by HM Treasury for informing macro-economic policy, the LFS has a vital part to play in providing data used in the formulation and monitoring of the former Employment Department Group's (EDG) policies and services. This article shows how the wide range of labour market and related information gathered in the survey is used across Government Departments and beyond.

The article was written before departmental responsibilities were reorganised in July 1995. Most of the Employment Department Group became part of a new Department for Education and Employment, and some functions were transferred to the Departments for Trade and Industry or Environment. Responsibility for labour market statistics (including the LFS) was transferred to the Central Statistical Office. Although the names of Departments using it have changed, the LFS remains as valuable as before.

Key points:

The LFS provides regular information relating to the following topics:

- employment characteristics;
- the characteristics of unemployed people;
- progress towards National Targets for Education and Training;
- the incidence of job-related training;
- young people in the labour market;
- trade union membership and the coverage of collective bargaining;
- the labour market position of groups covered by equal opportunities policies in relation to race, sex, age and disability;
- industrial accidents and their causes.

Introduction

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) began as a condition of UK membership of the European Community and was carried out biennially from 1973 - 1983 and annually from 1984 - 1991. Over this time government departments, especially the Employment Department, found the information collected in the LFS increasingly valuable in the framing of social and economic policy. In 1990, the Secretary of State for Employment announced the development of a quarterly LFS which began in spring 1992.

The main purpose of the quarterly LFS is to provide information needed to develop, manage, evaluate and report on labour market policies. It is a survey of over 60,000 households a quarter, yielding labour market and demographic information about some 120,000 adults. Its main strengths are that it provides a self-contained, integrated source of information about the labour market activity (or inactivity) of the whole (household) population, based on a large sample size, and that it uses the internationally standard definitions of employment and unemployment recommended by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Macro-economic monitoring

The quarterly LFS is highly valuable in helping to assess changes in the labour market. First key results are now published one and a half months after the survey period ends, with full results available two months later. *Main indicators regularly published from the LFS include:*

- ILO unemployment, total employment, ILO unemployment rate and economic activity rate

(employment and unemployment as a percent age of the total population), by age group;

- employees and self-employed people, full- and part-time workers, second jobs and temporary workers, by industry and occupation;
- average actual working hours and total hours worked in the economy;
- redundancies;
- reasons why people are economically inactive (not employed or unemployed) and whether they would like to work, including groups *such as:*
  - discouraged workers - those who say they would like to work but have not looked for work recently because they believe no jobs are available and therefore are excluded from measures of unemployment;
  - people (usually women) looking after the family or home;
  - students;
  - retired people;
  - people unable to work because they are sick or disabled.

explain such unexpected (to the casual observer) phenomena as a fall in unemployment at the same time as a fall, or a smaller rise, in employment. The LFS may be able to show that the difference is explainable, for instance, by an increase in the number of people in full-time education, information which is not available from unemployment or employment records. The LFS also provides estimates for sections of the labour force who are not covered by the employer surveys, such as the self-employed and temporary employees, or the claimant count of unemployment such as those ineligible for unemployment-related benefits (eg most under 18 year olds), and those with a low propensity to claim (such as married women).

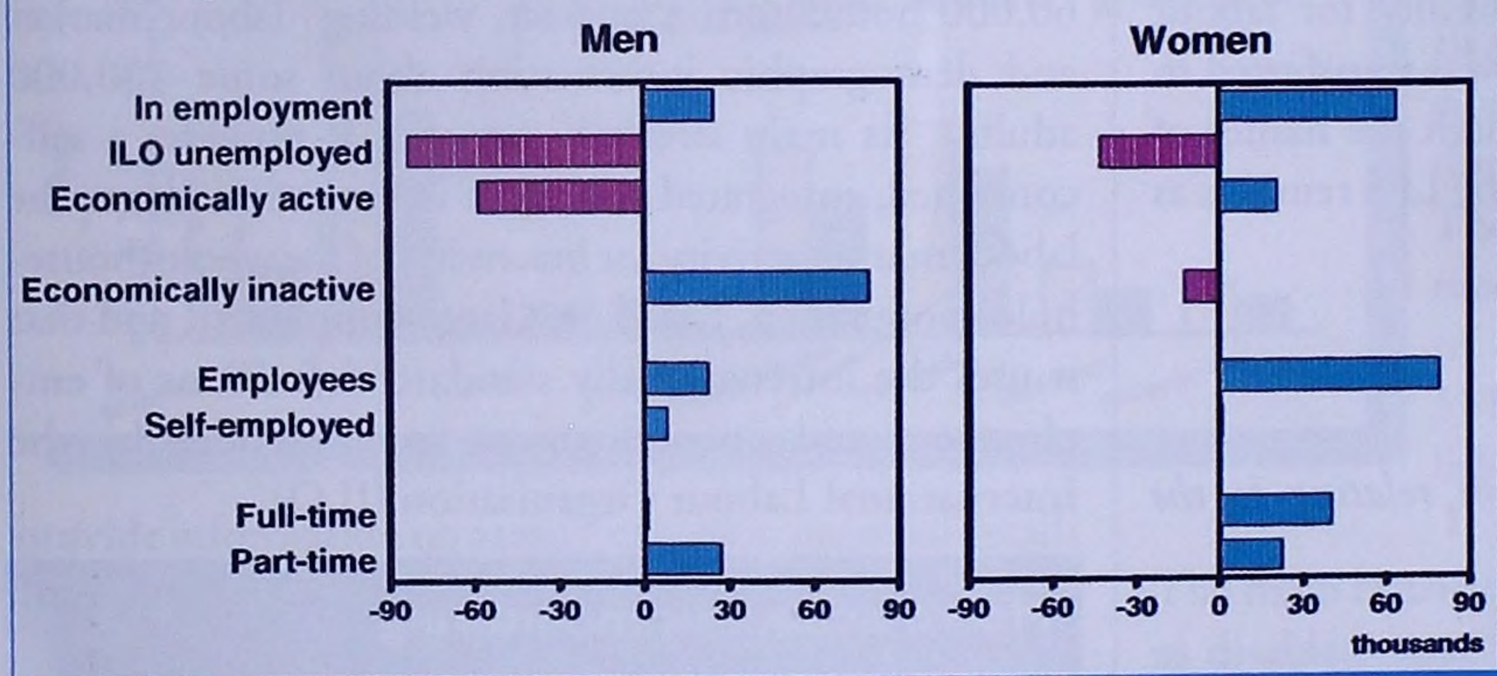
The LFS provides the basis for labour force projections which provide an assessment of the likely changes in the composition of the labour force over the next 10-15 years. These projections assist in the formulation of policies which will take account of predictable changes in the economically active population.

The "flexible" labour market

The LFS collects a wide range of information about people's employment, such as type of employment, industry and occupation, identifying separately their main job and any second job they might have. The LFS is the only source of quarterly statistics on self-employment, temporary workers and the type of contract they have - fixed period/task, agency work, casual etc, none of which is available as frequently from any other source. Because it is a survey of people not employers, the LFS can show the mix of employment types varying from full-time to part-time and temporary, self-employed and unpaid working for a family business. This basic information can be linked to more in-depth results such as the reasons why people work part-time, such as the proportion who do so because they could not get a full-time job. The LFS is also the only regular source of estimates of the extent of homeworking.

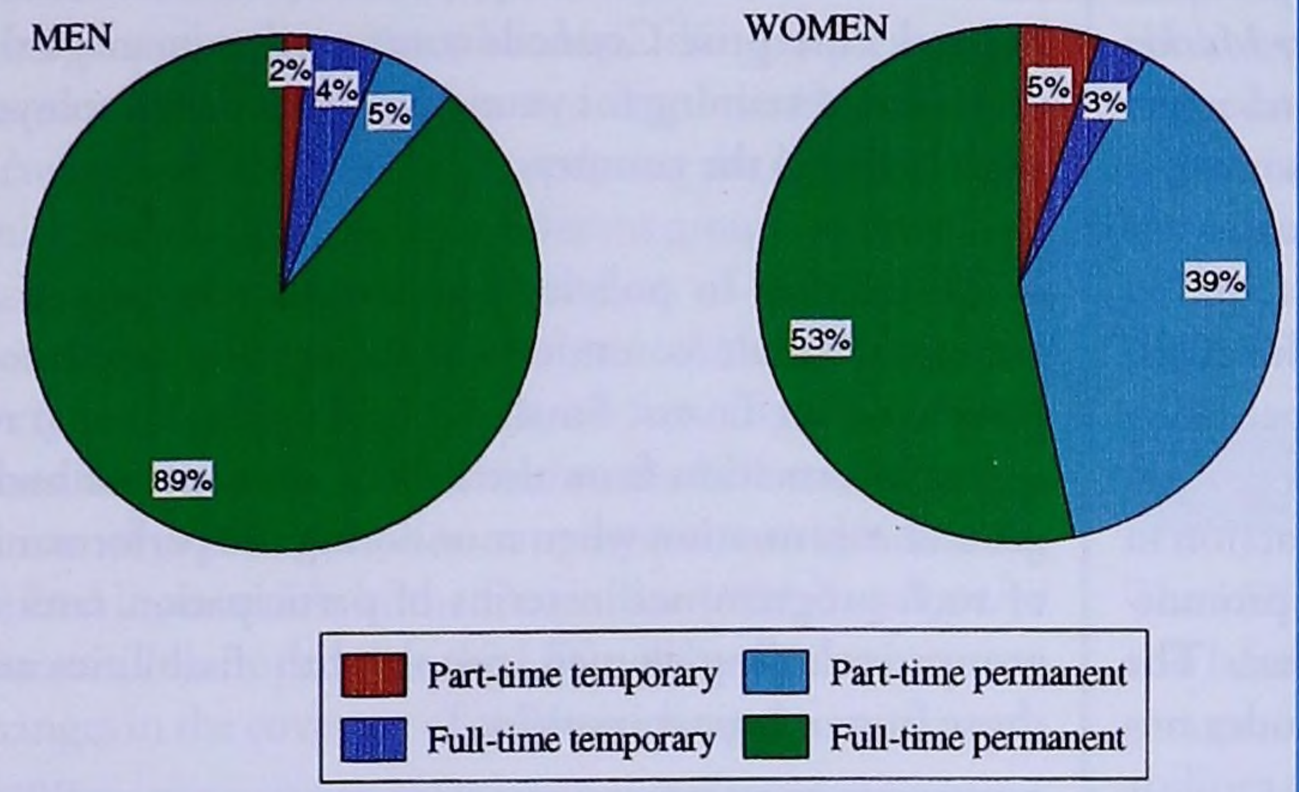
The survey collects information on usual and actual working hours, including separate figures for overtime,

Changes between autumn 1994 and winter 1994/95 ***(seasonally adjusted)***



The LFS is useful as an alternative source of information, relying on a different collection method, with which to compare the trends shown by the claimant count of unemployment and the surveys of employers about employees. Each source has its own strengths and weaknesses[1]. In particular, the articulated nature of the LFS means that it can provide important information to

Main employment of men and women employees by type
(Great Briain, winter 1994/5, not seasonally adjusted)



The characteristics of the unemployed

The information about the characteristics of unemployed people which is available from the LFS, such as marital status and qualifications, complements the information collected about benefit claimants. The LFS is able to identify groups of interest such as disabled people and lone parents who may face particular problems in getting work, and people from ethnic minorities. It also provides information about the duration of unemployment, and the occupations and industries where the unemployed previously worked .

used to show, for example, that this country has the most varied pattern of working hours in Europe. Questions are also asked about evening, Saturday and Sunday work. A research feature in the July 1994 *Employment Gazette* explored the data available from the LFS on flexible working practices such as job-sharing, flexible working hours and shiftwork.

Another aspect of the flexibility of the labour market is labour mobility and the LFS helps to monitor this by means of questions asking people about the job they were doing one year earlier, and whether they moved to find work. The survey also asks how long employees have been working with their current employer, and if they have left a job recently, people are asked the reason why. It is also possible to identify people who have returned to the labour market since the previous year, such as women returning to work after a break to bring up a family.

Regional statistics

Regional data have always been available from the LFS and now a limited number of key variables on employment and training are provided for local authority districts and Training and Enterprise Council (TEC) areas. This helps TECs and the Government Offices for the regions to assess local labour markets to inform their planning processes, and to advise local people and businesses. Although small area data are not the LFS's strong point, the estimates which are available go some way towards meeting the need for information about areas such as inner cities and rural areas, whose special needs are considered on an interdepartmental basis.

The Employment Service(ES) uses information from the LFS to help devise and assess services to help unemployed people, particularly those who are "signing on" to claim unemployment benefit, back to work. They are interested in the reasons why people do or do not seek work, and the methods they use, both to judge the effectiveness of ES methods and to encourage active and effective job search. The LFS is the main source for monitoring redundancies. An annual article in *Employment Gazette*[2] describes the characteristics of redundant workers and this information also helps ES to improve their understanding of this group and the influences on their chances of returning to work.

The LFS mainly uses the internationally standard ILO definition of unemployment[3]. Respondents are also asked whether they were claiming unemployment related benefits. The LFS is helping to inform Government about the number of people who are likely to be affected by the changes from Invalidity Benefit and Sickness Benefit to Incapacity Benefit (introduced in April 1995) and from Unemployment Benefit to the Jobseeker's Allowance (in 1996). It will help to monitor the effects of the introduction of Incapacity Benefit and JSA both on the claimant count of unemployment and on the ILO measure from the LFS.

