

Statistical News

Summer 1998 / Issue 120 / Office for National Statistics

Town Centres: Defining Boundaries for Statistical Monitoring



- **The National Health Service Central Register**
- **Handling Missing and Incomplete Postcodes**
- **Bank of England**



A publication of the Government Statistical Service

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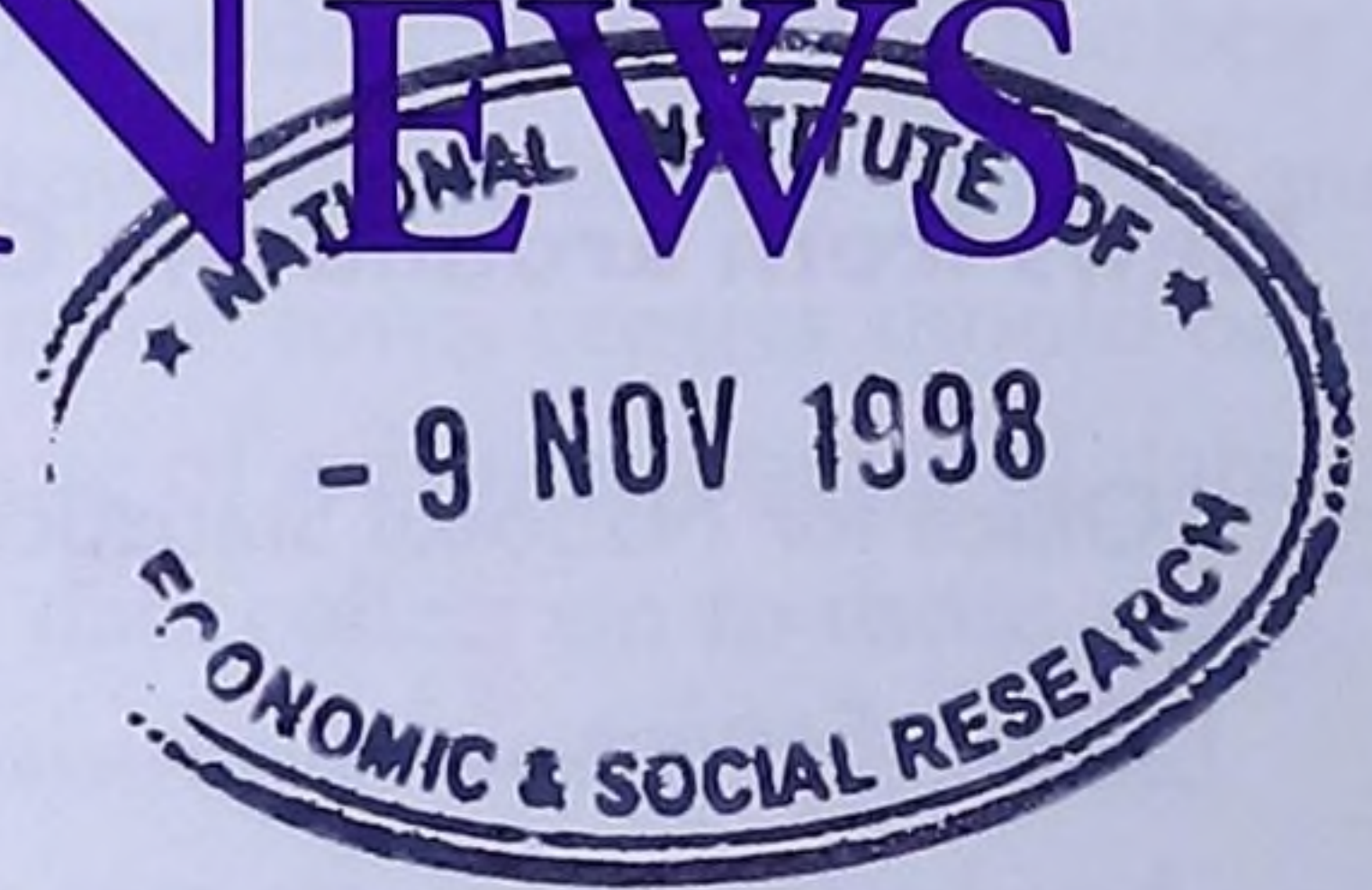
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STATISTICAL NEWS



DEVELOPMENTS IN BRITISH OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Summer 1998 - No. 120



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'

LIST OF CONTENTS

Page

■ Feature Articles

Town Centres: Defining Boundaries for Statistical Monitoring.....	3
The National Health Service Central Register	8
Handling Missing and Incomplete Postcodes	13
Bank of England	15

■ News from around the GSS and beyond

Office for National Statistics	19
Court Service	23
Department for Education and Employment	24
Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions	25
Forestry Commission	25
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency	26
Other Organisations	27
Departmental News Correspondents	28

■ Supplement

New Surveys	32
Departmental Listings	38

TOWN CENTRES: DEFINING BOUNDARIES FOR STATISTICAL MONITORING

by Stephen Hall, Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions

INTRODUCTION

There is a widely recognised need for reliable statistics to monitor the changes that are taking place in town centres, to assess their vitality and viability, and to evaluate the effectiveness of the increasing range of public policies linked to them. However, to generate statistics it is first necessary to define 'town centre' boundaries, and second to populate the boundaries with data.

Research commissioned by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions has demonstrated that it is feasible to define the boundaries of all town centres in the UK for statistical monitoring purposes on a consistent basis. It is also possible to generate statistics such as employment, retail sales turnover and floorspace for these boundaries. Furthermore this can be done using a standard Geographic Information System (GIS), using standard analytical methods applied to existing government data.

FEASIBILITY STUDY

THE NEED FOR BETTER TOWN CENTRE STATISTICS

In the United Kingdom there is little nationally consistent information on town centres currently available. It is over a quarter of a century since the last Census of Distribution that provided

detailed information on retailing, a key town centre activity. In recent years it has been recognised that there is a need for reliable statistics to assist in monitoring the vitality and viability of town centres. This need was reemphasised by a Parliamentary Select Committee on Shopping Centres and their Future in 1994.

The UK Government determined that the best approach to improve the availability of retail and other information for town centres should be to make the fullest use of existing sources of data and to limit new data collection to those areas not covered by existing sources. This would provide the most cost-effective method and minimise the additional burden on the retail industry. To generate this information, geographically referenced town centre boundaries would need to be defined to compile nationally consistent statistics.

The Department of the Environment, Transport, and the Regions (DETR) commissioned a feasibility study from the Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis (CASA) at University College London, and the Urban and Economic Development Group (URBED). The principal aim of the study was to establish a method for defining the extent of town centres geographically, on a consistent basis for statistical purposes. DETR was advised during the project by a steering group consisting of local authority planners, consultants and leading academics in the fields of planning and retail statistics.

THE RESEARCH MODULES

During the project, surveys of previous work on defining and classifying towns, and of the current views of academics and researchers were undertaken. This work led to the identification of key factors that characterise town centres.

Defining the **activities and facilities** that are traditionally associated with town centre locations is a powerful means of identifying the town centre; similarly, identifying those that are not associated with the town centre is also useful.

By mapping *publicly accessible floorspace* (such as that associated with retailing, leisure and local government land uses) the main destinations of people visiting the town centre could be identified. A concentration of these accessible land uses would be expected to be found within the town centre area.

However, a town centre is more than a public space. It also is a place of work. Hence by mapping *town centre employment* (such as retail and office) it should be possible to locate the various functions associated with the town centre. Conversely, by mapping *non-town centre employment* (such as manufacturing) those areas that are highly unlikely to be the town centre could be identified:

- **Diversity of use**, ie *diversity of employment* was also identified as a key indicator of the town centre. Town centres are cosmopolitan places and incorporate many different functions. Activities tend to become considerably more homogenous and segregated away from the central area.
- **Intensity of use** has traditionally been greater in the centre of town than elsewhere. This could be reflected in two basic ways:

- (i) *Property values*: in general, land and property values increase as the centre of town is approached, reflecting the demand for space in these areas;
- (ii) *Plot densities*: building densities are often higher in town centres as development land is at a premium.

- The town centre must not only be accessible to the population it serves (in terms of both public and private transport) but also be internally accessible to the pedestrian. Using basic network algorithms, it should be possible to define **pedestrian gateways**, or the pedestrian catchment areas of key nodes or gateways to the town centre (public transport termini and car parks), and then to combine these to give an overall impression of accessibility.
- **Resident population**, or rather the lack of it is currently a fundamental characteristic of many UK towns. The development of retail, commercial and leisure activities in the centre of towns has inevitably precluded residential land use, at least on the ground floor, so that central areas generally have relatively low population densities.
- **Turnover** for *retail and entertainment uses* is likely to be greater in the town centre than elsewhere in the town.
- **Visitor attractions** are important magnets in town centres, bringing in additional revenue and people over and above that which might be predicted for the town. As well as tourist attractions, such as cathedrals and museums, local markets are considered important.

The project attempted to quantify these factors using existing geographically referenced data sources.

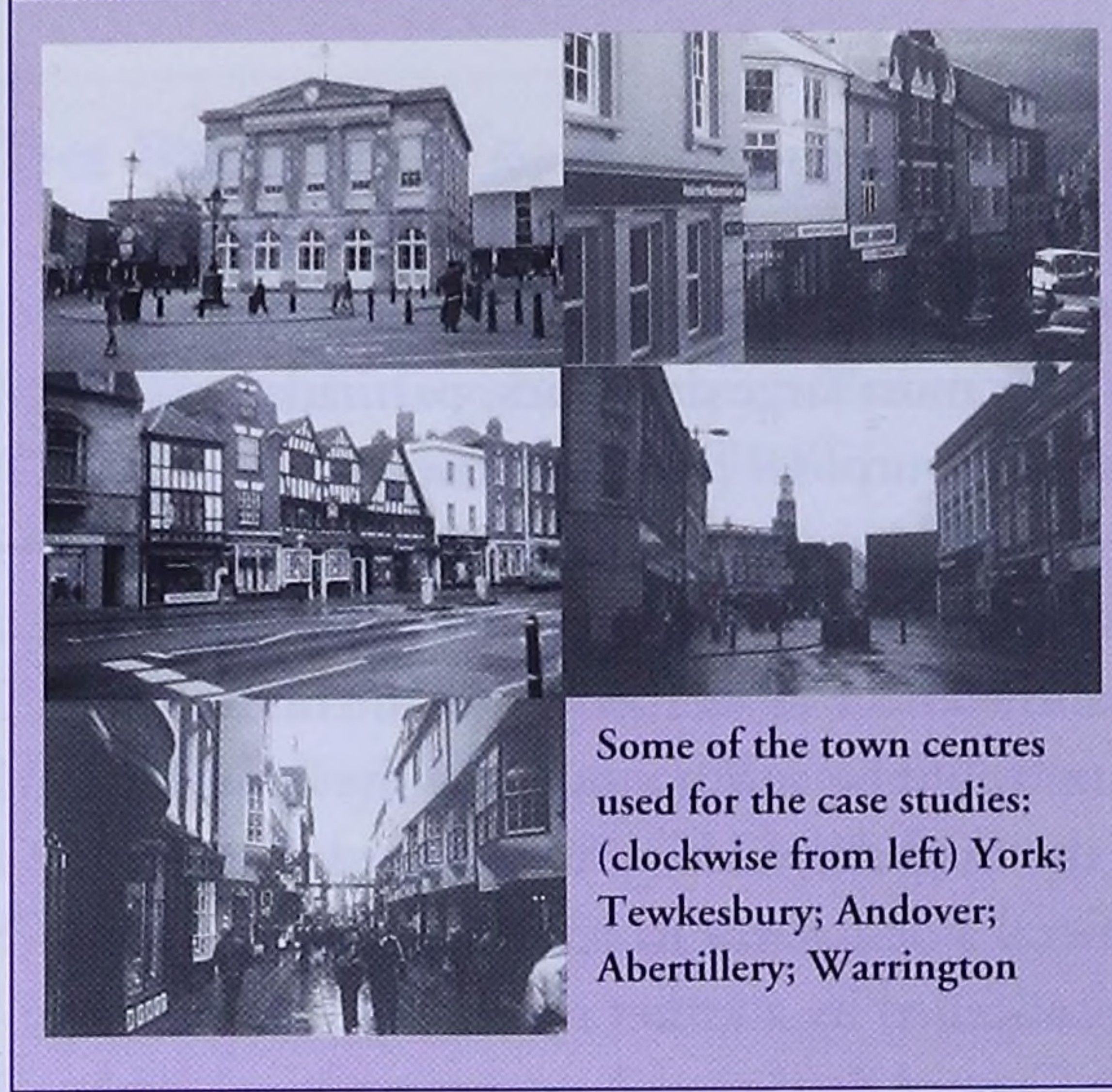
For each town, a study area (based on a fine grid) was defined to cover the full extent of the urban area. Within this area, each key factor was modelled using a Geographic Information System (GIS), so that every 20-metre grid square was assigned a relative value. These values could then be used to generate a surface, or series of contours, that represented the graduation of the factor throughout the study area. Each surface was called a module.

These seven modules could then be combined into a composite 'Index of Town-Centredness' surface for the study area.

CASE STUDIES

The modular approach was put into practice in twelve case studies, selected to represent a broad range of town centres. The case studies were Abertillery in South Wales; Bristol and Tewkesbury in the South West; Andover and Gravesend in the South East; Wandsworth, Putney and Clapham Junction in London; Wolverhampton in the West Midlands; Warrington in the North West; and Skipton and York in the Yorkshire and the Humber region.

The method and results were reviewed and endorsed by local authority officers in each of the case study towns, and by an advisory group of experts. In all twelve cases it was possible to locate the town centre, and to produce a graduated surface of 'town centredness', purely by using the data in the modules. Furthermore it was possible to select an acceptable 'key contour' on the composite surface of town centredness, which represented the extent of the 'town centre' for which statistics would be required. In all cases, the town centre delimited by the key contour matched the perceptions of local planners of their own town centre to a



Some of the town centres used for the case studies: (clockwise from left) York; Tewkesbury; Andover; Abertillery; Warrington

remarkable degree. The area defined by the key contour was called the town centre's 'Central Statistical Area'.

ROBUSTNESS OF RESULTS

The case studies showed that no single module was sufficient to define an acceptable Central Statistical Area. The strength of the modular approach was the combination of the modules. Each designed to reflect different aspects of 'town centredness'. Furthermore in combining the modules the overall Index was quite robust to the weighting given to the separate component modules. When weights were added, they had to be grossly exaggerated to effect the extent of the Central Statistical Areas markedly. It was therefore concluded that the modules should be given equal weight in the Index.

The principal governmental data sources used to construct the modules are the Office for National Statistics Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR), which holds information on employment and turnover for individual businesses, and the Valuation Office Agency property floorspace database.

These data are second to none in national coverage, comprehensiveness and accuracy of business and property information. However, like for most large databases, particularly when used for purposes for which they were not designed, there was evidence of some potential errors in the data. It might have been expected that the effect of such errors in the underlying data would be compounded by the combination of the modules. Instead it appeared that in general a deficiency in one set of data tended to be cancelled by another set. So the definition of the Central Statistical Area was not noticeably affected by the variation in quality of individual data sources.

GENERATING TOWN CENTRE STATISTICS

As well as being used to construct the modules, employment, turnover and floorspace are also the principal statistics required on a town centre basis. These and other data required for town centre statistics are commonly geo-referenced by unit postcode. This is the most disaggregated unit of postal delivery points. It represents a 'postman's walk' and thus is a collection of addresses rather than an area with a well-defined boundary. However it can be represented by a central point, or centroid that reflects the spatial average of the delivery points on the walk. In generating aggregate town centre statistics from such data sources, therefore, it was the set of unit postcode centroids in the Central Statistical Area that was important, rather than the exact location of a boundary line.

By determining a list of Central Statistical Area unit postcodes, the project produced, for example, illustrative aggregate estimates of retail turnover, retail employment and floorspace, and commercial employment and floorspace for each of the case studies.

A NEW URBAN CLASSIFICATION AND CORRELATION OF RESULTS

As part of the project, a new urban classification was developed from existing data sources, which classified towns by a series of macro indicators. This classification was used to select the case studies. Its broader purpose, however, could be to automate the delimitation of the Central Statistical Area for every town by relating the selection of the key contour to the macro indicators.

Initial investigation, albeit relying only on the twelve case studies, showed that there was strong correlation between the Index of Town-Centredness of the key contour and the macro indicators. This suggested that automation of the method might be feasible, with further research. Similarly, there was strong correlation between the macro indicators and the generated aggregated town centre statistics, suggesting that the key contours represented a fair delimitation of the town centres.

USE OF THE CENTRAL STATISTICAL AREAS

It is worth emphasising that the aim of the research was to produce town centre boundaries for extracting or assembling statistics for town centres. The resulting boundaries are specifically **not** intended to define town centres for planning policy purposes. For example, it is not the intention that town centres defined in local plans would be superseded by defined Central Statistical Areas.

However, as well as generating nationally consistent town centre statistics, the method could have other applications in validating national data, local data collection exercises, and ultimately as a decision support tool.

FURTHER RESEARCH

The research, whilst being able to successfully produce Central Statistical Areas and statistics for the twelve town centres in the case studies, was only a feasibility study. The Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions has commissioned further research to enhance and apply the methodology to a larger sample of towns, including the full extent of London, as a first stage in national implementation.

THE RESEARCH TEAM

Professor Mike Batty *Project Director* (CASA), Mark Thurstain-Goodwin *Project Manager* (CASA), Christopher Cadell (URBED), Simon Doyle (CASA), Dr Sue Batty (CASA), Dr Nicholas Falk (URBED), Dr Cliff Guy (Cardiff University), Dr Bin Jiang (CASA), with Stephen Hall *DETR Project Manager* (DETR) and Alan Oliver *Chairman of the DETR Project Steering Group* (DETR).

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THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CENTRAL REGISTER

The National Health Service Central Register has just celebrated its 50th birthday but very few people seem aware of its existence. The following describes its purpose and functions.

INTRODUCTION

For 50 years, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and its predecessors at Southport have maintained the National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR). In total, it comprises a register of everyone that is, or has been since the formation of the NHS in 1948, registered with a General Practitioner. It is arguably the most comprehensive and accurate database of individuals within England and Wales.

BACKGROUND

At the outbreak of war in 1939, the population of England and Wales was enumerated and a system of National Registration was set up. During the war years, what was then known as the Central National Registration Office, based at Smedley Hydro in Birkdale, issued some 50 million individual identity cards and maintained the National Register of the population. The Register was used to issue ration books and to help in the call up for the armed forces.

With the coming of the NHS in 1948, National Registration numbers were used to ensure that each patient's medical record had a unique identifier. National Registration stopped with the end of rationing in 1952 but the Register



Adrian Read, Head of NHSCR

continued as the NHSCR for England and Wales.

Originally the NHSCR was maintained in a paper format but in 1991 a computerised Central Index of all patients registered with a NHS doctor was created by amalgamating copies of the then 98 Family Health Service Authorities' (England and Wales) electronic files.

NHSCR and the General Register Office (GRO), which is also based in Southport, form the Registration Division of ONS. Although



ONS, Southport

part of ONS, NHSCR acts on an agency basis primarily for the Department of Health, to whom it is accountable for the bulk of its work.

The NHSCR employs over 240 staff and costs in excess of £4 million per annum to run. Whilst the Department of Health is the major financial contributor, income is also received from the Ministry of Defence, the Welsh Office, NHS Trusts, and medical researchers.

PURPOSE

The main purpose of the NHSCR is to support the work of the 105 Health Authorities (HAs) in England, Wales, and the Isle of Man, by maintaining a central record of all patients registered with the NHS. It is used as a basis for GP per capita payment whilst the continuing completeness and accuracy of the data enables the timely transfer of individuals' medical records.

This involves:

- informing HAs of patients moving out of their area and into a new area, as well as informing them of deaths, emigrations and enlistments into the armed forces;
- controlling the issue of NHS numbers, which are given out locally at the registration of births but allocated centrally for immigrants and adopted persons;
- liaison with similar registries in Scotland and Northern Ireland to ensure a comprehensive system for the whole of the UK.

In addition, the NHSCR is also used for other purposes, notably a wide variety of medical research projects.

THE REGISTERS

1. THE CENTRAL INDEX

In 1991 the work of the NHSCR was computerised. The result was the Central Index which now contains some 63 million entries. On average, NHSCR deals with 7 million transactions a year of which around 80 per cent are dealt with automatically. The remainder are handled individually by operators who use their judgement to ensure the correct patient is identified.

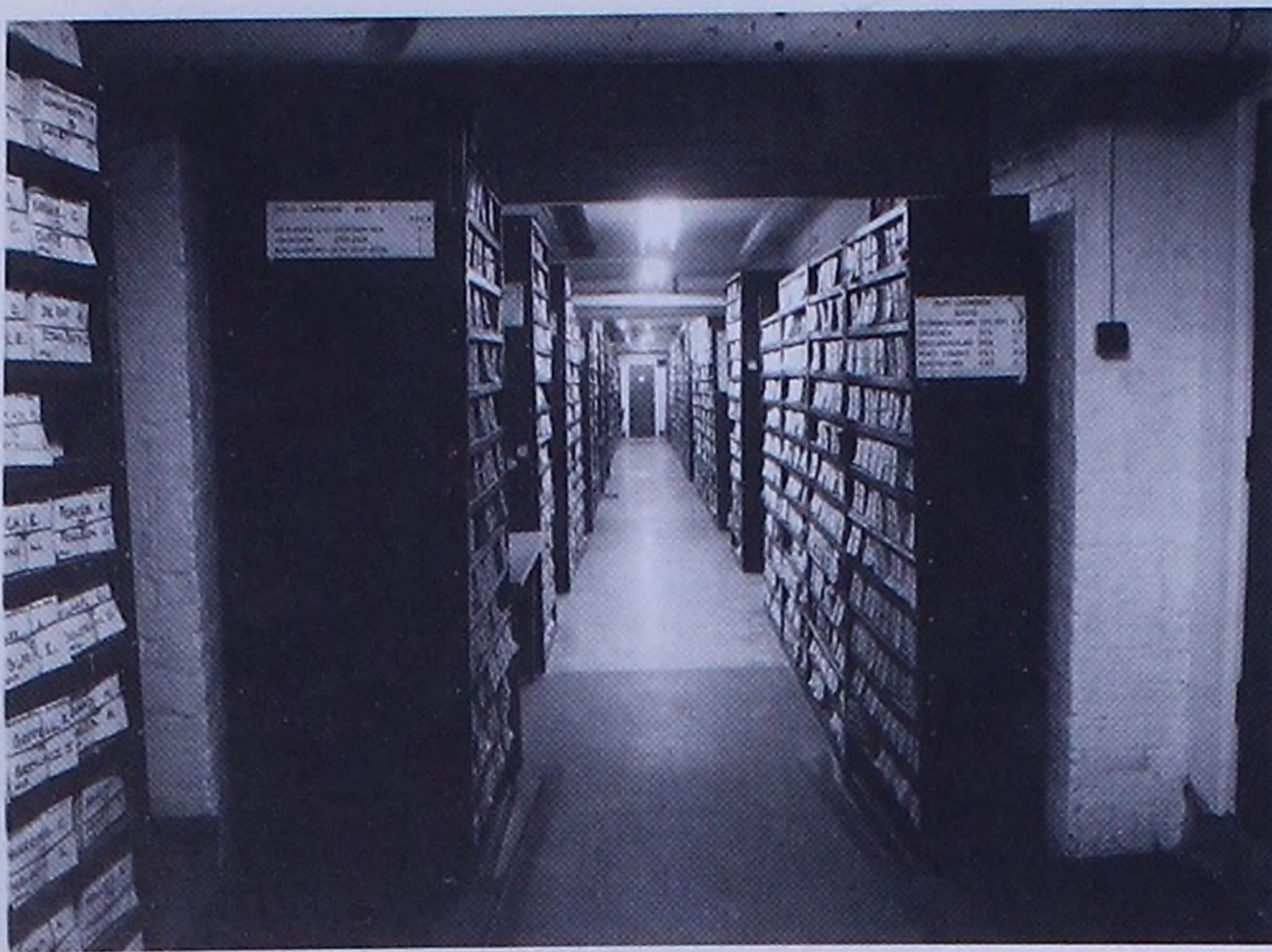
The Central Index holds a unique entry (using NHS Number) for each patient under which the following information is held:

- Surname (plus previous name(s) if appropriate);
- Forename and Initials;
- Date of Birth;
- Health Authority Code;
- Sex;
- Medical Research flags (where appropriate);
- Cancer Flag (if appropriate);
- Longitudinal Study Flag (if appropriate);
- Pre 1996 NHS Number;
- New NHS Number.

Entries are updated and amended as the circumstances of individuals alter. The Central Index is constantly expanding with the addition of new births, the allocation of numbers for people whose original code cannot be traced and immigrants entering the NHS system for the first time. Individual records are retained on the Central Index even though a patient may have died or left the NHS for some other reason. This is in case the details are needed at a later date, eg, for research purposes. Special codes are used on the Central Index to indicate the reason why an individual is no longer a member of the NHS.

2. MANUALLY COMPILED REGISTERS

The majority of patient tracing is performed on the Central Index alone. However, the paper records relating to the pre-computerisation period of 1939-1990 are retained to help trace for individuals who may, perhaps, not have been members of the NHS since 1990 but for whom



Basement Corridor, Smedley Hydro, Southport.

past medical records may exist. The main registers are:

- **Transcript Books** - compiled from 1939 onwards in NHS number order. Those enumerating the population at the outbreak of World War II compiled the original books. The books were routinely updated to show the movement of individuals and hold similar information to that contained on the Central Index plus, where applicable, occupation in September 1939.
- **Alphabetical Index 1** - constructed from Maintenance Register cards sent by Local National Registration Offices when rationing ended in 1952. The Index comprises a card for every person resident in England and Wales at that time and having a date of birth prior to 29 September 1939. There are some 55 million cards in the index, filed alphabetically by surname.
- **Alphabetical Index 2** - constructed mainly from documents issued between 1952 and 1965 by Registrars of Births and Deaths at birth registrations for the purpose of obtaining welfare foods. The documents reached NHSCR via the then Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance. This index, which consists of approximately 23 million

cards, also contains information relating to persons born since 1939 to whom NHS numbers have been allocated.

From 1965, when the issuing of welfare food was discontinued, NHSCR received direct notification of all birth registrations from Registrars of Births and Deaths.

THE NHS NUMBER

By 1995, the NHS Number in use had 22 formats. This led to transcription errors and, as it was not designed for computer use, it could not be automatically validated. Furthermore, many of the numbers were constructed in a way that approximate date and place of birth could be deciphered.

With the aim of ensuring that every individual within the NHS could be identified in an unambiguous and unique way, which would also safeguard confidentiality, the Department of Health approved a new format NHS number. The use of this replacement number would enable clinical and administrative data to be exchanged between systems to transfer care effectively between clinicians and health care workers.

The new NHS number, which was generated by NHSCR and rolled out to GPs via HAs in January 1996, is 10 digits long including a final check digit. The numbers are randomly generated, are compatible with those used in Scotland and Northern Ireland, contain no personal information, and cannot identify where or when an individual was born.

THE FUNCTIONS OF NHSCR

1. IN SUPPORT OF HEALTH AUTHORITIES

The task of supporting the Health Authorities is split between four clerical teams on a regional basis. The teams process all patient movements, name changes, etc. They also add births to the Central Index and deal with deaths which have failed the automatic matching criteria.

Five trace routes, each making use of a different set of parameters, are employed to correctly identify patients and update the system. Data is exchanged on a daily basis with each of the HAs plus the Isle of Man.

A fifth team is responsible for the exchange of patient information with Scotland and Northern Ireland. The team also handles patients who leave the NHS by virtue of emigration, imprisonment, enlistment, or through having been taken into long-stay psychiatric care. In addition, dependants of service personnel who opt to receive their medical treatment from Service Medical Officers are individually noted on the Central Index.

Checks are made periodically to ensure the quality of the data. This often involves comparing individual HA databases with the Central Index and eliminating errors.

2. CANCER REGISTRATION

Since 1971, all patients who have been diagnosed as suffering from cancer have been individually flagged on the NHSCR. Whilst deaths from cancer can be routinely picked up from death registrations and notified to the 12 Cancer Registries in England and Wales by the National Cancer Registration Bureau in Hampshire,

flagging by NHSCR enables cancer patients who emigrate or die from other causes to be identified.

3. MEDICAL RESEARCH

From the early 1960s, NHSCR has been involved with approved medical research studies. The unique nature of the NHSCR records enables the identification, flagging and follow-up of study populations. The information supplied by NHSCR to researchers, whose studies must have the prior approval of the local ethics committee and the Chief Medical Statistician, forms a vital part of the epidemiological and clinical research work carried out in this country.

There are approximately 560 studies in progress. They are undertaken on behalf of the Medical Research Council, the Health and Safety Executive, academia, and a wide variety of commercial companies. The areas of interest are varied and range from large scale studies into asbestos, radiation and electro magnetic fields to much smaller studies analysing occupational groups, the effectiveness of treatment by particular drugs, and local environmental conditions.

4. LONGITUDINAL STUDY

Members of the Longitudinal Study are flagged on the Central Index so that those researchers engaged in analysing the study population are made aware of vital events.

5. MIGRATION STATISTICS

Population movement noted on the Central Index provides input to national migration statistics.

6. GENERAL TRACING, ADOPTIONS, TRAINING, ETC.

The NHSCR is an ideal tool for tracing individuals and over 13,000 requests a year are received. Although the Data Protection Act and the NHS's own rules on confidentiality strictly control the uses to which the information may be put, the database is sometimes utilised for certain tracing purposes including national security and the prevention and detection of serious crime.

NHSCR has its own training and skills development unit and a customer concerns section. It also has a role to play in ensuring that no link is made when an adoption occurs. Great care is taken to change the NHS Number and to make certain that names and other pre-adoptive details are not improperly divulged.

7. INITIAL NHS NUMBER TRACING SERVICE

Following the introduction of the new NHS number, NHSCR set up a service to enable it to be supplied to Trusts within the Acute, Community and Combined sectors of the NHS. Trusts, which initially used the service to populate their patient indexes with the new number, have the option to contract into routine tracing thus enabling them to meet targets for the use of the number. NHSCR will maintain the Tracing Service until around April 1999 when it is anticipated it will transfer to a private sector contractor. In the year ending 31 March 1998, the Tracing Service processed over 100 million records.

8. FIRST NAMES

Finally, the Central Index is used to generate lists of the most popular names. A definitive guide to the most popular forenames of the past 50 years was published in 1995 and updates, which are given much publicity by the media, are issued annually at the beginning of January. Although this task may seem trivial, it is arguably of more general appeal to the public than many of the other statistics produced by ONS. It is of particular interest to those to whom the popularity of names is important, eg, cherished car numberplate dealers and the manufacturers of personalised luxury goods.

IN CONCLUSION

Because it holds data about individuals from the cradle to the grave, because it is estimated that over 97 per cent of the population of England and Wales are registered with a General Practitioner, and because it has been in existence since 1939, the NHSCR is unique. It plays an important role within the NHS and its value to researchers is immense. Each year it receives innumerable enquiries from commercial concerns wishing to access its data but the need to maintain confidentiality remains paramount. The NHSCR prides itself on the accuracy and integrity of its database, its well-trained staff, its high level of customer service and its commitment to meeting the needs of the NHS.

Bona fide visitors to NHSCR are always welcome.

For more information, please contact:

Adrian Read ☎ 0151 471 4203

HANDLING MISSING AND INCOMPLETE POSTCODES

The demand for information at a small area level is increasing. Historically, Analytical Services Division 1 of the DSS has provided information on the characteristics of benefit claimants at a country or regional level from statistical extracts of the Department's computer systems. Increasingly, however, the demand has focused on the need to have more information covering smaller areas, for example, local authority or ward.



Dr Gillian Ferry,
Department of Social Security

ASD derive area codes by matching postcode with the Office for National Statistics' central postcode directory. A successful match is normally obtained in around 98 per cent of cases. For some purposes, a 98 per cent success rate is sufficient and total population estimates can be obtained quite simply by grossing up by the extra 2 per cent. However, where greater accuracy is required, it is necessary to reduce the potential for area bias amongst the remaining 2 per cent.

Previously ASD's method for handling missing or invalid postcodes combined both automatic and manual processes. Although reliable, the process was time consuming and limited the ease with which ad hoc work could be carried out. To tackle this ASD invested considerable resources and have now developed a new and entirely automated procedure.

The new methodology maximises the use of any postcode information available, even when a full match cannot be made.

It should be noted that it is not specifically a postcode imputation procedure, rather it derives the information which the incomplete or missing

postcode would lead us to. It would be simple to run the code as a postcode imputation procedure, but there are a couple of problem areas inherent in this approach :

The first problem is technical. The code as it stands enables more allocations to be made by utilising incomplete postcode information than would be possible by following a straight postcode imputation approach. For example, in Income

Support scan data this amounts to 2 per cent of cases, leaving only 0.2 per cent to be in effect imputed.

Furthermore, up to 10 per cent of postcodes change each year. Thus for analysis to be run in the future it is probably more useful to have, say, the local authority to which a case was allocated according to the boundaries in operation in that year appended to a data set than to have a postcode which would then have to be mapped onto the appropriate historical postcode directory.

The new methodology is a three stage approach, these are briefly outlined below:

- Firstly all cases are allocated an area code (e.g. local authority or ward), where the postcode or partial postcode can be directly and uniquely matched to the postcode directory;
- Secondly, cases with postcode information that cannot be matched to the postcode directory, but whose postcode is similar to a case that has been successfully assigned are given the area code of the similar case;

- Finally all remaining cases are allocated on the basis of some other piece of related geographical information. For income support data this is local benefit office, but any other available information which would fulfil a similar role in the context of the methodology could very easily be used.