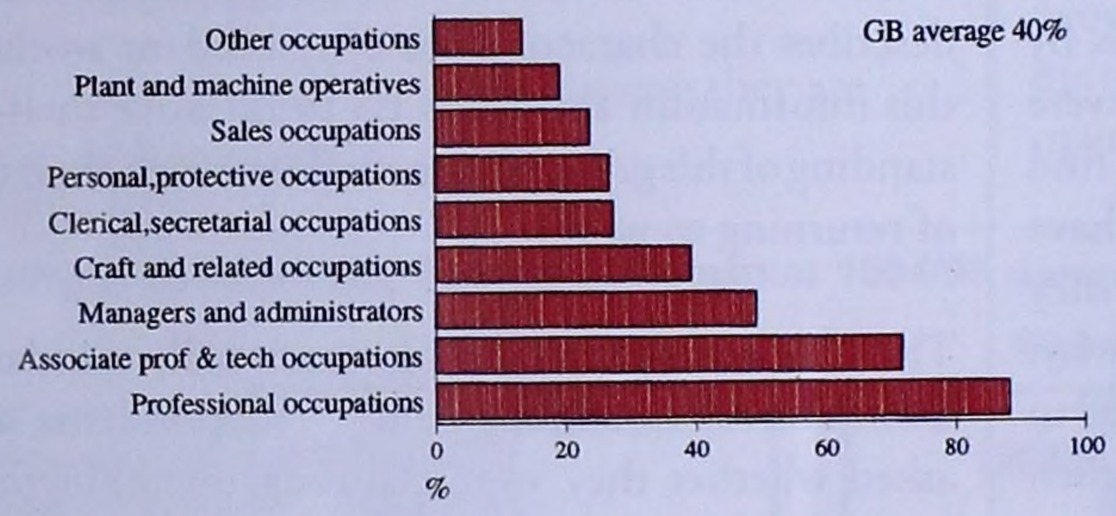
Training and qualifications

The former Employment Department's Skills and Enterprise Network publications, including *Labour Market Quarterly Review* and *Labour Market Skills Trends* make extensive use of the LFS. The survey is a key source of information about the amount, type and quality of training done (particularly job related training), required to inform policy on training. Information on the qualifications and employment status achieved by people in different categories - women and ethnic minority groups, in particular - helps to inform policy on further action in the area of training which may be beneficial in promoting equality of opportunity in the labour market. The annual publication *Training Statistics* also includes numerous tables derived from the LFS.

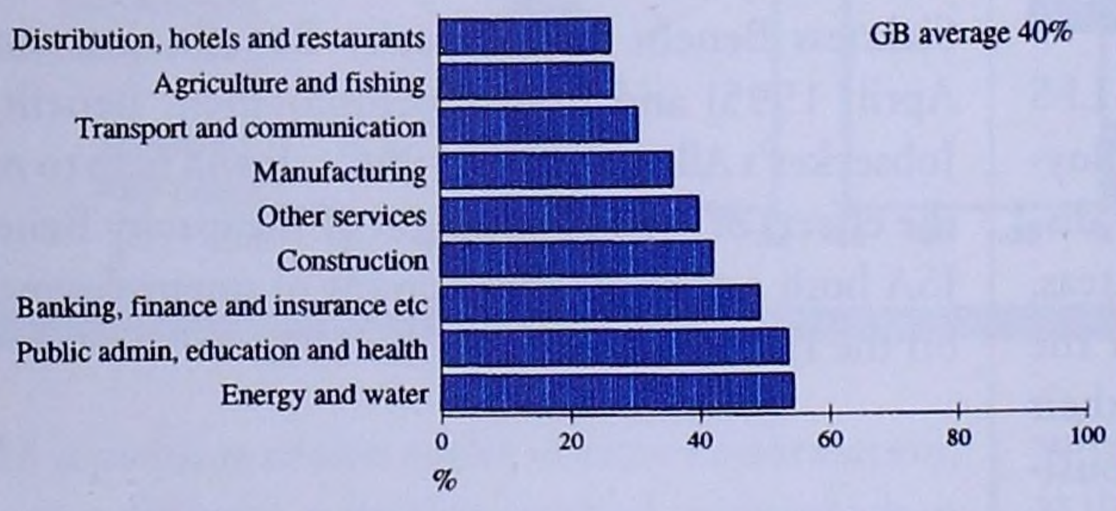
The National Advisory Council for Education and Training Targets (NACETT) monitors and reports on progress towards the National Targets. It uses the Labour Force Survey as a major source of information on progress towards Foundation Targets 1 and 3 and Lifetime Targets 1 and 2. Such information also forms part of a range of indicators used to assess the effectiveness of the Training and Enterprise Councils contracted to manage the provision of training for young people and unemployed adults around the country.

Work relating to policies and programmes aimed at increasing adult commitment to learning (eg career Development Loans, Small Firms Training Loans) requires information from the LFS as comparative background information when monitoring the performance of such programmes in terms of participation rates of groups including women, people with disabilities and those from ethnic minorities.

Proportion of the employed workforce achieving at least NVQ level 3 or equivalent by occupation and industry
(Great Britain, autumn 1994, not seasonally adjusted)



Occupations are coded according to the Standard Occupational Classification



Industries are coded according to the 1992 Standard Industrial Classification

Lifetime Learning Target 1
"By 2000, 60% of the workforce qualified to at least NVQ 3 (or equivalent)"

The youth labour market

The LFS is an important source of information about the youth labour market. In particular, it provides up-to-date, quarterly, information about whether young people are in education, which can be combined with information about their economic activity to reflect the multiple activities that they are often engaged in. The LFS is also the primary source of statistics on apprenticeships.

Working conditions

The LFS helps to monitor the coverage of the provisions of the employment protection legislation and to assess the number of people who might be affected by proposed changes. The survey provides estimates of the numbers of employees who qualify for the right to go to an Industrial Tribunal if they feel they have been dismissed unfairly ie having completed two years' service. This helps to forecast the number of cases likely to come to the Industrial Tribunals. The LFS also provides information on the number of people in small workplaces, where legislation may create a different burden. The LFS also is the only regular source of information on the holiday entitlements of full- and part-time employees which is of interest in relation to the proposed EU directive on working time.

Trade union membership

The LFS is an important source of information about the level of trade union membership, filling gaps in other sources. The demographic and employment data collected by the LFS is useful in analysing the extent of trade union membership among different groups in the population (eg ethnic minorities), sectors of industry, small workplaces, the public sector etc. An article appears every year in *Employment Gazette*[2] on this topic. Questions have recently been added to the LFS on the recognition of trade unions in employees' workplaces, described in an article in the December 1994 *Employment Gazette*. It is hoped that the LFS will be able to measure changes in the coverage of collective bargaining arrangements.

Incomes

Since winter 1992/93, the LFS has included questions on employees' earnings and other household income. After careful evaluation, these data were released for public use in December 1994 and described in an article in *Employment Gazette*. There are other sources of earnings data, but the LFS data are already proving useful for groups such as temporary employees, part-timers and the low-paid, who are not necessarily covered by employers' records. The LFS will be useful in shedding light on relationships such as those between pay and qualifications or union membership. It is also planned to use the LFS to help provide data for the European Union survey on the Structure of Earnings.

Equal opportinities at work

The LFS is a key source of statistics on the characteristics and labour market status of people from different ethnic groups, women, people with health problems and disabilities and older workers. This information is used in monitoring and promoting equal opportunities regardless of race, sex, disability or age, both in the workplace and in other fields covered by government.

The information available from the LFS assists in taking into account relevant factors, such as levels of qualification and age, when considering the position of particular

MANAGERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TARGET GROUPS

(Great Britain, winter 1994/5, not seasonally adjusted)

	Managerial responsibilities (per cent)			Base:
	Managers	Foremen or supervisor	Not foremen or supervisor	All employees of working age (thousands)
Male	23	13	64	11,103
Female	14	12	74	9,911
Limited by a long-term health problem or disability [a]				
No	13	13	73	100
Yes	15	12	73	977
White	19	12	68	20,083
Black	14	17	69	274
Indian	13	11	76	337
Pakistani-Bangladeshi	11	14	75	107
Mixed-Other origins	17	13	70	209
All employees [b]	19	12	69	21,014

[a] Health problem/disability is expected to last for one year or more, according to responses to the LFS, not usual definitions

[b] includes those who did not state whether they had a health problem, or their ethnic origin

groups in the labour force, and possible reasons for differences in employment and unemployment levels between them. For example, LFS results contribute to the monitoring of the industrial and occupational segregation of ethnic minority people and women, and their progress in achieving managerial positions. The survey also provides information about the types of work done by people with health problems and disabilities, and the types of work previously done by those who have given up employment.

The Equal Opportunities Commission make great use of the LFS, including many items based on the survey, in their factsheet "Some facts about women" and often in their annual publication *Women and Men in Britain*. Information from the LFS about the employment of women has also been used in government sponsored promotional events such as "New Horizons for Women" which took place in various regions during 1993 and 1994.

Households and families

The LFS records information about all members of a household so it is possible to look at family and household characteristics. Information about women with dependent children, including lone mothers, is available from the LFS and is used to monitor their participation in the labour market, and to help assess the support needed by working mothers, through childcare provision and other policies. This information was helpful to the Employment Select Committee during 1994-1995 when it looked at provisions for working mothers. There is also interest in questions such as whether unemployed people tend to have unemployed partners and whether people on low earnings are often in low income households. Rather more work on employment and earnings at the household or family level has probably been done by academic researchers, using the LFS over a 10 year period, for example[4]. The new data which has recently become available from the LFS on incomes should contribute further to the debate on low income households and the concept of a minimum wage.

Work-related accidents and illness

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) requires a benchmark against which to interpret the information on workplace accidents reported by employers, which is known to be incomplete. They are interested to know both the level and trends in workplace accidents and the variation in risks between the main sectors of industry. The LFS results were a major input to a recent review of the reporting regulations and will be used to judge whether or not the revised regulations are working. Data are used to inform the allocation of inspectors based on the level of risks at a detailed industry level, and the Annual Report to the Health and Safety Commission regularly features data from the LFS.

A supplement to the 1990 LFS provided much more detail on accidents at work and work related illness, including (for the first time) information on the numbers of working days lost . This contributed to a major HSE study of the costs (to individuals, to employers and to the economy) of workplace accidents and work related ill health. The exercise is being repeated in 1995.

Links with International Organisations

The LFS is an European Union survey, conducted every spring in all EU counties. The UK LFS includes all the questions required by the EU and the data are sent to Eurostat (the Statistical Office of the European Communities) every year. The ILO recommended definitions of employment and unemployment which are used in the LFS are also used in similar surveys in other major nations of the world such as the USA, Canada and Australia. LFS data are also widely used by organisations such as the Council of Europe, the United Nations, ILO and OECD for international comparisons.

LFS data are used to work out the cost to the UK of various proposed EU directives relating to employment conditions. Information about foreign nationals living and working in the UK and about corporate transfers required by the European Union to monitor the freedom of movement of workers within the EU is obtained through the LFS,. The LFS also asks about people who have worked, or applied for a job abroad in the last five years.

LFS data are regularly used in reports to the United Nations and related organisations on the position of women and on racial discrimination. A major contribution in 1994 was to the UK National Report for the Fourth UN World Conference on Women held in Beijing in September 1995.

Other Government Departments and Agencies

The LFS is also used by many government departments for purposes not directly related to the labour market. Some Departments sponsor a limited number of questions in the survey. For example, the Department of Social Security asks questions about absences from work due to sickness, the results of which are also of interest to employers. Questions on place of work, mode of travel and time taken to travel to work are asked on behalf of the Department of Transport to supplement those collected in the decennial population census. Those on housing tenure are requested by the Department of the Environment for use in housing policy formulation and monitoring. The Home Office makes significant use of the questions on ethnicity and country of birth asked in the LFS to support policy on race and immigration issues.

Other Departments who do not sponsor questions in the LFS, use data collected in the survey primarily for different purposes. The LFS is the only statistical source of information between decennial population censuses which gives estimates of the size of the different ethnic minority populations in Great Britain and this information is used by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS). OPCS also uses the LFS to obtain estimates of the numbers, and characteristics, of households and families, and especially of one-parent families. The Home Office uses estimates from the LFS as a benchmark against which to monitor different ethnic groups in the criminal justice system. The Department for Education uses the LFS for assessing the educational participation and qualifications of the population as a whole. The Office of Science and Technology has found that the LFS can provide valuable information about the employment of trained scientists and the Office of Manpower Economics has made use of LFS data in considering pay awards for teachers and other public sector employees. HM Treasury is interested in the potential of the LFS to provide information of labour inputs (as hours worked) for calculations of industrial productivity. The "six wise men" who advise the Treasury on the economy, and the Bank of England, also regularly use information from the LFS. Various other departments such as Inland Revenue, Welsh Office and Scottish Office also use the LFS from time to time.

Dissemination to the wider public

As this article has shown, the LFS is widely used by Government Departments for analysis of the labour market and to develop government policies in this field. The Government Statistical Service is also committed to providing statistical information as a basis for informing the wider public debate. LFS results are made publicly available to provide the basis for research, analysis and debate about the labour market, *in the following ways:*

- Labour Force Survey Rapid Release
  Labour Force Survey Quarterly Bulletin

- LFS databases at *Quantime Ltd* computer bureau providing a tabulation service, dial-up access facilities and copies of the databases for use on purchasers' computers;

- LFS data for TEC/lec areas, counties and local authority districts available on *NOMIS* (National Online Manpower Information System);

- databases at *ESRC Data Archive* at Essex University, for academic research;

- tables, feature articles and the LFS Help-Line feature in *Labour Market Trends (incorporating Employment Gazette)*

- the Department for Education and Employment's *Labour Market Quarterly Review* includes data from the LFS on developments in the labour market and on training and education;

- LFS estimates are included in *Economic Trends, Social Trends, Regional Trends, Social Focus, and Regional Profile* publications produced regularly by the Central Statistical Office.

The LFS is widely used by local authorities, the CBI and other employer organisations, the TUC and individual trade unions, by labour market analysts in the City, economics correspondents in the broadsheet newspapers, and researchers in a wide variety of other organisations ranging from the Unemployment Unit to the Institute for Employment Studies, from major retailers

to solicitors. The House of Commons Library has access to the LFS through NOMIS and the Quantime Bureau.

This article has described many, but not all, of the enormous range of uses to which Labour Force Survey results are put.

If you would like more information about the Labour Force Survey or how to access it, *please telephone the:*

LFS Helpline on 0171 273 5585

[1] Articles in *Employment Gazette* in October 1993 have compared and contrasted the complementary sources: "Estimating employment: a comparison of household and employer-based surveys", and "Measures of unemployment: the claimant count and the LFS compared". Further articles updating these comparisons are due to be published in "Labour Market Trends" in the coming months.

[2] From November 1995 the Employment Gazette has been renamed "Labour Market Trends".

[3] Without a job, available to start work in the next fortnight and had actively looked for work in the last four weeks or had found a job and were waiting to start.

[4] For example, Harrop and Moss, "Working parents: trends in the 1980's" , *Employment Gazette*, October 1994.

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN EMPLOYMENT GAZETTE DURING 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994 AND 1995 CONTAIN DATA FROM THE LFS:

Ethnic origins and the labour market ..... February 1991:
The 1980s - a decade of growth in enterprise: self-employment data from the LFS ..... March 1991:
1990 Labour Force Survey preliminary results ..... April 1991:
Revised employment estimates for September 1987 to September 1990 ..... April 1991:
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Revisions to the Quarterly LFS: reweighting and seasonal adjustment review ..... May 1995:
Ethnic groups and the labour market ..... June 1995

Small and medium size enterprises - How many and how important?

Ian Dale is an Assistant Statistician who has just completed a year's work at the DTI in a post funded by Eurostat.

Introduction

Interest in small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) is higher than ever. How important are they? With support from Eurostat, the DTI has produced new estimates of the UK business population. These "SME statistics" reveal the number of small, medium and large enterprises, and their share of employment and turnover, industry by industry in all sectors except public administration.

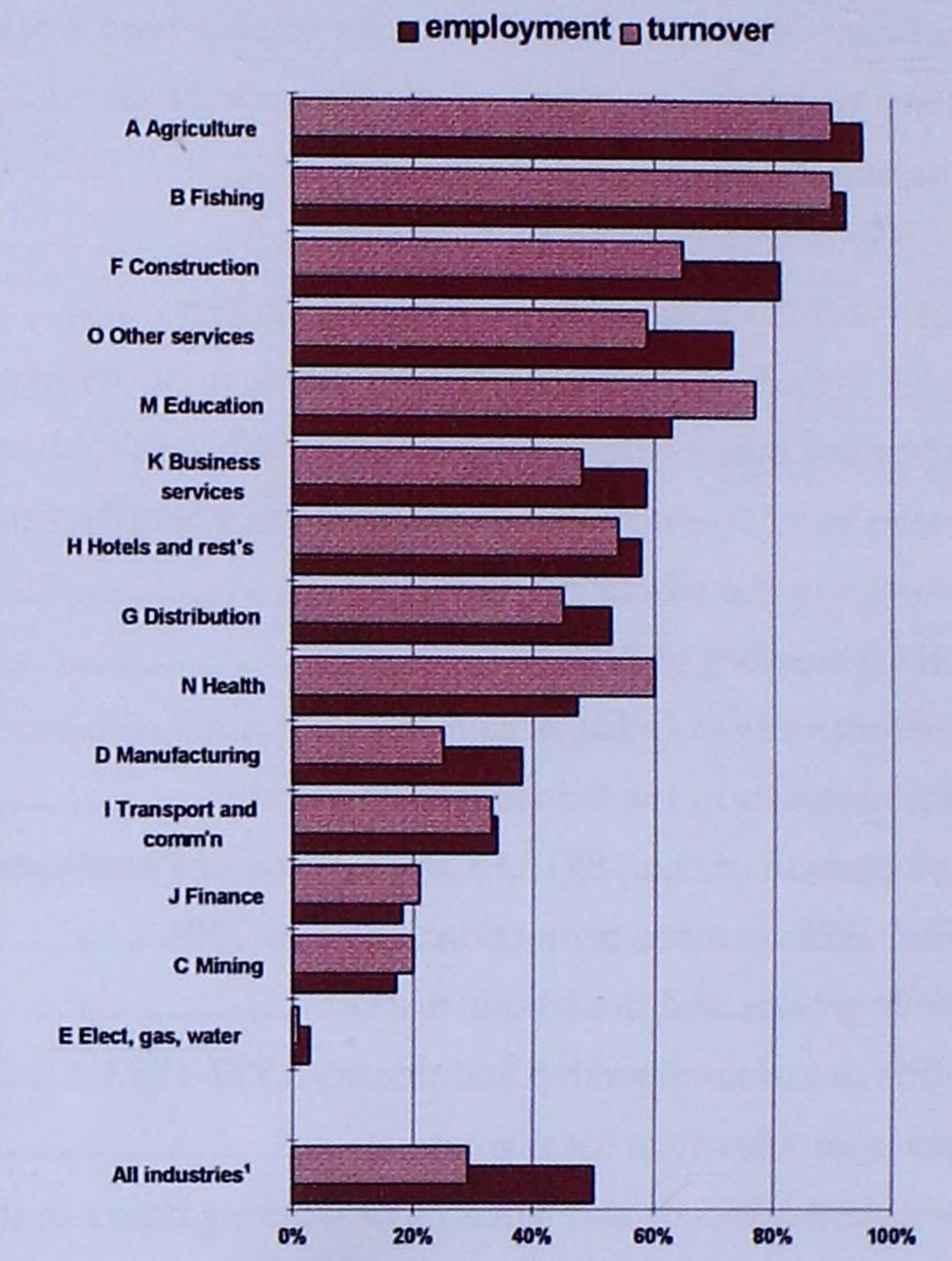
The estimates make full use of the new Inter-Departmental Business Register, the IDBR. They also take account of the many small businesses which the register, and official inquiries, normally miss. This article describes the method, the estimates, and how they differ from earlier published work.

Main results

A full set of SME statistics for end-1993 was recently published. *The main findings were:*

- there were 3.6 million enterprises in the UK at end-1993
- most enterprises are small - at end-1993 only 17,000 had a hundred or more employees
- almost half are so small they do not appear on the IDBR
- small enterprises are the source of half non-government employment and nearly a third of turnover (40% if financial services are excluded)
- large enterprises continue to dominate in certain industries

Share of employment and turnover in enterprises with under 100 employees, UK, end-1993



Source: DTI Statistical Bulletin, June 1995

¹excludes L,P,Q

Small, medium or large?

The easiest to explain and most commonly used measure of an enterprise's size is the number of people it employs. The SME statistics are broken down into ten size categories from "size class zero" (no employees, just proprietors) to enterprises with 500 or more employees. This approach allows users to set their own definitions of small, medium and large. A common approach, and one adopted by Eurostat, is: small - under 100 employees; medium - 100-499 employees; large - 500+ employees.

The background to the SME statistics

The DTI needs to regularly assess the economic importance of small and medium sized businesses in order to develop the right policies. Small businesses featured strongly in the recent Competitiveness White Papers. The statistics are also used to assess the impact of legislation. The anti-discrimination measures contained within the Disability Discrimination Bill, for example, apply only to businesses with twenty or more employees.

Eurostat also make efforts to compile SME statistics from Member States as the European Union provides substantial assistance to SMEs. To assist the DTI in the production of UK SME statistics, Eurostat recently funded a one year statistical post,with the aims of analysing the IDBR, producing a first set of results, and paving the way for the straightforward production of SME statistics in future years.

Method

The economic importance of small and medium sized enterprises can be quantified in many ways. Three well established ones were chosen: their number, share of employment, and, as a proxy for output, share of turnover.

No single source is able to estimate the total number of enterprises in the UK. The official register of businesses, the IDBR, held records of 1.9 million businesses (at August 1995) which account for over 98 percent of recorded output. The IDBR coverage is known to be incomplete among the very smallest businesses. Therefore the SME statistics include an estimate of the number of unregistered enterprises, their employment and turnover.

The Inter-Departmental Business Register

The IDBR is a new register administered by the Central Statistical Office (CSO). Its main role is as a sampling frame for official inquiries. It holds records of all businesses registered for VAT and all businesses operating a PAYE scheme. Careful monitoring of the Register minimises double counting. The IDBR records each business' employment, turnover and industrial classification. The administrative units, derived from VAT and PAYE information, are linked to three types of statistical units (defined by European Union Regulation) which are used in the collection of data for statistical purposes. The statistical unit used in this exercise is the enterprise.

Employment is taken from the Census of Employment or, if the business has been sampled more recently, from a CSO inquiry. Failing that it is estimated from PAYE returns. The Annual Employment Survey (AES), which replaces the Census, draws its sample of businesses from the IDBR. Employees with two jobs may be counted twice on the IDBR.

Turnover also comes from a CSO inquiry, or direct from VAT returns. For the small number of records for which there is no source of employment, it is imputed from turnover (and vice versa). As employment and turnover data come from a mixture of sources CSO also send a data proving form to businesses with over ten employees to confirm this information.

The SME statistics are intended to be a snapshot at the end of each calendar year. A count of IDBR enterprises that were "live" at end-year is achieved by referring to each enterprise's recorded start date and, where appropriate, its closure date. The reporting of these dates is subject to a number of lags. For example when a business closes there may be a delay before Customs & Excise, who collect VAT, are informed. Closure of the VAT record may then be delayed until all liabilities are settled. These lags introduce a delay of about a year into the production of estimates of births and deaths but estimates of the number of enterprises can be produced with reasonable accuracy.

Official Inquiries

Some of the limitations of the IDBR as a source of SME statistics can be overcome by supplementing it with the results of statistical inquiries. Nearly all CSO inquiries, including those from the former Employment Department, now use the IDBR to select their sample. Any inquiries that are able to produce size class estimates are potentially of benefit in improving the SME statistics. Firstly, the IDBR results may be validated. Secondly, inquiries tend to collect more economic data than simply turnover - for example Gross Value Added, which is a better measure of enterprises' share of GDP. Since coverage is the same inquiry results and the IDBR estimates can be linked. Thirdly, the SME statistics will represent part of a consistent set of enterprise statistics.

These developments will take time to progress. The IDBR has only become available for analysis this year. Currently only the Annual Census of Production (ACOP) is able to produce size class estimates as service inquiries do not collect employment. The 1994 ACOP is the first to be sampled from the IDBR, enabling its results and the IDBR to be linked.

Unregistered enterprises

Many small enterprises are not covered by the IDBR. Excluded are those that are neither registered for VAT nor operating a PAYE scheme. The threshold for compulsory VAT registration is an annual turnover of £46,000 (as at November 1994). Below that some businesses register voluntarily - for example if they expect to go over the threshold. On the other hand businesses with a turnover above the threshold are not required to register if they trade exclusively in exempt goods. If a business has no employees or only low paid (perhaps part-time) employees then it is unlikely to operate a PAYE scheme.

There are three main types of enterprise: sole proprietorships (run by one self-employed person), partnerships (run by two or more) and companies (in which the directors are employees). Nearly all unregistered enterprises are made up of the first two. Most companies

not on the IDBR are likely to be inactive and therefore not of interest within the scope of the SME statistics.

The assumption that unregistered enterprises are run by the self-employed provides a means for estimating their number. An estimate of self-employment is available from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) - about 3.6 million at end-1993. This is made up of 3.3 million people describing themselves as self-employed in their main job, and 0.3 million (in some cases the same people) who had a second job with self-employed status.

However simply adding the self-employment estimate and the IDBR count would lead to over-counting. Firstly, not every self-employed person runs an enterprise by his or her self - some are in partnership. Secondly, some of them run IDBR registered enterprises. The LFS does not record whether the self-employed are in partnership, orwhether their enterprises are VAT or PAYE registered, so some calculation is necessary.

The first step is to estimate how many self-employed people run IDBR registered enterprises. For the smallest enterprises this is not collected directly, but assumed to be one per sole proprietorship, and two per partnership. At end-1993 there were 1.7 million enterprises with about 1.5 million proprietors of IDBR enterprises (see Figure 2).