The procedure has been used successfully with Local Authority and Ward Level Analysis of Income Support claimants. For example, in the case of the 100 per cent Income Support data for August 1996, 97.8 per cent of cases were allocated to a local authority by matching to the full postcode directory. Of the remaining cases 1 per cent could be allocated using a partial postcode match, a further 1 per cent were allocated using a unique mapping procedure (stage 2 above), leaving only 0.2 per cent to be allocated on the basis of estimation via local office.

The extensive work to automate the procedures for allocating an area code has resulted in a consistent and reliable methodology that is successful in all cases where either a matchable postcode or a local benefit office number (or equivalent) is available. Cases without this information are extremely rare. This has helped to increase the available range of small area analysis and the efficiency with which ad hoc work can be addressed

A more detailed paper describing the methodology in full is available from:

Dr Gillian Ferry

☎ 0191 225 5674

by Andrew Colquhoun and Jonathon Bailey.

FINANCIAL STATISTICS USER GROUP (FSUG)

MEETING: 15TH MAY 1998

The most recent Financial Statistics User Group (FSUG) meeting was chaired by Colin Jameson of Barclays Bank at their London Conference Centre. It was attended, inter alia, by representatives from City firms, trade bodies, financial consultants, academia, government departments and the OECD, as well as by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Bank of England.

The meeting focused on the importance of good quality financial statistics for understanding what is happening in the financial services sector and marketing financial products. Speakers discussed how the range, content and organisation of the data could be improved for the mutual benefit of providers and users.

FSUG is an independent group of external users of official financial statistics. While the Bank of England and the ONS actively support the work of the User Group, the views expressed within the Group's meetings, and reported here, are those of the speakers and do not necessarily represent the views of their organisations, the Bank, or ONS.

OPENING ADDRESS - WELFARE, OUTPUT AND STATISTICS

The opening address was given by Professor Charles Goodhart of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). Professor Goodhart contrasted the standard measurement of "output" used within economic statistics, with

a wider concept of welfare. He also noted that the true value of output is typically not fully captured in the statistics.

Professor Goodhart said that the problem of measuring the real value of output is particularly acute in the financial services sector. Suppliers of financial services essentially supply advice. The quality of the advice is crucial but very difficult to measure. Several recent financial scandals, such as pensions misselling, illustrate the negative value which bad financial advice creates but which could escape the economic statistics. We can measure the number of cheques cleared or payments made but it is hard to measure how well individuals are managing to smooth their consumption. All we know is the nominal value of inputs; the true value of output is unknown.

The Professor also referred to the Boskin Report, which had considered the problem of adjusting statistics to take account of quality improvement. He argued that it is easier to measure the quality of, say, a steel girder than that of a university education. One practical consequence of the quality measurement problem is that inflation can be significantly overstated if the statistics do not account for higher quality of output. One delegate noted the implications of uncertain inflation data for the work of the MPC. He asked whether the MPC should concentrate on one more definite data series, such as money supply, or whether it should glean information from as many different sources as possible.

Professor Goodhart stated his preference, and indeed that of the MPC, for the latter approach. Simon Anderson (Barclays) Corporate lending, looked at Barclays' use of statistical data and the costs and benefits of possible improvements.

The Corporate Banking Products and Services department provide market analysis to Barclays'

senior executives and product, segment and relationship managers. They require data on corporate lending split by type and size of customer and by type of product. The Bank of England forms ask for data split by economic sector and industrial classification of counterpart. There is a discrepancy which causes problems when trying to work out Barclays' market share - the internal and external data are not compatible. The different formats in which banks currently present their own data further hinder comparison.

Simon Anderson favoured a strengthening of the links between the banks and the Bank of England to overcome the discrepancy, provided other banks thought it useful. New forms could be introduced, giving more detail on business split by customer, product, companies and subsidiaries. Existing data could then be presented with more breakdowns. The British Bankers' Association (BBA) provides useful information but only for the top ten banking groups. The BBA could emulate the Bank of England's move towards electronic delivery and automatic data capture - which reduce data capture and dissemination times.

Simon Anderson called for standardisation along the lines of Form 20F - a highly detailed return on lending by industrial sector required by the New York authorities, more detailed than the annual statements banks currently produce. All banks already have the data required by 20F; standardisation of presentation need not be costly.

Comparing costs to benefits, Simon Anderson pointed out that introducing the industrial classification of lending cost Barclays about £1 million. Besides the cost of introducing new systems to generate new datasets, banks must consider competing claims on resources such as the Year 2000 problem. The benefits are that

banks could monitor their own performance more effectively, gain a better sense of their corporate history and identify business opportunities more readily.

John Thorp from the Bank of England commented that the Bank had made a bid for classification of business counterparties by size at the opening of the Banking Statistics Review but this had been considered difficult by banks and of relatively lower priority than other bids. Perhaps the way forward is to collect more data electronically and standardise the sources. Philip Turnbull from the Bank of England mentioned the work being done by the EU's statisticians on a standard product classification of services.

The disunity between the information suppliers and analysts within some organisations was highlighted. As suppliers of data they wish to minimise their costs and contribution; as users, they wish to get as much information on their competitors as possible. Simon Anderson agreed and called for much greater openness on the part of the banks, arguing that increasing the amount of information disclosed could only increase confidence in a healthy bank.

RETAIL FINANCIAL SERVICES

David Fleming, Director of Applied Business Statistics Ltd, discussed retail financial services from the point of view of the banks and other companies involved. Historically, companies adopted a product focus when trying to understand their position in the market. They concentrated on market share. They developed trade associations (such as the Building Societies' Association) to collect product-focused data. But this solution contained new problems - the conflict between companies' wish to minimise their own data contribution while maximising the data they receive on competitors, and

inconsistencies between firm-level data and overall market data that necessitate “balancing items”. New entrants and intensified competition have made it harder for trade organisations to provide their members with the data they need.

Difficulties with the product-focused approach are driving firms to adopt customer-focused market analysis. Firms are asking how big their market could be, how much consumers are spending on financial services, how much of that spending is going to their company (wallet share).

Sharing information is not straightforward because there are gaps and inconsistencies; banks may classify customers using different income bands. Customer-focusing exacerbates the inconsistencies - different organisations have set up different systems to do different tasks.

Therefore, David Fleming concluded, all the organisations involved (banks, building societies, insurance companies and the relevant trade associations) should get together and decide what data they need and how they could help each other supply it more efficiently. They could increase their input to the ONS and they could use ONS data such as the household survey, or they could jointly commission a survey from the private sector. David Fleming called specifically for more work on measuring imports and exports of financial services, and improved GDP statistics.

INSURANCE AND PERSONAL SAVINGS: “MARKET STATISTICS EXCHANGE”

Nav Shah, from the Association of British Insurers (ABI) described the range of information collected by the ABI from its members. He covered the Association’s returns,

which collect details on the amounts and numbers of new policies sold for life business, pensions, annuities and other products. The aggregated results, which cover 95 per cent of the insurance company market, are used widely, including by individual insurance companies to identify their own market share.

Through its voluntary Market Statistics Exchange, the ABI allows companies to compare their own sales at a fine level of detail with those of their competitors. This level of access is made possible by extensive confidentiality rules, which forbid any external use of the data.

Nav Shah completed his presentation by describing some of the ABI’s current developments and future plans. The ABI are working towards greater electronic dissemination of statistics. Plans include greater use of the Internet, a medium now demanded by the majority of statistics users. The ABI are also discussing ways of reconciling data collected by themselves and those produced by the ONS in an attempt to show a consistent picture.

One of the ensuing questions asked was whether it would be feasible for the banking industry to introduce a similar data exchange. In response, the BBA felt that banks would be very sensitive to revealing their own positions to competitors, and that agreement on confidentiality rules would be difficult in practice.

UK MARKET SHARE OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

Duncan McKenzie, of British Invisibles (BI), presented the final session, drawing on international statistics to compare the UK’s share of world markets with other countries. As is well known, the UK is one of the most important financial centres, and holds the largest share in a

number of world markets, including cross-border bank lending, foreign equities and exchange turnover, and marine and aviation insurance. The shares could be affected by factors such as the uncertain future with economic and monetary union in Europe.

Fund management and securities and derivatives trading were discussed in more detail. After Tokyo, London is the second most important international fund management centre. Some £750 billion is managed on behalf of overseas clients, which reflects London's expertise in managing international equities. Securities dealers have a wider choice of trading systems in the UK, and the equity market here is the largest in the world relative to GDP. With LIFFE, LME, IPE and OLMX, London is an important centre for exchange-traded derivatives, as well as being the major world player in over-the-counter derivatives trading.

PANEL DISCUSSION

The conference concluded with a panel discussion. The speakers were joined by Philip Turnbull of the Bank of England, and Rob Hay from ONS. The issue of whether production of statistics on the financial sector was sufficiently resourced was discussed in some depth. It was felt that the growing demands for accurate information were not matched by increased resources, and suggested that statistical users ought to make more convincing cases to producers for improved information. Simon Anderson pointed out the conflict between users of the information and the businesses that supply the data; despite the increasing demand for good quality information, there remains the need to reduce the form-filling burden on businesses. It was also noted that statistics users groups tend to over-represent producers of data, and under-represent the analysts and economists who are using the statistical information.

A further discussion ensued over whether statisticians should be concerned about producing market share information, and whether more emphasis should be given to other indicators such as margins. Philip Turnbull felt that, at the macro level at least, the amount of price and margin information available was growing. However, such variables tend to be more sensitive and businesses are reluctant to provide the information. He nevertheless saw a continuing need for information on balance sheet positions and flows.

For further information contact:

Andrew Colquhoun / Jonathan Bailey
☎ 0171 601 4738/5360

FSUG CONFERENCE

In March 1997, the Bank and ONS hosted a Financial Statistics User Group (FSUG) conference. A full report of this seminar was published in July 1997. If you wish to receive a free copy of this report or would like to be on the mailing list for this group please contact the FSUG Secretary:

Ms Daxa Khilosia
MFSD, HO-5
Bank of England
Threadneedle Street
London, EC2R 8AH
☎ 0171 601 5353
Fax 0171 601 3334

OFFICE FOR NATIONAL STATISTICS

STATBASE

StatBase is the new Office for National Statistics information database giving direct access via the Internet to the range of official statistics available from the Government Statistical Service.



StatBase provides a route-map from a comprehensive catalogue of official statistics to the databases where the statistics are held. Apart from the usual costs of Internet access, customers have free access to the definitions or descriptions of data (metadata) and to a range of key statistical information. Charges sometimes apply for access to other statistics, but these are clearly indicated and options for method of payment given.

At the core of *StatBase* is a catalogue known as *StatSearch*. It contains comprehensive information about all the Government's censuses, surveys, publications, statistical databases and other information sources and also provides contacts for further information and advice. *StatSearch* provides an integral search directory and keyword search facility so see whether information on a certain subject is available.

StatStore is the part of *StatBase* which holds all the statistics available on the system and covers a wide range of material handled by the GSS. It provides the facility to view or download statistical data on-line. Other features include access to *Navidata 2*, the software tool enabling the exploration, manipulation, charting and

mapping of time series data and *Beyond 20/20™* enabling cross-sectional analysis.

Anyone without access to the Internet can gain indirect access to *StatBase* through the ONS helpline service *StatCall*.