IDBR AND NON-IDBR ENTERPRISES AND SELF-EMPLOYMENT END-1993

Uk millions

	On the IDBR		Not on the IDBR	
	enterprises	self-employed	enterprises	self-employed
Sole proprietorships	0.7	0.7	1.6	1.6
Partnerships	0.4	0.8	0.3	0.5
Companies	0.6	-	-	-
All	**1.7**	**1.5**	**1.9**	**2.1**

Source: DTI Statistical Bulletin, June 1995 *- nil or negligible*

The second step is to estimate how many enterprises are run by the remaining 2.1 million self-employed. The Inland Revenue's Survey of Personal Incomes (SPI) is a further source of self-employment data. It estimates that the proportion of self-employed people who are in partnership, rather than acting alone, is about a third. Conversion of the remaining self-employed into 1.6 million sole proprietorships and 0.3 million partnerships is consistent with the SPI's findings. Therefore away from the IDBR sole proprietorships appear to be much more prevalent than partnerships, as might be expected.

Unregistered enterprises' economic contribution

This is even more difficult to estimate. These enterprises are clearly very small. They are assumed to be in the smallest size class within the SME statistics which is for enterprises with no employees. Some may generate employment, but it is probably transitory or low paid, or a PAYE scheme would be in operation.

Turnover has been imputed from the turnover per head of small enterprises on the IDBR; and scaled down on the assumption that the unregistered enterprises are on average only about half as productive as IDBR registered enterprises. The resulting addition to total turnover at end-1993 was estimated to be about £43 billion - only 1 per cent of the overall figure.

Earlier work

SME statistics were previously published for the years 1979, 1983, 1986 and 1988-91. They are not comparable with the new SME statistics. The earlier work was not able to draw on the IDBR, and the method for estimating the number of unregistered enterprises has changed.

Work on the IDBR was started in 1993. Prior to that SME statistics were based on the VAT Register, which did not achieve as wide a coverage as the IDBR. In addition to many small enterprises below the VAT threshold, it excluded enterprises trading in goods exempt from VAT. This particularly affected the financial, insurance, education and health sectors. These enterprises do appear on the IDBR if they operate a PAYE scheme.

The method for estimating the number of unregistered enterprises has also been changed. *The key differences are:*

- The previous method excluded self-employment from second jobs. However it is clear that some self-employed people run more than one business, and that someemployees run businesses in their spare time.

- Previously the number of self-employed people running VAT registered enterprises had to be estimated. Evidence from the IDBR suggests that it was overestimated, thereby reducing the number of unregistered enterprises.

- It was previously assumed that partnerships were just as common among unregistered enterprises as among small registered enterprises. SPI evidence now suggests that sole proprietorships are more common.

To illustrate the effect of the changes, the number of enterprises at end-1993 was previously estimated at

about 2.81 million. The extra coverage provided by the IDBR added 90,000 enterprises. The addition of self-employment from second jobs added 230,000 enterprises. The other changes, including the assumption that most unregistered enterprises are sole proprietorships, added a further 450,000.

Estimates of the number of enterprises from 1979 have been revised upwards in line with the changes. The absence of IDBR data for previous years has made it impossible to produce a revised size breakdown. However as the vast majority of enterprises are small, the overall numbers are a good guide to the trend in the number of small enterprises.

A further advantage of the IDBR is that it records the employment of each enterprise. The VAT Register recorded each business' turnover, but not its employment. Therefore the size distribution of businesses, and the employment within each size class, had to be imputed from turnover. This approach, though the only one available at the time, was clearly open to error.

Evaluation

As the IDBR records the number of employees for each enterprise, production of reliable SME statistics has become a more straightforward task. The unregistered sector remains the largest source of error. Slight changes in the methodology have the effect of "creating" thousands of extra enterprises. In addition, the self-employment figures from the LFS are subject to sampling error. The overall estimate of 3.6 million self-employed people has an estimated 95% Confidence Interval of plus or minus 70,000. Furthermore the rapid turnover, that is high start and failure rates, of very small enterprises makes their capture within official statistics difficult. Yet although the unregistered enterprises add little to the economic contribution of SMEs as measured by, say, turnover, their sheer number makes them important to the overall analysis and not adding them in would leave the SME statistics flawed.

Attempts have been made to minimise error by looking for other sources to validate the results; by making all calculations on an industry by industry basis; and by trying to achieve consistency between the sources used. An example of inconsistency is the measurement of self-employment. The LFS estimate includes any individual who did any work (even one hour), or had work they were temporarily away from, in the week before interview. The IDBR and ACOP record the number of working proprietors or partners in the enterprise. The Inland Revenue counts the number ofsources of self-employment income people have.

Error lies mainly in the smallest size class. The IDBR is thought to achieve close to complete coverage among enterprises with at least one employee. Given this, the suggested guidelines for users are that estimates in 1+ employee size classes are suitable for detailed analysis, and that estimates within the smallest size class (and hence the total number of enterprises) should be treated as a broad indicator of the level of business activity.

Further work

A further advantage of building the SME statistics around the IDBR is its use for longitudinal analysis. Each year the CSO will update employment and turnover on the IDBR but retain previous years' data as part of each record. This means that the growth of individual enterprises may be tracked from year to year. So in future years it will be possible to monitor survival rates and job creation by size of enterprise - the results of which will be consistent with the main SME statistics.

Access to the results

The estimates appear in the DTI Statistical Bulletin "SME Statistics for the United Kingdom 1993".

If you would like a copy, please contact the:

DTI Small Firms Statistics Unit,
Level 2 St Mary's House,
c/o Moorfoot,
Sheffield S1 4PQ.
Tel 0114 259 7538,
Fax 0114 259 7505.

What is a business?

There is no single definition of a business, or of a firm, terms which are often used interchangeably. Generally it means a person or group of people producing goods or services under their own control and with their own legal identity. A branch or office of a larger organisation is not in itself a business. A business may be incorporated, that is a company in the legal sense, or may be run and owned by a self-employed person either on his/her own known or in partnership.

The enterprise is defined by European Union Regulation. It is the smallest group of legal units within an enterprise group with a certain degree of autonomy, especially for the allocation of current resources.

Estimates of the business population are normally restricted to the "market sector". This excludes the Government, charities and other non-profit organisations. It includes all private sector businesses, even if they sell their products exclusively to the Government; and public corporations, which in many ways behave like large businesses in their own right.

There is no lower limit for inclusion in the SME statistics. Even a small amount of business activity counts. It would be difficult to set a minimum level of activity - not enough is known about the enterprises outside the register. A simple alternative is to count only those enterprises with at least one employee. The statistics allow for this by including a "size class zero" - enterprises with no employees. The "black economy" is included to the extent that the Labour Force Survey detects it through individuals' responses.

Many size class zero enterprises are "labour only subcontractors" - self-employed people trading in their own skills or professional knowledge. They might work for just one customer. Many are genuine entrepreneurs or at least think of themselves as separate from the organisation they sell their skills to. Others probably do not - for example people whose employers have simply shifted their job from employee to self-employed status, or employees doing short-term consultancy work.

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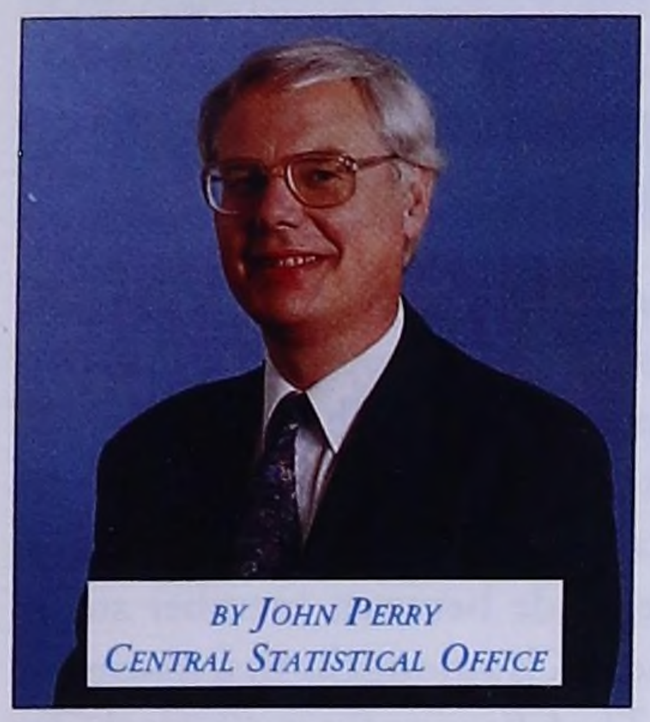


BY JOHN PERRY
CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE

In 1992, the Central Statistical Office (CSO) and Employment Department agreed to create a central register of businesses for their statistical inquiries (1). The main work on developing this Inter-Departmental Business Register (the IDBR) took place from 1993 until April 1995.

The IDBR is expected to make a major contribution to the drive for better economic statistics. The statistical inquiries from the separate business registers held by the Employment Department and the CSO had generated inconsistent estimates of employment for the manufacturing industries. The existence of alternative estimates was itself a cause of concern but they have also affected the quality of productivity and unit wage cost statistics and the consistency of Gross Domestic Product estimates.

Although primarily for the statistical work of the CSO (incorporating since July 1995 most statistical work of the former Employment Department), the IDBR is used more widely. It forms the basis of statistical inquiries within the Northern Ireland Department of Economic Development (NIDED) and of construction inquiries within the Department of the Environment (DoE). The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Welsh Office and Industry Department for Scotland use the system and work is done for other government departments. The IDBR is expected to offer the opportunity to reduce respondent load through better coordination of surveys and by more direct use of administrative data. In designing the IDBR, it has also been necessary to consider the data requirements of the European Union.

What is the IDBR?

The IDBR is essentially a list of names and addresses of businesses operating within the UK. It is used to select samples for statistical inquiries, to provide information to estimate population totals, to provide rapid analyses of businesses and to provide data for limited administrative purposes.

IDBR training (l-r) Janet Aplin, Andrew Taylor, Sue Evans, Simon Clement, Catherine Strong and Andrea Rodley (front)

The main sources of information for the IDBR are Value Added Tax (VAT) and Pay As You Earn employer schemes (PAYE). These administrative sources together cover all businesses with employees subject to income tax and smaller businesses other than those that are exempt from VAT registration. Exemptions from VAT registration include some health and education services and registration is voluntary for those below a turnover threshold (as at November 1994, £46,000 a year). Overall, the IDBR covers more than 98% of UK economic activity, excluding private households and extra-territorial bodies.

Statistical Units on the IDBR

Business structures are complex and are based on administrative procedures that are often not suitable for statistical inquiries. The VAT unit is there simply to facilitate the collection of tax and may not be able to provide information of the type required for statistical surveys.

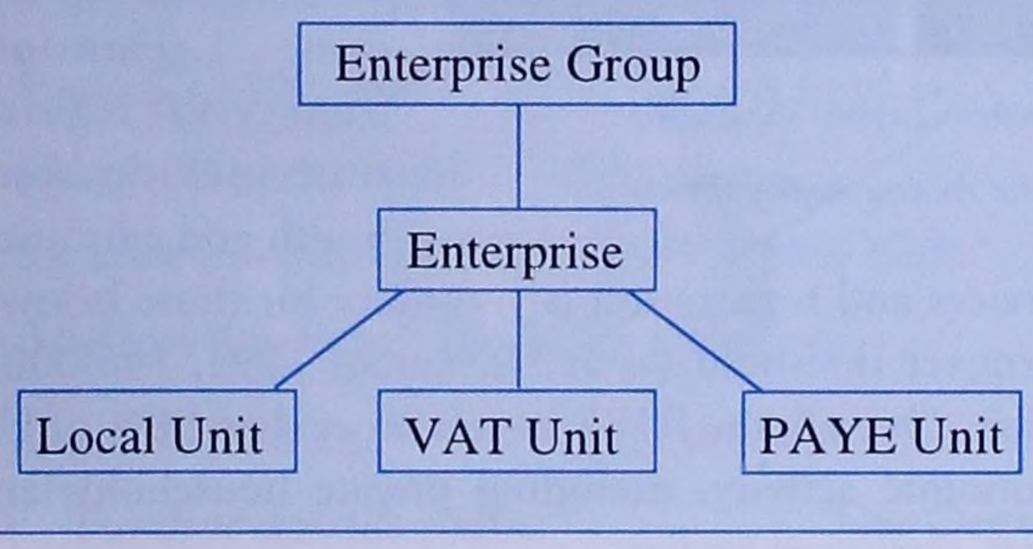
Also some employers maintain separate PAYE schemes for salaried and non-salaried workers, giving two administrative units for the same work-place. For these reasons the administrative data are mapped onto three types of statistical unit, which are defined by European Union Regulation (2):

- Enterprise group - the group of all legal units under common control
- Enterprise - the smallest group of legal units within an enterprise group with a relative degree of autonomy
- Local unit - the individual site or workplace (factory, shop etc) at which activity takes place

VAT registered traders are usually legal units (limited companies, sole proprietors, partnerships etc). In a few instances VAT registration is at the operating division within a company and special arrangements also exist for the payment of VAT for groups of companies. Nevertheless there is a direct relationship between VAT traders and legal units. PAYE employers may be parts of legal units.

The enterprise is in practice defined as a grouping of VAT and PAYE units. In some instances an enterprise may be based only on VAT or only on PAYE. The enterprise then operates one or more local units (figure 1).

Figure 1: Structure of the IDBR



The enterprise is usually the level at which data are collected for statistical purposes. It is the level at which decisions are made within an enterprise group and relates to a recognised consolidation of accounting information. In a few cases enterprises are sufficiently complex to warrant division into several parts for the purpose of reporting to statistical inquiries. The usual reason is that the enterprise has significant activity in more than one industry. It is possible, however, that it must be split into regional parts, usually to identify GB and Northern Ireland activity separately. The IDBR supports reporting units below the enterprise level defined by a list of local units operated by the enterprise.

Data held on the IDBR

The data held on the IDBR result both from UK statistical requirements and the European Union regulations on statistical units and on the harmonisation of business registers for statistical purposes (2,3). These regulations set down standards to enable comparisons of business activity to be made between member states. Through the IDBR, the UK is among the first to comply with the regulations. *The following list indicates the key data for each type of unit:-*

Administrative data

- Registration number
- Registration date
- Deregistration date (with reason for deregistration)
- Industrial classification
- Legal status (company, sole proprietor, partnerships etc)
- Company number (from Companies House)
- Name and address
- Turnover **VAT only** (at registration and updated annually)
- Annual value of intra-community imports and exports **VAT only**
- Employees **PAYE only** (main and subsidiary jobs, male and female, updated quarterly)

Enterprise group

- Group number (based on Dun and Bradstreet "Who owns Whom" publication or own IDBR sources)
- Country of ownership
- Enterprise number of group apex
- Net assets (top 2000 groups only)
- Turnover
- Employment
- Industrial classification

Local unit

- Local unit number (generated by the IDBR)
- Opening date
- Closure date
- Employees and employment
- Industrial classification
- Name and Address

Enterprise

- Enterprise number (generated by the IDBR)
- Start date
- Cessation date
- Turnover
- Employees and employment
- Industrial classification
- Legal status
- Links to VAT, PAYE and local unit data
- Name and Address

Reporting units

- Reporting unit number (generated by the IDBR)
- Date of creation on IDBR
- Date of closure on IDBR
- Turnover
- Employees and employment
- Industrial classification
- Legal status
- Mailing address
- Permanent random number (for sampling)
- Standard economic region
- Link to local units that define the reporting unit
- Link to inquiry selection history

Industrial Classification

All statistical units hold codes from the 1992 revision to the Standard Industrial Classification [SIC(1992)]. In addition the 1980 revision and the VAT trade classification based on the 1968 revision are both being held until the end of 1995. *The classification of reporting units can be determined in one of three ways*:

- from a detailed analysis of its products
- from a description of the business activity
- by imputation from classifications supplied from administrative sources (VAT and PAYE)

PAYE employers are classified consistently with the SIC(1992) although not always at the most detailed level. VAT trade classifications were aligned to the SIC (1992) in September 1995.

Size criteria

Three main indicators of size are held on the IDBR: annual turnover, employees and total employment. Turnover is generally updated annually from VAT. Employees can be estimated from PAYE, supplemented by the new annual employment survey which started in September 1995.

Using the IDBR as a sampling source

The IDBR provides a vehicle for standardising selections for sample surveys. It defines reporting units that are as far as possible common across all inquiries. It holds standard information for stratification by size, industry, geographical area and legal status. It also holds permanent random numbers to control the overlap between different inquiries and between periods for the same inquiry. By this the respondent load on small businesses can be minimised.

The IDBR records information relating to each selection, from which analyses of the form filling burden can be produced. It also holds the date of receipt of inquiry forms to ensure that no unnecessary reminders are sent to businesses, while those not responding can be followed up effectively.

The IDBR operates on a dedicated computer within the CSO at Newport. In case of failure a back-up machine, which normally runs only the CSO statistical inquiries, is brought into operation for the register. The machine is a Sequent with Unix operating system. The database management system is relational using INGRES. Most register processing operates directly on the database but extract files are produced for some analytical purposes. The files can be used by the main statistical and tabulation packages.

The register is accessed and updated on-line by staff on remote terminals, generally personal computers. The major data inputs run overnight. These comprise VAT, PAYE, CSO inquiry feedback, Companies House and Dun and Bradstreet files. The parallel processing capabilities of the system are operated to greatest effect for the overnight runs to select statistical samples.

Communications are through micro-computers linked within the Newport office of the CSO by local area networks. Wide area network links have been established for the other CSO offices and the main users in NIDED, DoE, DTI, Welsh Office and Industry Department for Scotland.

Development issues

The project took the expected three years to develop at a cost of £4.6 million (based on full recovery cost), slightly below the budget of £4.8 million, due to the lower than expected cost of hardware. This was a high risk project, mainly because it involved many departments, had a significant impact on other operations, required novel computer solutions and was developed during a period of major changes.

The cooperation of the departments involved was essential and this will continue with the creation of an inter-departmental management committee to oversee further developments. The major changes that have impacted on the system are the automatic processing systems for the 1993 census of employment and the concurrent implementation of the SIC (1992). There have also been significant changes in the range and methodology of statistical inquiries. All of this means that there is much work to be done to maintain and improve the quality of register data.

The IDBR as a tool for analysis

The previous CSO business register provided a source for the analysis of business structures and demography. Size analyses of UK businesses have been published annually since the early 1970s. The first of these from the IDBR related to the business register in 1994 (4, 5). The IDBR, with its more extensive information, in particular about employment and local units, will allow more complex analysis than previously.

The DTI has been publishing information annually since the mid 1980s on the demography of small firms, using the CSO business register. The IDBR will allow these analyses to extend from simple estimates of births and deaths of enterprises to examination of changes of size and industry (6). There is a particularly strong European Union interest in such analyses.

The CSO is planning to extend its publication of data relating to small areas. With its comprehensive coverage of local units, the IDBR can provide information down to local authority ward level. Using a postcode based geography it is possible to generate a wide range of areas including counties, travel to work areas and regions. Computer generated maps are among the tools for summarising data. Figure 2 shows, as an example, the location of VAT based wholesaling enterprises.

There are more than 1.9 million enterprises on the IDBR, of which 1.6 million are based on VAT. Most of these enterprises operate only one local unit but a few are more complex. The total employment (employees and working proprietors) of these enterprises is estimated at 24.8 million.

IDBR *(as at August 1995)*

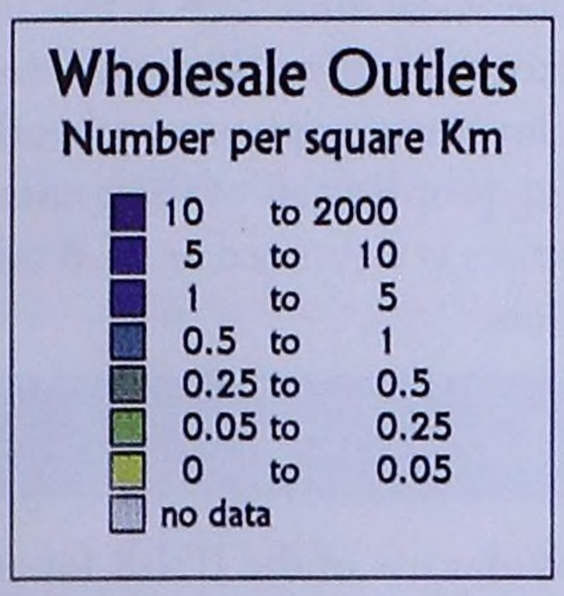
Enterprises	Number of Enterprises (000's)	Employment (%)
Based on VAT	1,600	81.5
Other	319	18.5
1 local unit	1,817	40.1
2 local units	69	8.0
3+ local units	33	51.9
A Agriculture	163	1.6
B Fishing	5	0.1
C Mining and quarrying	2	0.4
D Manufacturing	189	18.3
E Electricity, gas and water	1	1.0
F Construction	207	4.5
G Distribution	466	16.8
H Hotels and restaurants	127	5.3
I Transport and communication	81	5.7
J Financial intermediation	31	4.2
K Business services	387	11.6
L Public administration	6	6.4
M Education	13	10.9
N Health	63	9.5
O Other services	178	3.9
Total enterprises based on VAT or PAYE	**1,919**	**100.0**

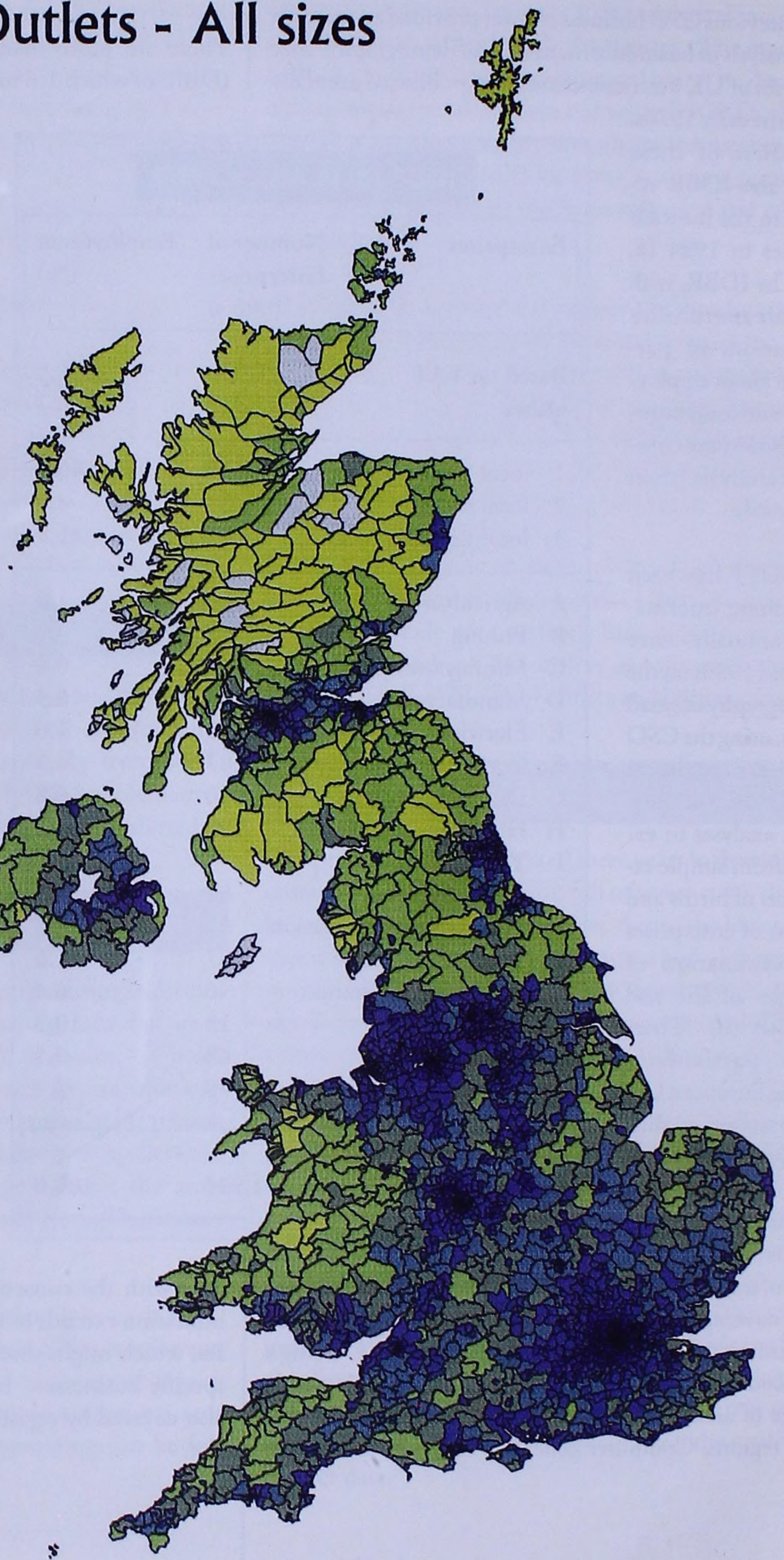
Legal issues

Wider use of the IDBR for administrative purposes and by users outside the central government departments is limited by the need to protect suppliers of data to the register. The transfer of administrative data is governed by the VAT Act 1994 and the Finance Act 1969. The statistical inquiries conducted by the CSO are generally statutory under the Statistics of Trade Act 1947 (with separate legislation for Northern Ireland). Together these allow for use of the register for statistical and some limited administrative purposes within government bodies. The Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994 extends the use to contractors to government departments but only for the specific purpose of the contract.

Lists of names and addresses of businesses are published but only with the consent of the business itself (7). This limitation extends to the publication of statistical analyses, which might disclose information indirectly about specific businesses. Information on some businesses is also covered by registration under the Data Protection Act.

Wholesale and Motor Trades
Location of Outlets - All sizes





IDBR data by postal sector
Produced by OGSS GIS
September '95

Future use of the IDBR

All of the inquiries that used the previous CSO business register are now operating from the IDBR. In addition the remaining CSO statistical inquiries are moving to the IDBR over the next two years. The DoE register for the construction industries is now linked into the IDBR. Development of the computer systems in the DoE will see a strengthening of this link. The IDBR holds information about agriculture but the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) maintains a separate register of farm holdings. With the IDBR now in place the CSO and MAFF are jointly looking at the feasibility of integration.