Key economic and social statistics are now available on *StatBase*, followed by further phases extending the range of data and facilities.

StatBase is available on the World Wide Web via the Government Statistical Service home page:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk>

or the Office for National Statistics website:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk>

The number of the *StatCall* helpline is:

☎ 0171 533 5675

EUROPEAN CLASSIFICATION OF UK GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

New Regional Structure for the United Kingdom

Following extensive discussions, agreement has been reached with Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Union, on a new classification of UK areas for European purposes. The classification is known as the Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS) and provides a breakdown of the European Union's territory for producing regional statistics which are comparable across the Union. It has five hierarchical levels, and is built up from administrative units such as local government areas in the member states. A summary of the agreed structure is given overleaf.

SUMMARY OF NEW NOMENCLATURE

PROPOSED STRUCTURE / TYPE OF AREA

Level:	England	Scotland* and Wales	Northern Ireland	Number of areas
1	Government Office Regions	Countries	Country	12
2	Counties (some grouped)	Groups of unitary authorities	Country	37
3	Upper tier authorities (counties)	Groups of unitary authorities	Groups of districts	133
4	Lower tier authorities (districts)	Individual unitary authorities	Individual districts	443
5	Wards	Wards	Wards	About 11,000

* In Scotland, Level 2, 3 and 4 areas are combinations of unitary authorities, LECS or parts thereof.

For more information contact:

Dev Virdee
Office for National Statistics
Zone B5/03
1 Drummond Gate
London, SW1V 2QQ
☎ 0171 533 5790

INDEX OF PLACE NAMES

The *Index of Place Names* is an electronic gazetteer that pinpoints a comprehensive listing of some 60,000 places in England and Wales within their respective administrative areas. The Index also includes population figures for those areas which have legally defined boundaries.



An Index was first produced in 1831 and last

produced as a separate (1981) Census volume in 1985.

Given the frequency with which the boundaries of administrative areas change, ONS now produce an annually updated index upon CD.

The 1997 *Index of Place Names* takes account of changes to statutory administrative area boundaries and/or names up to and including 31 December 1997 and is the first to be made available on CD-ROM with a supporting search facility to enhance its usefulness.

Features of the 1997 index include:

- Links of places to local government administrative areas (Government Office Region, county, unitary authority and local authority district) and to health authorities and registration districts (births, marriages and deaths) as appropriate;

- Contains records for over 10,000 parishes, 2,600 urban areas and subdivisions and 44,000 localities (places without legally defined boundaries) as well as records for all local government administrative areas;
- Holds easily accessible 1991 Census based populations for all places with legally-defined boundaries, readjusted to take account of statutory boundary changes;
- Includes grid references to enable place names to be quickly identified on Ordnance Survey maps;
- Incorporates an on-line facility (for Windows 3.x, 95 and NT) which provides a fast and simple method of specifying a chosen place and selecting data relating to it;
- Provides documentation explaining the field names and instructions on loading and using the search facility.

For further information contact:

Kathy Edwards
 ☎ 01329 813477

or to order contact:

ONS Direct
 ☎ 01633 812078

NEW PROPOSALS FOR NATIONAL STATISTICS POPULATION AND HEALTH PUBLICATIONS

In March this year, a consultation paper was sent out with the Office for National Statistics quarterly journal *Population Trends*, setting out new proposals for ONS's population and health regular publications. The consultation document was also sent to users of ONS's Population and Health Monitors and to key customers in

government departments, members of advisory committees and other interested parties.

The document asked for comments on

- Whether ONS population and health material should be focused into two separate publications;
- Whether all ONS regular commentary, annual updates, articles, monitors and quarterly publications should be contained in two single quarterly publications; one for health and one for population and demography;
- Costs and timetabling.

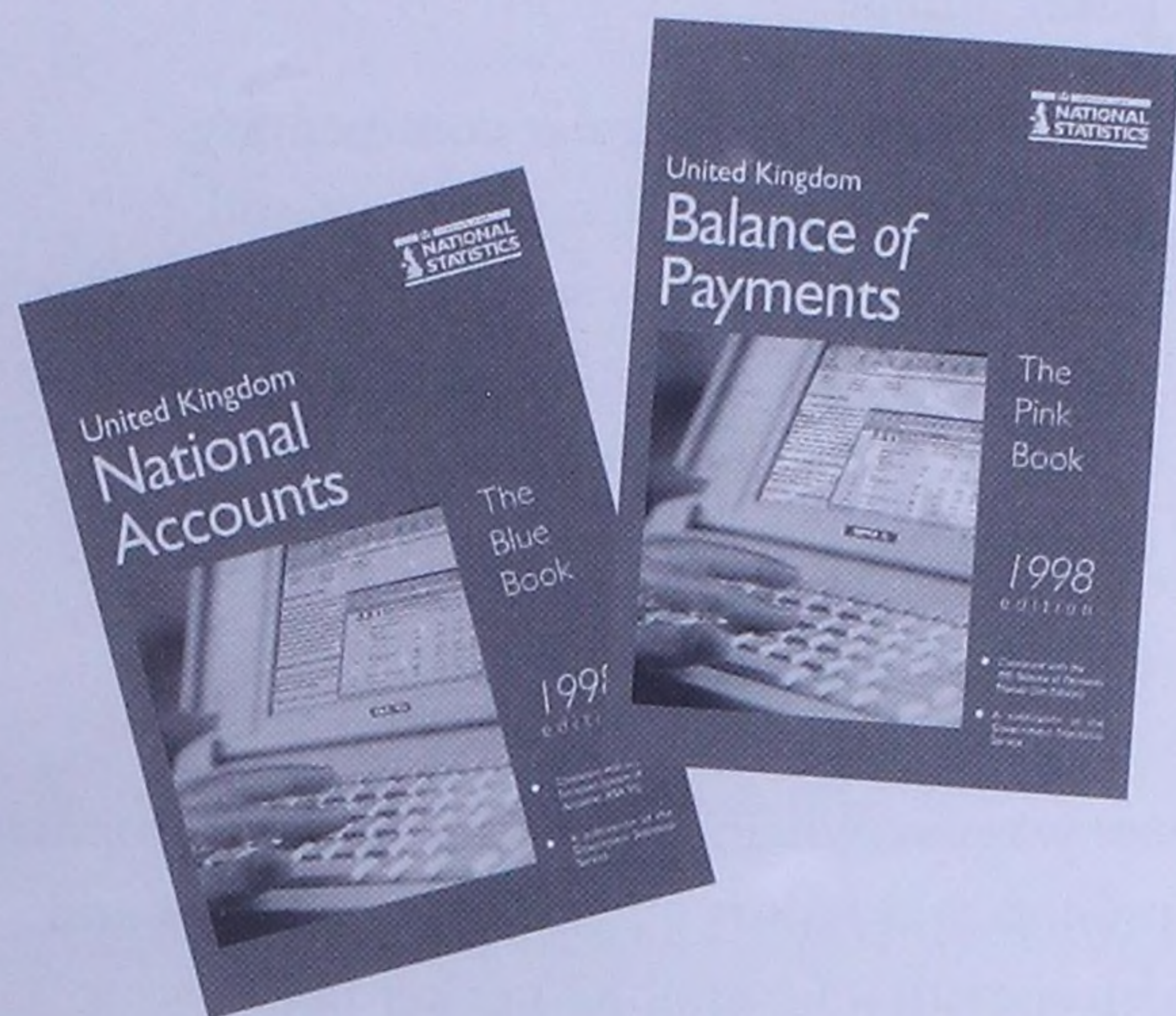
There was overwhelming support for the proposal to publish and report separately population and health statistics. Overall 82 per cent of respondents were in favour, although a tenth of those in favour mentioned the importance of including some mortality data in the population quarterly and some population data, especially fertility, in the health quarterly.

Seventy four per cent of respondents were also in favour of combining other existing outputs in the two quarterly publications. As a result, it is planned to introduce two appropriate publications from early in 1999.

Many other points raised related to the way such material is presented (such as the provision of cumulative indexes, guest articles, free Internet tables and more Great Britain and United Kingdom coverage). There were also several general comments from other government departments raising issues about Great Britain and UK statistics and country-specific results. The issue of an overall strategy for health publications is currently being addressed by the Department of Health.

THE NEW-STYLE BLUE AND PINK BOOKS

On 29 September 1998, the Office for National Statistics published the 1998 *National Accounts Blue Book* and *Balance of Payments Pink Book*. They will incorporate the most fundamental changes since the accounts were first published.



The 1998 *Blue and Pink Books* will have undergone a radical overhaul, to make them consistent with new internationally agreed standards: the System of National Accounts 1993 (SNA93) and its European equivalent, the European System of Accounts (ESA95). Also from that date, the UK balance of payments will be based on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) *Balance of Payments Manual* (5th edition), which is consistent with SNA/ESA.

What are the main changes in the New System?

Some changes will be immediately apparent to users; for instance the new terminology and accounting structure, and the re-definition of sectors within the economy. The concept of capital formation has been enlarged to include items previously regarded as intermediate consumption, for instance software, agricultural assets, literary and artistic originals. There will be

a new classification of financial instruments. The “headline” figure of GDP will be at market prices, rather than as previously at factor cost, and there is a new price basis for value added.

Other changes in this year’s Blue Book

Apart from the introduction of the new system of national accounts, there will be several other significant changes in this year’s *Blue Book*: the introduction of the effects of a new business register, with wider coverage; rebasing volume series to a 1995 basis; and a number of methodological changes and data improvements. Among the latter is a new method of estimating public sector output at constant prices, based on indicators of output.

Educating users

The large-scale changes to the accounts will have a big impact on users, who will need help in understanding the concepts underlying the changes and guidance in using the new presentation. Electronic customers will need practical help in adapting their systems to take on the new data. ONS has had an extensive user education programme, beginning with introductory seminars to explain the new concepts. Last November saw the production of early versions of the main publications, re-working last year’s data in the new format; these were used as a basis for user education and consultation. More recently, articles in *Economic Trends*, briefing for electronic customers, advertisements and press coverage have aimed to reach as many users as possible in the run-up to publication.

Two reference publications will provide detailed guidance on how the new accounts have been compiled: a completely new edition of the main guide to the accounts, *Concepts, sources and methods*, and a one-off publication, *Introducing*

ESA95 in the UK. Finally there will be post-release seminars to answer users' questions.

Benefits

Although the transition may be uncomfortable for many users, there are definite long-term benefits. The accounts will have a clearer framework and use more up to date concepts; international comparability will be much improved; and the GDP dataset will be more consistent and coherent. Customers who responded to last year's consultation welcomed the improved structure of the new format.

The future

September's publication sees the completion of the first stage of introducing ESA in the UK, but not the end of the ESA process. Further developments timetabled up to 2005 include: the transfer of regional accounts to an ESA95 basis; the production of constant price input-output supply and use balances; and the introduction of chain-linking and a package of measures designed to improve comparability within the EU of constant price estimates in the accounts.

For further information, please contact:

Anna Brueton
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Office for National Statistics
1 Drummond Gate
London, SW1V 2QQ
☎ 0171 533 5953

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 1997 - 98

The 1997 - 98 edition of the Office for National Statistics *Annual Report and Accounts* is now available from The Stationery Office Publications Centre, telephone 0171 873 9090. Price £12.40, ISBN 0 10 552216 3.