With the need to minimise compliance costs from statistical forms, the IDBR will be used to control rotation of samples and inhibit, where appropriate, the selection of small businesses. The IDBR also provides an extensive database for analysis of the formation and life-cycle of businesses. By applying common standards for defining statistical units, it will be possible to bring together data from statistical inquiries more easily, improving quality and widening the range of published data.

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4. Size analysis of United Kingdom Businesses - 1994 - PA1003 - HMSO.

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6. Small and Medium Size Enterprises - How Many and How Important? Statistical News Autumn 1995.

7. UK Directory of Manufacturing Businesses - 1993 - PO1007 - HMSO.

The Central Statistical Office's Distribution Of Income estimates

BY ELOISE CRITCHLEY
CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE

The CSO, in conjunction with several other departments, has reviewed the range of income distribution statistics produced by the Government Statistical Service. This was prompted by the need to review the methodology of the CSO's distribution of income series (DOI), which was sometimes known as the Blue Book income series. The CSO has decided to discontinue this series. The CSO will concentrate on improving the estimates of the redistribution of income and on identifying more precisely the requirements for longitudinal income data. This article explains the background to the DOI estimates and the reasoning behind the decision not to extend this series.

Background

Estimates of the distribution of income by household, before and after tax, were published in the *Blue Book* for the calendar years 1949 to 1967. They were then discontinued because of the increasing amount of estimation involved in their compilation. When the subject of the distribution of income became a central policy issue, leading to the creation of the Royal Commission on the Distribution of Income and Wealth, the series was revived and revised beginning with the tax year 1972/73. Estimates based on the new methodology were made for 1968/69 to 1971/72 and were produced annually up to 1978/79. They were published in *Economic Trends*.

The Rayner Review of the Government Statistical Service proposed that the frequency of production of the estimates should be reduced to once every three years. Therefore, since 1978/79, estimates have been produced for 1981/82 and 1984/85. Due to pressure of other work, no later estimates have been produced.

There are other measures of income distribution produced by the Government Statistical Service (GSS). The Department of Social Security's Households Below Average Income series (HBAI) provides estimates of the distribution of the disposable income of those living in private households in the UK, and of changes in the distribution over time. It concentrates on the households at the lower end of the income distribution, but does contain figures on decile income growth and income shares for the whole population. The unit of analysis is the individual. Individuals are ranked according to the total disposable income of their household, adjusted to reflect the composition of the household. Household income is measured in two ways in the analysis: before housing costs have been deducted and after housing costs have been deducted. The series has been produced for the years 1979, 1981, 1987 and for the combined years 1988/1989, 1990/1991, 1991/1992 and 1992/1993. The Institute for Fiscal Studies has produced an income distribution series for 1961 to 1991 consistent with the HBAI methodology and covering the whole distribution.

The CSO's Redistribution of Income series (ROI) looks at how the distribution of household income is affected by government taxation and expenditure. It includes the effects of indirect taxes like VAT, as well as estimating the cash value of benefits in kind (for example, government spending on education). The unit of analysis is the household. Government revenue is allocated to those households that pay taxes and government expenditure is allocated to those households that benefit from it, wherever this is possible. This series has been produced annually since 1957, though it has aimed to present the most meaningful figures for a particular year rather than trends over time.

These two series (the HBAI and the ROI) are based mainly on data from the CSO's Family Expenditure Survey (FES). The FES is an annual sample survey of the income and expenditure of private households in the UK. The FES also has information about the characteristics of the household members, such as their education and occupation. People living in hotels, lodging houses and in institutions, such as nursing homes, are excluded.

As the FES is a sample survey, the figures are subject to sampling error and non-response bias. The HBAI results are grossed up to the whole household population of the UK and are adjusted to correct for non-response bias.

The ROI results are based on the responses of those households that cooperated in the FES and are not grossed up.

The DOI series dates back to 1949, longer than the ROI and the HBAI series. It is the only series that uses the national accounts household sector income estimates as control totals. The method employed in producing the estimates sought to combine the best features of the sources available at the time. Historically, the DOI estimates were considered the most complete and dependable measure of income distribution. However, recent changes in the taxation system have affected the underlying concepts of the series. The definition of a tax unit had to change in April 1990 following the introduction of independent taxation. All husbands and wives are now taxed as individuals and it is no longer possible to produce the estimates on the same basis. Therefore the methodology to construct the DOI estimates had to be reconsidered.

DOI methodology

From 1949 to 1984/85, total household income as defined in the national accounts was analysed on the basis of the income of tax units. A tax unit was defined as a married couple or a single person over school leaving age who was not at school. The main source of the data was the Inland Revenue's Survey of Personal Incomes (SPI). This was supplemented with information from other sources, mainly the FES. The SPI is a survey of tax returns. It is 10 times as large as the FES and does not suffer from non-response bias. Its coverage of people with low incomes is poor, as many of these do not complete a tax return, and it does not contain as wide a range of information as the FES.

Consultation

The CSO presented a paper on the DOI estimates to an ESRC sponsored seminar on income distribution, taxes and benefits at the London School of Economics on 1 March, 1995. The paper outlined the background of the estimates and suggested some ways of reviving the estimates. Those at the seminar welcomed the opportunity to be involved in the discussion. *The following points came out of the discussion:*

- the most favoured addition to the statistics currently available was the production of a series on the distribution of individuals' income, possibly looking at certain groups separately, for example women;

- it was felt that it would add more value if the CSO used a different data source as a basis for income distribution statistics from the FES. The FES is already used extensively by researchers as well as being used in the HBAI series and the ROI series;

- the SPI was considered the most interesting source of data to analyse further. This could be used to produce a distribution for the income of individuals.

Following the seminar, the CSO, in conjunction with the Department of Social Security, Inland Revenue and HM Treasury agreed to discuss all the income distribution statistics produced by the GSS.

It was agreed that it was desirable that the GSS produced a set of coherent income figures, where disaggregated income distribution statistics are reconcilable with national accounts income totals. The CSO agreed to develop the methodology for reconciling the ROI to national accounts income control totals, and other relevant controls. Steps would also be taken to remove any unnecessary difference in methodology between the HBAI and the ROI series.

It was recognised that an income distribution for individuals would provide interesting additional information, even though it would not provide a reliable guide to people's living standards, given the extent to which families share their income. Furthermore, the SPI only has a very limited amount of descriptive information about each individual, because it can only draw upon information needed by Inland Revenue for tax assessment and collection purposes. Age and marital status can affect tax liabilities in some circumstances so there would be some scope for analysis by these factors and by gender. However, it would not be possible to use the SPI for example for analysis by ethnic origin. Information is available from the FES on the distribution of individuals' income.

The CSO decided to concentrate on improving the methodology used in the ROI analysis, including the reconciliation with national accounts income totals, and not to revive the DOI series. The CSO will also look at identifying more precisely the requirements for longitudinal data on income.

News from around the GSS and beyond

GSS - General

GSS Assistant Statistician Recruitment 96

Now that the 3 year shelf-life of our current fast stream brochure has expired, we have been extremely busy preparing a new fresh-look brochure which will be an essential tool to attract new recruits.

Now that Graduate in Government Fairs have ceased to be, we in the Statistician Group Management Unit will have to ensure that the new brochure reaches every careers office and as many careers fairs as possible. On some occasions it will have to speak for itself and that is what we have aimed for - a brochure that is bright, fresh and has a message to put across:

"I didn't study for 3 years to be someone else's pocket calculator ... "

Our Creative Consultancy has just finished putting the final touches to the artwork and we have been heavily involved with the photography and the text. Yes, we know all about "tweaking the text" and getting the "pagination" right.

I hope you like the finished product and if you know of any graduate in their final year or a mature student keen on statistics, give me a call and I will arrange for them to be sent an application form and brochure for the 1996 scheme which closes on 23 January 1996.

Please contact:

Bill Wilson on 0171-217 4222

European Statisticians in UK

The first Training of European Statisticians course to be hosted by the GSS took place from 5-15 June. Held at the CSO's Newport site, the course covered the theory and application of household panel surveys and was run by Professor Greg Duncan of Northwestern University, USA and Professor Jean-Claude Ray of Université Jacques Callot, Nancy, France.

The course was attended by 14 statisticians from around Europe with countries represented including Germany, Italy, Hungary, Greece, Lithuania and the Czech Republic.

The course content covered a wide and thorough introduction to household panel surveys including longitudinal statistics and analysis, event-history analysis, data collection, nonsampling errors, weighting, data management and imputation. The theoretical sessions included many examples of practical applications and there were plenty of opportunities to try out the techniques for real through structured computer sessions based around SAS.

In addition to attending the course, participants took advantage of their time in South Wales to see a few of the sites and many visited Cardiff, Tenby and Bath during their free time. The course members, lecturers and support staff also all attended a reception on the evening of the first day which was hosted by Mike Pepper, Head of CSO's Business Statistics Group, and also attended by some of the Grade 5s from CSO Newport. The highlight of the reception was a Welsh mixed-voice choir which sang an all-Welsh programme for thirty minutes at the end of the reception.

To find out more about statistics training available through the TES programme of courses, *please contact:*

Darren Short at CSO on 0171-217 4339

" In-touch with the GSS " seminars

The internal programme of seminars for GSS staff has been continuing during 1995. In March, over 100 staff took part in an half-day seminar on Eurostat and the GSS policy on influencing it. Later, in July, around the same number attended a seminar on the merger between CSO and OPCS which was addressed by Tim Holt, Head of the GSS.

The Spring 1995 issue of Statistical News mentioned a GSS seminar on Open Government which was held in October 1994. A summary of the talks presented at this event *is available from:*

Wesley Townsend at CSO on 0171-217 5179

The Office for National Statistics

The Prime Minister has confirmed with the agreement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Health, that the Central Statistical Office and the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys will merge in April 1996. The new 'Next Steps' Agency will be known as the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

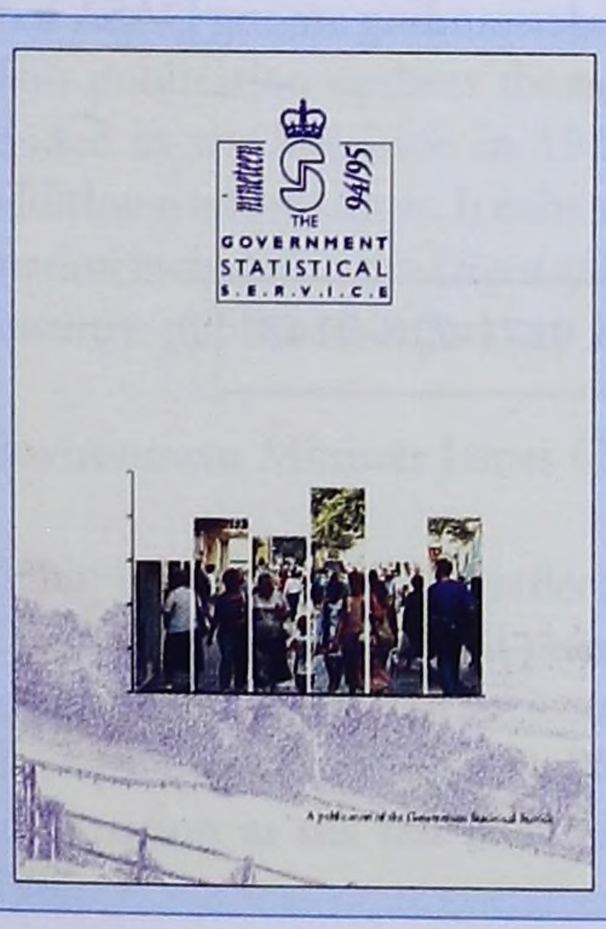
The new agency will be accountable to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It will take on all the existing functions of CSO and OPCS, including OPCS's responsibility for the Registration Service in England and Wales. In addition, it will be responsible for establishing and maintaining a central database of key economic and social statistics, drawn from the whole range of statistics produced by the Government, produced to common definitions and standards.

Dr Tim Holt, Director of the CSO and Peter Wormald, Director of OPCS, welcomed the Prime Minister's announcement. In a joint statement they said "the merger will unite the two central offices within the Government Statistical Service. This is a logical extension of the long-standing collaborative relationship between us. It will help us to improve the range and quality of our work, and also to give strong leadership to the GSS on statistical standards and practices".

Dr Holt, who will become the Director of the new office, emphasised that time will be needed to complete the major task of uniting the two departments. He also emphasised the importance of continuity in statistics. He said "it is every bit as important that we continue and improve our existing statistics as it is that we develop new ones. We shall make sure that we do that".

Work is in hand on a Framework Document - the Agency's contract with the Government. An important feature of this contract will be to establish that the Office for National Statistics will have the same professional independence as the CSO and OPCS have had.

The CSO and OPCS are planning the details of the merger, which will involve harmonising a range of policies, working arrangements, computer systems, staff conditions of service and so on. Plans are also in hand to bring together the three London offices of CSO and OPCS into a single headquarters. The existing offices at Newport, Runcorn, Southport and Titchfield will be retained.



The **Government Statistical Service** published its second annual report in October 1995.

The main achievements of the year were highlighted in the report, such as the publication of the Official Statistics Code of Practice and the silver jubilee edition of Social Trends.

Each of the main GSS departments outlined its work over the last year, and presented its future plans.

If you would like a copy of the annual report, please telephone:

Central Statistical Office Library on 01633 812599

Central Statistical Office

Following an announcement on 5 July 1995 the work of the former Employment Department has been split between four other Government Departments. Most of its administrative and policy functions have been transferred to the Department for Education, which has become the Department for Education and Employment; others have been transferred to the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of the Environment.

Four of the five branches which made up the former Employment Department's Statistical Services Division have been transferred to the CSO. These are located in Runcorn and London and deal with statistics on employment, earnings, claimant unemployment, jobcentre vacancies, redundancies, labour disputes and trade union membership as well as publication and analysis of Labour Force Survey results. The fifth branch, which is located in Sheffield, was dedicated to serving the former Training, Education and Enterprise Division of the Employment Department, dealing with training skills and Government programme statistics. This has been transferred to DfEE.

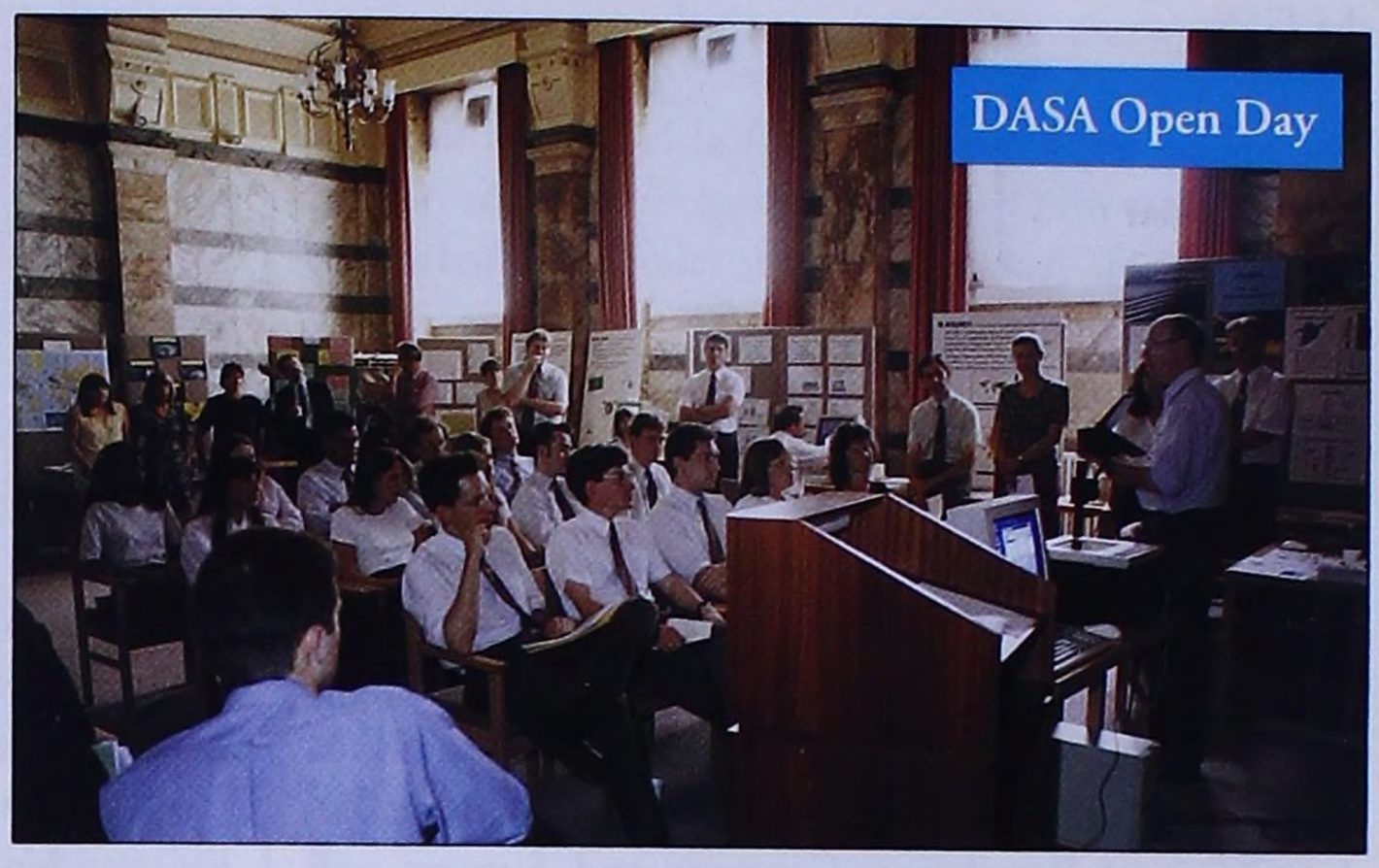
The four branches (known as Divisions in CSO parlance) that transferred will remain as an entity within the CSO for the immediate future. They will be known collectively as Labour Market Statistics Group and headed by Peter Stibbard who was previously Director of Statistics at the Employment Department. Users of labour market statistics should be assured that the high level of service that was provided by the Employment Department will continue to be offered by the CSO.

The first Labour Market Statistics First Release to be issued by the CSO was published on 19 July 1995. Also on this day, the CSO published the Labour Force Survey Rapid Release results for Spring 1995. The other regular publication used to disseminate labour market statistics, the *Employment Gazette* is now called *Labour Market Trends*, and is produced by the CSO.

Defence Analytical Services Agency

Open Day - 25 July 1995

The idea behind holding an Open Day was to show our customers within the MoD and members of the GSS what we do in DASA and how we do it. Each branch set up a display of its statistical products and provided representatives to answer visitors' questions. There were also opportunities for people to see some of our computer modelling systems in action.



DASA Open Day

The day's events included a presentation on DASA's culture (explaining the reasons for the way we work in the agency) and a talk on introducing quality improvements within DASA.

The day was very well attended with a good number of visitors from a variety of government departments. Hopefully they all went away with a better understanding of what DASA is all about. An additional benefit of the day was that it reinforced understanding among DASA staff of what each branch does.

Contact:

Jeremy Schuman on 0171-218-0143

Department for Education and Employment

Skill Needs in Britain 1995

Skill Needs in Britain 1995 is the sixth survey in an annual series funded by the Department for Education and Employment. It collects information on recruitment difficulties, skills needs and employers' training activities. It covers establishments with 25 or more employees in ann industries (except for agriculture, forestry and fishing) in Great Britain.

The report of the 1995 survey was published on 10 October 1995. It reports that 16% of first were experiencing recruitment difficulties at the time of the survey. This is up from 11% in 1994, 6% in 1993, and 5% in 1992, but is still below the 22% recorded in 1990.

Over the last year 82% of employers provided off-the-job training for some of their employees; this compares to 78% in 1994 and 80% in 1993.

71% of employers felt that the need for skills in their average employee was rising, up from 63% in 1994. The most common reasons for this were changes in processes/technology and changes in work practices.

Department of the Environment

New Guide to Floorspace Information

On the 5 September 1995 the department of the Environment published the most comprehensive ever guide to floorspace in England and Wales: *Commercial and Industrial Floorspace Statistics: England and Wales 1995.*

This publication updates the range of information included in the last issue in 1986 as well as providing additional information. It enhances the floorspace information included in the *Digest of Data for the Construction Industry*, published in January 1995.

Environment Minister James Clappison said:

"This latest publication reflects a demand from the Construction industry and elsewhere for more detailed geographic information on commercial and industrial floorspace in England and Wales. It fills a gap in information as the last analysis in such detail was in 1986.

This represents a further example of the Department and the industry working closely together to help improve industrial competitiveness".

Key findings in this report include:

- An estimated 49,500 factories and mills occupied 138 million square metres of floorspace in England and Wales in 1994;
- Greater London accounts for a third of the 64 million square metres of office space in England and Wales;
- 1 in every 4 offices is a residential conversion;
- Banks occupied 3.4 million square metres of floorspace, shops 74 million, and restaurants and cafes 3.8 million in England and Wales in 1994;
- Between 1991 and 1994, warehouses and work shops totalling 7.3 million square metres were built.
- A comparison of floorspace in 1984 and 1994 shows that the mix of non-domestic floorspace changed quite noticeably. The proportion of office, shop and warehouse increased, against a fall in industrial.

Other information in this publication includes:

- Estimated stock of retail floorspace by primary descriptor;
- Estimated stock of industrial floorspace by primary descriptor;
- Percentage breakdown of the number of offices by building use type code;
- Estimated factory/workshop floorspace by building use type code;
- Size and age breakdowns;
- Proportion of buildings with passenger lifts;
- District level floorspace for 1984;
- A 1974, 1984 and 1994 comparison of floorspace.

This is the fifteenth in the *Commercial and Industrial Floorspace Statistics* series, and the first to be published since 1986. *The publication is available from:*

HMSO bookshops (tel: 0171 873 9090)
price £45, ISBN 0-11-753143-X.

The information in this publication has been provided by the Valuation Office Agency who hold floorspace statistics on their new Valuation Support Application database. It covers all non-domestic premises ranging from launderettes and betting shops, through to offices and factories, listed by region, county and district.

For queries please contact:

Steve Hickman,
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CMI, DOE
2 Marsham Street,
London SW1P 3EB,
tel: 0171 276 4608.

Home Office

Fire Statistics United Kingdom 1993

The Home Office statistical publication presenting the full 1993 first statistics will be published on 1st September 1995. First Statistics United Kingdom 1993* expands on the summary information previously published in December 1994 (Summary Fire Statistics United Kingdom 1993*), 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 seven 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.

Chapters 1 to 5 of Fire Statistics United Kingdom 1993 are about fires attended as an emergency by local authority fire brigades and cover:

Review of Fire Statistics 1983-93 (chapter 1)

This chapter is broadly similar to the 1993 bulletin but with revised figures. *The main findings are:*

- Local authority fire brigades attended 451,500 fires in 1993 in the United Kingdom, 6 per cent more than in 1992 largely because refuse fires rose by 23 per cent.

- There were 108,700 fires in occupied buildings, slightly more than in 1992 but still below the peak in 1989.

- Accidental fires in occupied buildings fell slightly, despite a rise in dwellings to 54,500. Malicious fires continued to increase in dwellings and other occupied buildings.

- As in previous years the misuse of appliances, such as cookers, was the largest single cause of accidental buildings fires accounting for 41 per cent of such fires, over half of accidental fires in dwellings.

- The number of fire deaths fell to 720, the lowest level recorded since 1965. Most fire deaths (74 per cent) and fire casualties (78 per cent) occur in dwellings.

- The number of non-fatal casualties fell slightly to 14,600 due to a drop of over 200 in numbers of fire brigade casualties.

- In six per cent of dwelling fires upholstery was the material mainly responsible for the development of the fire, but these fires caused over a quarter of fire deaths in dwellings.

- The number of car fires attended by brigades in 1993 fell, although these were still higher than in any year prior to 1992. Both accidental and malicious car fire numbers fell. Malicious car fires accounted for almost two thirds of all car fires in 1993.

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 1993, and includes a new section on fires and casualties in multiple occupancy dwellings. *Some of the main findings are:*

- Dwelling fires accounted for nearly half of fires in Scotland (excluding secondary and chimney fires) compared to one third in England and Wales and two fifths Northern Ireland. In Scotland there were a much greater proportion of fires in dwellings of multiple occupancy.

- Cooking appliances were the source of over 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 dropped by 110 to 576 while in Scotland they rose by 26 to 128. In Northern Ireland the number of fire deaths continued to fall.

- Death rates were highest in Scotland at 25 per million population (pmp) compared with 11 deaths pmp in England and Wales and 10 pmp in Northern Ireland.

- Fires in dwellings of multiple occupancy increased. The number of casualties per 1,000 fires was higher than for swellings overall and particularly high for those described as houses of multiple occupation.

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.

- The highest fatal and non-fatal casualty rates in accidental dwelling fires resulted from fires caused by smokers' materials and from space heaters.

Malicious fires (chapter 4)

This chapter is about fires started maliciously or deliberately or where malicious/deliberate ignition was suspected. *The findings are that:*

- The number of malicious fires has doubled since 1988. Over 40 per cent of primary fires in 1993 were malicious compared with 19 per cent in 1983.

- Malicious road vehicle fires decreased from 47,800 in 1992 to 46,600 following a three fold increase in the number of such fires between 1988 and 1992.

- Malicious ignition caused over half the fires attended by fire brigades in schools, construction industry premises, private garages and recreational and other services.

- Most malicious fires in occupied buildings were started with paper, cardboard or packaging (38 per cent of malicious fires in dwellings and 39 per cent of malicious fires in other occupied build ings).

- Malicious fires were less likely to result in casual ties than accidental fires.

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.

- Fires in occupied buildings discovered by smoke alarms rose by 21 per cent between 1992 and 1993, but only accounted for 8 per cent of occupied building fires attended by brigades.

- There were 3 deaths per 1,000 fires for fires discovered by smoke alarms, compared with 9 deaths per 1,000 fires for fires not discovered by smoke alarms.