COURT SERVICE

THE CENTRAL LONDON COUNTY COURT PILOT MEDIATION SCHEME - EVALUATION REPORT

LCD Research Series No. 5/98

Mediation and other forms of 'Alternative Dispute Resolution' are currently the subject of considerable interest and debate. It is argued that through mediation, civil disputes can be settled more amicably, more quickly and less expensively than by traditional litigation procedures or by court adjudication. In this report, the author provides an evaluation of an experimental mediation scheme established in the Central London County Court, through which litigating parties were offered the opportunity to have their cases mediated at the court.

The evaluation includes an assessment of:

- The demand for mediation and reasons for reluctance to mediate;
- Motivation for mediating and the kinds of cases for which mediation is appropriate;
- The extent to which mediation can promote settlement and reduce the time taken to settle civil cases;
- Different mediation strategies and the reactions of parties and their solicitors to the mediation process.

The report points to the need to educate the legal profession and litigants about the nature and potential of mediation and the need to consider training and quality-control of mediators. The report also raises questions about the extent to which mediation is valued in its own right and how far the benefits of mediation and the acceptability of mediated compromises derive directly from flaws in the existing system of adjudication.

For further information contact:

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54-60 Victoria Street
London, SW1E 6QW
☎ 0171 210 8602

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

THE WIDER VIEW

As part of an initiative to provide key information across the Department for Education and Employment, Employability and Adult Learning (EAL) division has produced the Wider View Internet Website. The Wider View website contains Power Point and Excel charts grouped in broad cross cutting themes across the Department. These include schools, social exclusion, unemployment and international comparisons. The aim of these charts was to provide up to date information for use in briefing, writing speeches and preparing presentations.

EAL had the task of liaising with Policy colleagues to produce an initial list of desired

charts. EAL then identified the relevant contacts to supply the information and produced a standard set of charts. All the charts are accompanied with bullet points and contacts for further information. All the charts have use by dates and will be updated when new data is available. The charts can be either viewed through the Internet Explorer or downloaded to disk.

This website was launched as part of a package of Key Information products. Other products included are *New Findings*, a summary of new analytical information, Statistical Press Notices and Policy and Manifesto achievements.

The Wider View also aims to raise the profile of Analytical Services. Members of the Department outside Analytical Services will have easy access to analytical information. The website contains a network of contacts covering the main themes from across the Department. Again this will help access to information and highlight the work done by Analytical Services.

Future plans for the Wider View include linking areas of the Wider View to specific policy sites. This will provide the user with a complete package of information. Policy colleagues will be able to see the underlying data behind specific policies and colleagues from Analytical Services can see how their work relates to policy issues. For further information contact:

Chris Sprange
DfEE
AS:EAL4
Moorfoot
Sheffield, S1 4PQ,
☎ 0114 259 4284

CONFERENCE CLIPPING

The Information Development and Liaison Group (IDLG), the central/local government group for consideration of (non-financial) statistical issues, has been relaunched after a review of its activities. In view of the changes, the group has been renamed the Central and Local (Government) Information Partnership (CLIP). CLIP's purpose is:

"To enable central and local government to work together to develop an efficient and effective infrastructure for policy development, implementation, monitoring and reporting".

CLIP's business will be conducted through subgroups and task forces, with two meetings of the main group each year - a conference in the spring, with presentations and discussion on selected areas of work, and a normal business meeting in the autumn.

The first new-style CLIP conference was held on 14 May. There were presentations on:

- The Local Government Policy Agenda;
- The Future of Official Statistics;
- Planning the 2001 Census;
- Guidance for Efficient Transfer of Statistics;
- Interform - a demonstration of data collection across the Internet;
- Indicators of Sustainable Development;
- The National Land Use Database.

Delegates were agreed that the event was very successful, with a good range of topics. More importantly, it was a great improvement on the previous IDLG meetings. Overall, delegates found the subject matter relevant and interesting, rating the day as a positive learning experience. Further information about the group and its next event, the 1998 main business meeting on 12 November, can be obtained from:

The CLIP Secretariat:
Janet Burton
Department of the Environment,
Transport and the Regions
Zone 3/J9
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London, SW1E 5DU
☎ 0171 890 5517

FORESTRY COMMISSION

VISITOR SURVEYS

The Forestry Commission believes that recreation is one of the most important benefits that woodlands provide and has a long history of welcoming people into the forests that it manages on their behalf.

Forest Enterprise (an executive agency of the Forestry Commission) is responsible for the efficient and sustainable management of the public forest estate to deliver multiple benefits. In order to assess whether it is meeting its targets in the recreation area, Forest Enterprise established a national programme to collect detailed information about visits to public woods and forests.

The national programme comprises:

- monitoring of visitor numbers at a number of sample sites, and
- surveys to measure visitor satisfaction and assess the provision for specialist users.

In addition to the national programme, a number of local visitor surveys are run each year in order to assist district managers to evaluate local issues.

The majority of visitor surveys are interviewer administered, with visitors being interviewed in forest car parks. Questions common to all visitor surveys relate to group composition, home location of respondents, distance travelled to the site and transport used, how respondents found out about the site and the main purpose of the visit.

Additional questions vary between surveys but can cover topics such as waymarked walks, cycling in forests, use of the Visitor Centre, ratings of facilities at the site and suggestions for improvements.

Statistics staff in the Forestry Commission provide advice and assistance to Forest Enterprise in the running of the national visitor monitoring programme and many local surveys. This comprises survey design, data processing, analysis and production of reports.

Results from the surveys are summarised in an annual report. The latest version, *Forest Visitor Surveys 1997*, was published in August 1998. Results vary amongst sites but generally tend to show that most respondents are visiting in groups of around 2 to 4 people, have travelled from home that day and have been to the site before but do not visit regularly. Most travel to the sites to walk, to relax and picnic or to get fresh air and exercise.

Each year, the national programme also focuses on a particular type of specialist user. In 1997, there were on-site surveys of cyclists, supplemented by Omnibus Survey questions

asking the general public about leisure cycling. Results appear in *Forest Cycling Surveys 1997*, published in August 1998. Surveys running in 1998 will be assessing provisions for visitors with special needs.

Reports are also available for individual visitor surveys which ran at the following locations during 1997:

- England:** Black Rocks, Dalby, Downs and Chilterns, Grizedale, New Forest, Rothbury, Symonds Yat, Westonbirt Arboretum, Whinlatter, Wyre
- Scotland:** Borders, Dornoch, Inverness
- Wales:** Afan Argoed, Llanrwst

For further information contact:

Sheila Ward
Secretariat: Statistics
Forestry Commission
231 Corstorphine Road
Edinburgh, EH12 7AT
☎ 0131 314 6218

NORTHERN IRELAND STATISTICS AND RESEARCH AGENCY

STANDING CONFERENCE ON REGIONAL AND URBAN STATISTICS (SCORUS)

The biennial international SCORUS conference was held in Belfast's Waterfront Hall from 8-11 June. The Department of Finance and Personnel Minister, Mr Paul Murphy was one of the speakers at the opening ceremony.

NISRA hosted an evening reception for the guests in Parliament Buildings. Dr Stephen Donnelly, Social Security Statistics Branch, contributed a paper to the conference and Mr Edgar Jardine, NISRA Chief Executive, was part of a panel discussion on Urban Indicators.

ROYAL STATISTICAL SOCIETY

ARCHIVING STATISTICS

The Royal Statistical Society in July brought together producers of statistics, custodians of records, archivists and secondary researchers in various disciplines to discuss what paper and electronic material is needed for the informed use of published statistics and how it can be preserved.

Tim Holt, Head of the Government Statistical Service, opened the conference by stressing the importance of archiving in preserving our historical heritage. The provision of and access to contextual information was vital. He recognised and praised the efforts in recent years of the Data Archive at Essex University in holding data and

extensive documentation for the main GSS surveys. Dr Holt said the National Statistics Library, which is open to the public for research purposes, was "full of historical treasures". A paper on archiving practice was prepared by Julian Calder, Office for National Statistics, and John Fox, also from ONS, spoke on the main issues coming out of the meeting.

The main outcome of the conference was the establishing of a group to look at best practice under the RSS umbrella. Main players like the PRO and the GSS would be invited to be involved with this. Papers from the conference are to be put on the RSS website.

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Department of Social Security (London)
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Piers Bisson
Her Majesty's Treasury
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Parliament Street
LONDON SW1P 3AG

Rachel Gaskin
Welsh Office
Room 2-002
Cathays Park
CARDIFF CF1 3NQ

Get the whole picture on the new national accounts

- and a free CD-Rom!

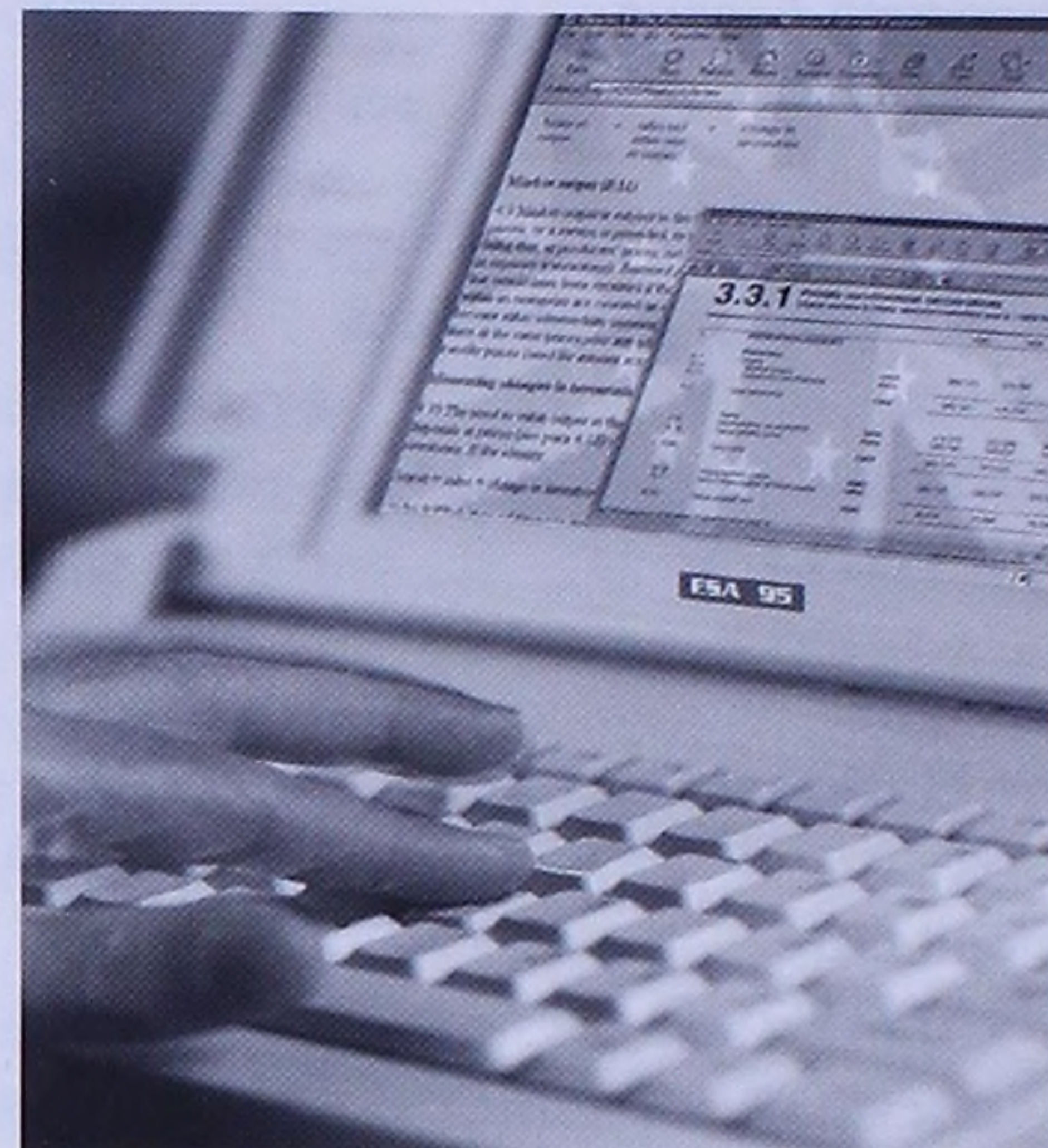
THE UK NATIONAL ACCOUNTS are undergoing extensive changes in September 1998, including conversion to the ESA 95 framework. To help users adapt to the new presentation, National Statistics is issuing six key national accounts publications simultaneously for the first time. The six volumes work together to provide a full picture of the new accounts and will be essential for anyone who needs to develop a full understanding of the new concepts and presentation.