- Seventy per cent of dwelling fires discovered by smoke alarms were discovered within 5 minutes of ignition compared with only 54 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 456,000 in 1993, despite a small drop in the number of malicious false alarms.

- In the UK as a whole most fire false alarms were made with good intent (42 per cent). However, in some areas of the country the proportions of malicious false alarms were over 60 per cent (Gwent and Cleveland). False alarms due to apparatus averaged 24 per cent over the UK.

Household fires in England and Wales (chapter 7)

This chapter presents the first fire results from the recent 1994 British Crime Survey on household fires. *It found that:*

- Fire brigades attended an estimated 8 to 16 per cent of household fires.

- Fires not attended by brigades were more often kitchen fires involving cooking, and they tended to be the less serious 'chapter' fires.

- Overall fire risks reflected the inter-relationship between living conditions, number of people (particularly children) in the household and behaviour patterns. High risk factors included single parents, renting, poor house condition and drinking.

Enquiries about fire statistics should be referred to:

Home Office Fire Statistics Section
Room 714
Horseferry House
Dean Ryle Street
London SW1P 2AW
Tel: 0171 217 8783

** All fire statistics publications are available from:*

Home Office Research and
Statistics Department
Apollo House
Room 1308
36 Wellesley Road
Croydon
Surrey
CRO 3RR
Tel: 0181 760 8340

Fire Statistics United Kingdom 1993 costs £6.00

Office of Population Censuses and Surveys

OPCS OFFICE OF POPULATION CENSUSES & SURVEYS

OPCS study on population density

A new study by Daniel Dorling and David Atkins of the Department of Geography, Newcastle University, published by OPCS in September, analyses changes in population distribution in Britain since 1971 at ward level. It is the latest in the OPCS series, *Studies in Medical and Population Subjects.*

The purpose of the study is to describe, using population density, how the local areas in which people live in Britain have changed over the last two decades. Data from the 1971, 1981 and 1991 Censuses of Populations for over 10,000 areas are used to chart such local changes.

These changes are summarised at district, county, region and country levels. The study also shows how new mapping and statistical techniques can illustrate the comparison of population characteristics over time and across many small areas. This study updates and expands the analyses of Populations and Distribution, also published in the SMPS Series after the 1971 and 1981 Censuses.

The full title is:

Population density, change and concentration in Great Britain 1971, 1981 and 1991.

Studies on Medical and Population subjects No. 58 HMSO
ISBN 0 11 691628 1

For further information contact:

OPCS Marketing (Publications)
0171 396 2243

OPCS Longitudinal Study

The OPCS Longitudinal Study (LS) started in 1971 and is a unique research resource based on census and vital event data (births, cancers, deaths) for a one per cent sample (about 500,000 people) of the population of England and Wales. As well as producing key data on socio-demographic variations in health, the LS has provided a picture of the changes in housing tenure, household composition, fertility and birth-spacing, inter-regional migration, and labour force participation occurring since 1971.

For the first time a detailed OPCS guide to the LS is available to researchers and users of LS data. Published in July, the 370 page reference volume covers the development of the LS from its beginnings up the 1991 Census. Separate chapters are devoted to the history of the Study, the scope for the analysis (including international comparative work), its organisation and an overview of the data sources used.

The volume is suitable for both experienced LS users and newcomers to the study.

The full title is:

Longitudinal Study 1971-1991: History, organisation and quality of data. Series LS No. 7 HMSO
Price £27.30
ISBN 0 11 691637 0.

For more information contact:

OPCS Marketing (Publications) 0171 396 2243

Department for Social Security

Pensions Database

DSS holds a large amount of data on everyone who is registered for National Insurance purposes, that is to say practically the whole population over the age of 16. Information is gathered annually on their earnings from employment or self-employment which count for National Insurance purposes, and periods for which they were awarded credits or home responsibility protection. It is known whether they have taken out a Personal Pension, are members of an employer's pension scheme or are in the State pension scheme (SERPS).

The National Insurance Recording System, NIRS, holds such information back to 1975, three years before SERPS was introduced, in order to work out entitlements to contributory benefits such as Retirement Pension and Incapacity Benefit. Statisticians in DSS have recently set up a database for research purposes which consists of some 600,000 cases on NIRS. In the past this sample has been used to produce data on contributions and contributors, Personal Pension holders, migrant workers etc for single tax years. The new database is designed to look at people's employment patterns over a longer period - currently 15 years (1978/79 to 1992/93) and eventually expanding to 20 years' data. It will have the potential to show how frequently people move between jobs and pension schemes, so long as earnings reach the threshold for paying National Insurance contributions.

Because of confidentiality restrictions it is not possible to supply individual records from the database to researchers outside the Department even in anonymised form. However the dataset clearly has many possible applications for longitudinal analysis and anyone interested in making use of it is welcome to *contact the address below for further information:*

Mike Marland
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Room 10-04
Adelphi
1-11 John Adam Street
London WC2N 6HT
0171-962-8223

Department of Transport

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

Seven out of ten drivers "too fast", says DOT

This was the statement made by Steven Norris, Minister for Road Safety, commenting on the latest Department of Transport Statistics Bulletin *Vehicle Speeds in Great Britain 1994* which was published on 2 June 1995. The average speed estimates in this publication are intended to reflect speeds chosen by drivers which have not been unduly constrained by either road layout or exceptional traffic congestion. Therefore, they will not be the same as average speeds over whole journeys or sections of the road network, but they do indicate the extent of driver compliance with speed limits. For the first time, urban roads have been included in the analysis to supplement the information regularly collected from motorway and non-urban road sites.

The aim of the study is to assist in the department's "Kill Your Speed" road safety campaigns which have been running for several years. One of the aims of the campaign is to persuade drivers that speeding is every bit as anti-social as drink-driving. As well as providing a measure of the success of the campaigns, the report can also be used to highlight how widespread speeding has become.

The report is available free of charge from:

Paul Niblett,
Department of Transport,
Room B646,
Romney House,
43 Marsham Street,
London SW1P 3PY.
Telephone: 0171-276-8799

The London Area Transport Survey

Phil Mongredien's article in Statistical News 107 (Autumn 1994, pp10-14) described the 1991 London Area Transport Survey (LATS), carried out by the Department of Transport in partnership with the London Research Centre, and with the cooperation of British Rail and London Transport.

LATS data are being used by the MVA Consultancy, on behalf of the Government Office for London, to calibrate a new London Transportation Studies Model (LTS91). To provide independent data against which to test the model outputs, the LATS Unit has commissioned new counts of traffic at LATS sites on the Central, Inner and Outer Cordons, and the Thames Screenline. The manual classified counts at about 400 sites will be carried out by consultants Jarrett Cleavely and Vincent Sanchex, on scheduled weekdays during September to November 1995. As well as helping with the validation of the model, the results will provide useful data on the changes in traffic levels in London since the original LATS roadside surveys were completed in 1991.

Similarly, surveys of rail passengers will be used to validate the modelled results on rail trips. These will include London Transport data on Underground movement, and British Rail data from their Central London termini counts in Autumn 1995. In addition, counts specifically for LTS91 validation will be undertaken in Spring 1996, of passengers crossing two other cordons which correspond quite closely to the LAT Inner and Outer (M25) Cordons.

The DOT and the LRC have also begun a series of statistical bulletins of LATS results, designed to supplement the main report Travel in London (HSMO 1994). The first bulletins in this series are:

Travel by London Men and Women - why do women travel less than men?

Travel in and around London Docklands

both available on request from the DOT LATS Unit:

Tel: 0171 276-8616, fax 0171 276-8784)

Pilot Survey on Transport Services Statistics

- This Pilot Survey, carried out by the Department of Transport in collaboration with CSO, is part of the EUROSTAT programme to improve economic statistics on the service sector. Similar pilots have been carried out in other member states.

- The aim of the pilot was to access the availability of a detailed information on turnover and on current and capital expenditure at both national and sub-national (regional) level. The work programme included: appraisal of existing data sources; testing the feasibility of applying common definitions across member states; provision where possible of uniform service sector data for 1993.

- The pilot considered separately rail transport, air transport and road freight.

- For rail transport and air transport the pilot concluded that most of the data specified by EUROSTAT were already available, from British Rail and the Civil Aviation Authority. For rail however data availability may have to be reassessed after privatisation.

- For road freight required data were not available. A pilot survey of business was conducted to test the feasibility of meeting the EUROSTAT requirements. This achieved a poor response, sug gesting that data requirements would have to be trimmed if useful results are to be obtained.

For further information contact:

Lucy de Jong (0171 276 8519 or
Anil Bhagat (0171 276 8515).

Welsh Office

1994 Welsh Training and Education Survey

The Welsh Office, the seven Welsh Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs) and the Welsh Development Agency (WDA) commissioned the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys to carry out the 1994 Welsh Training and Education Survey (WTES). The survey involved a boost of the sample of the 1994/95 winter quarter's Labour Force Survey (LFS). The usual LFS sample is not normally large enough to give reliable results for individual TEC areas, and this survey increased the sample size to 1,000 households in each area.

The main purpose of the survey was to provide reliable consistent data for monitoring achievement against the National Targets for Education and Training at a TEC level, however the survey covered approximately two thirds of the LFS questionnaire and thus included a wider range of questions on education and training issues.

Preliminary results

The survey estimated that:

- 13 per cent of employees in Wales had received training in the four weeks prior to the survey.

- 27 per cent of people aged 16 or over in Wales have no qualifications, varying between 22 per cent in South Glamorgan TEC area to 30 per cent in Gwent and Mid Glamorgan TEC areas.

- 18 per cent have a higher level qualification or a degree, ranging from 14 per cent in Mid Glamorgan to 24 per cent in South Glamorgan.

- 39 per cent of the Welsh workforce were qualified to NVQ level 3, Advanced GNVQ or 2 GCE A level standard. This varied from 36 per cent in Powys and Mid Glamorgan to 49 per cent in South Glamorgan. Lifetime Target 1 of the

National Targets for Education and Training states that 60 per cent of the workforce should be qualified to this level by 2000.

- More detailed results from the survey will be published later in the year.

For further information contact:

Ian Shipley at the Welsh Office
(STD 01222-825817 or GTN 1208-5817)

Northern Ireland Office

Quarterly Labour Force Survey introduced to Northern Ireland

In December 1994, a Quarterly Labour Force Survey (LFS) was introduced to Northern Ireland along similar lines to that which has been fully operational in Great Britain since March 1992. This replaced the annual survey which had been conducted in the spring of each year and it means that UK LFS estimates will now be available for each quarter. The first Northern Ireland quarterly results were published by the Department of Economic Development on 14 June and a summary of main results for Northern Ireland will be released each quarter to coincide with CSO's publication of the LFS Quarterly Bulletin.

To obtain further information on the Northern Ireland LFS, or to receive a copy of the Northern Ireland quarterly results (free of charge),

contact:

Fiona Hepper on 01232 529425

Other Organisations

Bank of England: Inflation Report

The August Inflation Report provided a detailed analysis of recent monetary, price and demand developments in the UK economy, and offered the Bank of England's current assessment of the prospects for inflation over the following two years. It included analysis of the recent acceleration of the monetary aggregates, and of the latest news on demand, output, the labour market and pricing behaviour.

Bank of England: 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 August issue of the Bank's Quarterly Bulletin contained the following items:

Inflation targets

This article summarised a number of the main issues- both technical and conceptual - raised by the use of inflation targets as the basis for a monetary policy framework. It drew on some of the contributions made by representatives of those central banks that use inflation targets at a conference on the subject organised by the Bank earlier this year.

The housing market and the economy

The article summarised the recent historical trends in the UK housing market, and looked at the links between housing and the wider economy in recent years. It also considered how the relationship might be affected by an environment of sustained low inflation.

Company profitability and finance

The article assessed the evolution of firms' financial position over 1994 and 1995 Q1. Company profitability continued to improve rapidly in 1994. Investment by industrial and commercial companies fell, however, though there were marked differences between sectors. Stocks have been increasing; corporate debt has remained relatively high.

The Bank's new UK commodity price index

The article explained the construction of the Bank's new measure of commodity price pressures in the UK economy.

The behaviour of the foreign exchange market

The article examined what developments in economic theory can contribute to an understanding of the recent evolution of the foreign exchange market. It considered whether alterantives to the standard efficient-markets model could offer a better explanation of the market's actual behaviour.

Banking statistics: summary of responses

This provided an update following the article in the February Bulletin which sought comments on the bids for new statistics.

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Welsh Office

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

Statistical News provides a comprehensive account of new developments in British official statistics, and it is designed to help and inform all with an interest in these statistics. It is essential reading for everyone who needs to keep up-to-date with the latest in this wide-ranging and dynamic area.

Official statistics in United Kingdom are produced by the Government Statistical Service (GSS) and other official bodies such as the Bank of England and Northern Ireland government departments. The GSS comprises around 5,000 staff located in over 30 departments and executive agencies. The largest of these are the Central Statistical Office and the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

Every quarter Statistical News includes four or more articles which describe a subject in depth; these subjects range from the latest surveying techniques to statisticians' projects in Zambia. The News from around the GSS and beyond section carries shorter articles from each department and associated organisation on their latest statistical ventures and plans. The Supplement of New Surveys and Departmental Publications is a reference document for all recent output and products.

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