Three regular annual data volumes lay out the new accounts and the data underlying them:

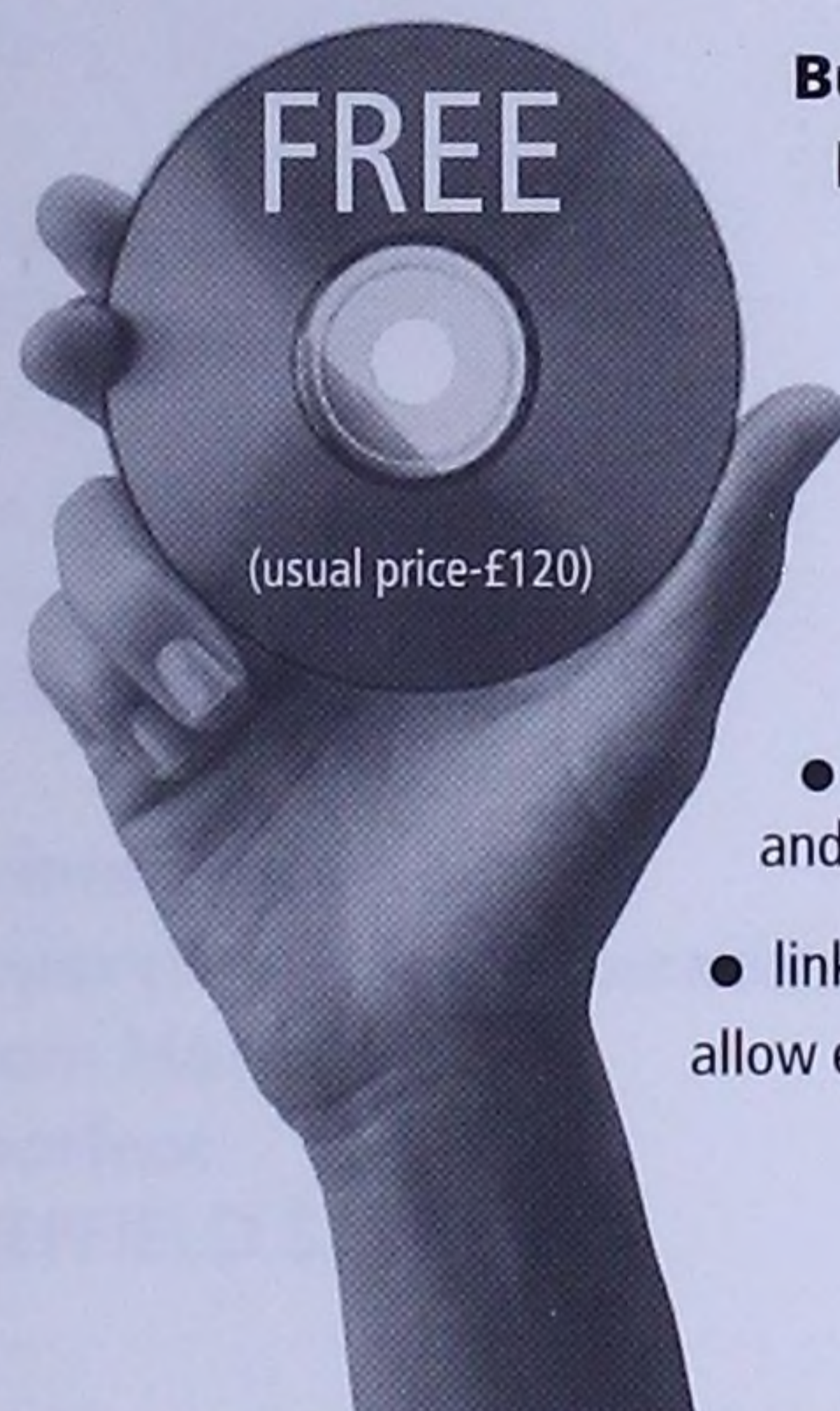
- United Kingdom National Accounts – The Blue Book £39.50
- United Kingdom Balance of Payments – The Pink Book £39.50
- United Kingdom Input-Output Supply and Use Balances, 1992-96 £39.50

Three methodological guides provide all the information needed to fully understand the new accounts:

- United Kingdom National Accounts Concepts, Sources and Methods £75.00
- Introducing the European System of Accounts 1995 in the United Kingdom £25.00
- United Kingdom Sector Classification for the National Accounts £25.00



Call the Stationery Office today on
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- and free CD-Rom



Buy all six books (total price £243.50) and get the CD-Rom: UK National Accounts, 1998

(usual price £120) containing:

- full Blue Book tables
- complete Concepts, Sources and Methods text
- linkages between the two to allow easy methodological reference.

Electronic formats

Extensive runs of annual and quarterly national accounts and balance of payments data are available in electronic format. Call the ONS Databank on 0171 533 5675.

The data contained in UK Input-Output Supply and Use Balances 1992-96 is also available electronically (on disk). Call ONS Direct on 01633 812078.

New Surveys & Departmental Listings

Supplement



NEW SURVEYS NOTIFIED TO SURVEY CONTROL UNIT

JANUARY 1998 - MARCH 1998

For further information about the survey listed, the appropriate contact may be obtained from Ehshan Sumun, Survey Control Unit, Office for National Statistics, Zone D2/11, 1 Drummond Gate, London SW1V 2QQ. ☎ 0171 533 6324.

NEW SURVEYS ASSESSED

SCU No.	Title	Dept.	Ass Dept	Activity of respondents	Number of respondents	Location	Freq
11200026	Use of Electronic Submission Methods for Intrastat Declarations	C&E		Business Serv.	620	UK	AH
11200027	Customer Survey of the Classification Advisory Service	C&E		Customer	1,000	UK	Y2
12500027	Monthly Credit Grantors	ONS		Finance	372	GB	M
12500049	Annual Research and Development	ONS		Research	1,579	UK	A
12500057	Quarterly Commodity Inquiry	ONS		Business	432	N/K	Q
12500060	Retail Sales Inquiry	ONS		Retail	48,800	GB	M
12500061	Annual Catering Inquiry	ONS		Service	5,668	GB	A
12500063	Annual Service Trades Inquiry	ONS		Service	20,471	GB	A
12500064	Annual Motor Trades Inquiry	ONS		Vehicles	5,981	GB	A
12500065	Annual Retail Inquiry	ONS		Retail	11,104	N/K	A
12500066	Annual Property Inquiry	ONS		Service	5,006	GB	A
12500086	Monthly Sales Inquiry	ONS		Manufacture	121,104	GB	M
12500090	Annual Census of Production	ONS		Manufacture	15,458	UK	A
12500091	Annual Census of Construction	ONS	DETR	Construction	5,310	UK	A
12500097	Quarterly Wholesale Stocks	ONS		Distribution	11,722	UK	Q
13400116	Primary Care Act Pilots: To Support the National Gp. Remuneration System	DH		Doctor	770	GB	AH
13400117	Enquiry Into Gps' Incomes and Expenses in 1995-96 and 1996-97	DH		Doctor	6,500	GB	AH
13900331	Survey of Professional Users of Peat and Peat Alternatives	DETR		Chemicals	2,200	E	AH
13900333	Audible Intruder Alarms	DETR		Business Serv.	350	E	AH
13900334	Enhancing Public Participation in Local Government	DETR		Service	80	E	AH
13900335	*Cost Recovery Charging Effectiveness for Water Abstraction and Eff. Disc.	DETR		Water	N/K	EW	AH
13900339	Market Research for Construction Industry Best Practice Programme	DETR		Construction	630	UK	AH
14200118	Contributions Agency Field Operations Customer Survey	DSS		Customer	7,500	GB	AH
14400170	Competitiveness Analysis of the UK Downstream Gas Industry	DTI		Business	800	GB	AH
14400171	ETBPP Impact Assessment Survey	DTI		Business Serv.	2,800	UK	AH
14400172	Business Link Campaign Evaluation (Post Advertising Tracking) Feb 98	DTI		Business Serv.	900	E	AH
14400173	DTI/Surface Engineering 2000 Statistics Survey	DTI		Engineering	3,000	UK	A
14400174	Attitudes and Barriers to Improved Environmental Performance	DTI		Manufacture	5,600	UK	AH
14400175	Survey of Accident and Emergency Unit Computer Information Systems	DTI		Hospital	390	UK	AH
14400176	South East Asia 'Lands Of Opportunity' Campaign	DTI		Business	1,000	UK	AH

SCU No.	Title	Dept.	Ass Dept	Activity of respondents	Number of respondents	Location	Freq
14400177	Quality Management System: Market Directorates	DTI		Business	1,900	GB	C
14400179	*The Size and Health of the UK Space Industry	DTI		Engineering	120	SE	AH
14400180	*Study Of CWPII (the 2nd Competitiveness White Paper) Innovative Projs.	DTI		Business Serv.	60	E	AH
14400182	*Survey as Part of an Evaluation of the OSO Support for Innovation Projs.	DTI		Oil	172	UK	AH
14400183	*Customer Focus (External) Research Survey	DTI		Business Serv.	425	UK	AH
14400184	*Materials Measurement Evaluation Questionnaire	DTI		Business	50	UK	AH
14400185	UK Electronic Publishing Industries Study	DTI		Printing	2,115	UK	AH
14400188	Bankruptcy Register User Questionnaire	DTI		Business	95	UK	AH
14500287	Options for Influencing the rise of Private Non-Residential Parking	DETR		Driver	180	E	AH
15100040	Evaluation of an Enhanced Matching Service	ES		Employer	132	YH	AH
15100042	Delivery of the New Deal in Pathfinder Areas	ES		Employer	80	GB	AH
15100044	Qualitative Research on Employers' Attitudes to the New Deal (18-24 Yrs)	ES		Employer	130	GB	AH
15100045	Evaluation of Centralised Vacancy Taking in London and South East Region	ES		Employer	100	SE	AH
15100046	Evaluation of Customer Helpline Information Pilots for Jobcentres	ES		Customer	3,000	GB	AH
16600017	Examining the Nature of Plant Theft	HO		Police	1,000	GB	AH
16600018	Assessing the Scale and Risk of Construction Plant Theft	HO		Police	4,000	GB	AH
16800070	*Survey of Operation of Statutory Gas Installers' Registration Scheme	HSE		Chemicals	400	E	AH
16800071	*CIMAH Sites and the Millennium Problem	HSE		Chemicals	300	E	AH
16800072	*Consulting Small Dry Cleaning Business on Risks of Miscarriage	HSE		Clothing	85	E	AH
17100062	Survey of Non-Resident Landlord Scheme - Fico Bootle	IR		Estate Agent	600	UK	AH
17100063	Accounts Office Shipley - 3rd Survey of Telephone Callers	IR		Finance	1,000	UK	A
17900095	Vegetables and Flowers Survey	MAFF		Farming	3,566	EW	A
17900209	Farm Resource Use on Countryside Maintenance and Management	MAFF		Farming	250	SW	AH
17900212	Arable Land Management Initiative - Norfolk Pilot Area Study	MAFF		Farming	80	EA	AH
17900213	Pilot Survey of Livestock Marketing Channels and Marketing Practice	MAFF		Farming	185	N	AH
23200056	Human Resource Development and Company Competitiveness	SO	SE	Business Serv.	80	S	AH
23200057	Evaluation of the impact of Ferry Fares on the N and W Isles of Scotland	SO	HIE	Transport	80	S	AH
23200058	Evaluation of Business Development Support for Tourism Businesses	SO	SE	Tourist	200	S	AH
23200059	Training for Work Evaluation - Employers	SO	SE	Trainee	440	S	AH
23300024	Review of the Organic Farming Sector in Scotland	SOAF		Farming	200	S	AH
23300025	Socio-Economic Influences in the Coire Programme (Se-Coire)	SOAF		Farming	160	S	AH
23300026	National Survey of Farm Crime in Scotland	SOAF		Farming	1,000	S	AH
23500023	Demand and Supply Of Pre-School Education	SOED		Education	1,232	S	AH
23700038	Supporting Parenting in Scotland - A Mapping Exercise	SOHH		Soc. Services	300	S	AH
23800059	*Newbridge Interchange Community Questionnaire	SOHH		Transport	65	S	AH
23800061	Research Study - Environmental Effects of the Landfill Tax in Scotland	SOHH		Finance	1,942	S	AH
23800062	Scottish Survey Of Primary Aggregate Minerals Year Ending 31/12/97	SOID		Construction	140	S	Y4
23800063	Evaluation of Tailored Market Reports	SOID	SE	Business	125	S	AH
23800064	Signal Integrity Marketing Survey	SOID		Manufacture	60	UK	AH

SCU No.	Title	Dept.	Ass Dept	Activity of respondents	Number of respondents	Location	Freq
23800066	One Stop Shop Arrangements for development-related LA Functions	SOID		Business	256	S	AH
24900061	Survey of Registered Housing Associations	WO		Housing	N/K	W	A
24900063	1998 International Benchmarking Study - Supplementary Survey	WO	WDA	Business Serv.	500	W	AH
24900066	Economic Study of Arts and Cultural Industries	WO	WDA	Entertainment	1,080	W	AH
26000143	Disability Discrimination Act - Tracking Research	DFEE	CoI	Disabled	500	GB	AH
26000147	Review on Educational and other Interventions for Children with Autism	DFEE		Education	840	E	AH
26000148	Literature Review of Research on the Educational Achievement of Deaf Chldn.	DFEE		Child	100	E	AH
26000149	Evaluation of the Introduction of TEC Equal Opportunities Strategies	DFEE		Education	63	E	AH
26000150	Lifelong Learning for Professionals	DFEE		Employee	800	E	AH
26000151	Employer Support for part-time Study by Employees	DFEE		Trainee	4,000	E	AH
26000152	Effective Practice in Inclusion and Special and Mainstream Schools Wkg. Tgr.	DFEE		Education	264	S	AH
26000153	Good Practice in SEN Parent Partnership	DFEE		Parent	186	E	AH
26000154	Evaluation of Aspects of the University for Industry	DFEE		Education	125	E	AH

Household and Individual Surveys

13400112	Organ Donation Brainstorming Research	DH		Health	N/K	N/K	AH
13400113	Mental Health Toolkit Research	DH		Health	26	E	AH
13400114	Prescription Charging and Fraud Publicity Strategy Research	DH	CoI	Health	200	E	AH
13400115	Blanked	DH		Woman	200	EM	AH
13800037	Premium Bond Repayments Survey	DNS		Service	1,050	GB	AH
13800038	Customer Service Benchmarking Survey 1997	DNS		Service	14,000	GB	AH
13800039	Customer Service Survey - Missing Books: Ordinary and Investment Accounts	DNS		Banking	1,000	GB	AH
13800040	Customer Service Survey: General Correspondence	DNS		Service	750	GB	AH
13800041	Tax Foregone - Savings Certificates	DNS		Finance	1,000	GB	AH
13800042	Premium Bonds - Tax Foregone 1998	DNS		Business Serv.	1,000	GB	AH
13900330	Survey of Amateur (Gardeners) Users of Peat and Peat Alternatives	DETR		Chemicals	1,000	E	AH
13900332	Informing a Respse on Enviromnt Imprvmt for 1999 Rev'w By Srvy of Cons.Pref.	DETR		Water	2,000	EW	AH
13900336	Climate Change Campaign 'Pitch' Research	DETR		Business Serv.	40	E	AH
13900338	Global Warming Creative Development	DETR		Health	32	E	AH
14200114	The New Dialogue	DSS		Woman	1,000	GB	AH
14200115	NDLP Qualitative Research	DSS	CoI	Parent	48	E	AH
14200116	Change of Circumstances Qualitative Research	DSS		Soc. Services	90	GB	AH
14200117	Counter Fraud Publicity Development	DSS		Soc. Services	86	GB	AH
14200119	Developing The New Dialogue: Pilot Women Juries	DSS		Woman	200	EM	AH
14500280	Urban Street Activity in 20 MPH Zones - After Survey	DETR		Traveller	210	NW	AH
14500281	Travel Effects of Park and Ride	DETR		Transport	7,600	E	AH
14500282	Survey of Novice Drivers And Motorcyclists: 3rd Phase	DETR		Driver	10,000	GB	AH
14500283	A13/A1089 Thames Gateway DBFO HGV Roadside Interview Surveys	DETR		Driver	2,200	SE	AH

SCU No.	Title	Dept.	Ass Dept	Activity of respondents	Number of respondents	Location	Freq
14500284	Survey of Driving Knowledge: 2nd Phase	DETR		Driver	700	GB	AH
14500285	Walking and Cycling Exposure	DETR		Traveller	15,000	GB	AH
14500286	Child Pedestrian Activity: A European Survey	DETR		Pedestrian	27	GB	AH
14500288	Options for Influencing the use of Non-Residential Parking: Individual	DETR		Driver	700	E	AH
15100041	National Traineeships Creative Development Research	ES		Trainee	36	E	AH
15100043	Evaluation of Customer Helpline Information Pilots for Jobcentres	ES		Service	1,200	GB	AH
15600078	Dornoch Visitor Survey 1997	FC		Visitor	145	S	AH
15600079	Kielder Cycling Survey 1997	FC		Cyclist	151	N	AH
15600080	Wyre Visitor Centre Survey 1997	FC		Visitor	370	WM	AH
15600081	Wyre Cycling Survey 1997	FC		Cyclist	159	WM	AH
15600082	Galloway Forest Park Cycling Survey 1997	FC		Cyclist	184	S	AH
15600083	Forest of Dean Cycling Survey 1997	FC		Cyclist	238	SW	AH
15600084	Grizedale Visitor Centre Survey 1997	FC		Visitor	310	N	AH
15600085	Whinlatter Visitor Centre Survey 1997	FC		Visitor	170	N	AH
15600086	Leanachan Cycling Survey 1997	FC		Cyclist	63	S	AH
15600087	Symonds Yat Visitor Survey 1997	FC		Visitor	578	SW	AH
15600088	Afan Argoed Visitor Centre Survey 1997	FC		Visitor	230	W	AH
15600089	Borders Visitor Survey 1997	FC		Visitor	131	S	AH
15600090	Inverness Visitor Survey 1997	FC		Visitor	249	S	AH
15600091	Rothbury Visitor Survey 1997	FC		Visitor	285	N	AH
15600092	Dalby Visitor Centre Survey 1997	FC		Visitor	323	YH	AH
15600093	Black Rocks Visitor Survey 1997	FC		Visitor	215	EM	AH
15600094	Sherwood Pines Cycling Survey 1997	FC		Cyclist	156	EM	AH
15600095	Downs and Chilterns Visitor Survey 1997	FC		Visitor	285	SE	AH
15600096	New Forest Visitor Survey 1997	FC		Visitor	334	SE	AH
15600097	Coed Y Brenin Cycling Survey 1997	FC		Cyclist	172	W	AH
15600098	Llanrwst Visitor Survey 1997	FC		Visitor	343	W	AH
15600099	Kincardine Visitor Surveys 1997	FC		Visitor	79	S	AH
15600100	Halloween Horrors (Delamere) 1997	FC		Visitor	35	NW	AH
15600101	Delamere Christmas Tree Survey 1997	FC		Visitor	425	NW	AH
15600102	Forest Life Readership Survey 1997	FC		Reader	2,221	GB	AH
15600103	Royal Shows 1997	FC		Entertain	1,023	GB	AH
15600104	Guided Walks 1997	FC		Visitor	570	GB	AH
15600105	Leisure Cycling in Forests	FC		Cyclist	4,000	GB	AH
17900208	Complementarities and Conflict between Farming and Incomers to Countryside	MAFF		Farming	500	EW	AH
17900210	Survey of Pet Owners	MAFF		Import	8,000	UK	AH
17900211	Evaluation of Food Handlers Knowledge, Beliefs and Attitudes about Food Safety	MAFF		Food & Drink	350	EW	AH
18600058	Army Fitness Video Research	MoD	CoI	Forces	40	E	AH
18600059	Catterick Garrison Radio Trial Evaluation	MoD	CoI	Forces	600	YH	AH

SCU No.	Title	Dept.	Ass Dept	Activity of respondents	Number of respondents	Location	Freq
18600060	Army Campaign Development Research	MoD	CoI	Forces	151	UK	AH
18600061	Evaluation of Marketing Effects on Walk-Ins to AFCE/ACIO Officers	MoD	CoI	Forces	185	UK	AH
18600062	SGE and OM Qualitative Research	MoD		Forces	96	GB	AH
18600063	OG8 Dropout Research	MoD		Forces	500	UK	AH
21000008	Creditwise Leaflet Development	OFT	CoI	Finance	24	E	AH
23200060	Training for Work - Former Trainees	SO	SE	Trainee	600	S	AH
23800065	Evaluation of 20 MPH Speed Reduction Initiative	SOID		Driver	620	S	AH
23800068	Scottish Parliament at Holyrood Transportation Analysis	SOID		Parliament	5,000	S	AH
24900064	M4 Magor-Castleton Common Appraisal Framework Surveys	WO		Transport	7,500	EE	AH
24900065	Welsh Assembly Campaign Strategy Research	WO	CoI	Parliament	168	W	AH
26000144	Disability Discrimination Act - Public and Disabled People Tracking	DFEE	CoI	Disabled	6,000	GB	AH
26000145	Disability Discrimination Act - Creative Development Research	DFEE		Disabled	30	E	AH
26000155	IIYP Strategic Research - Young People	DFEE		Education	256	E	AH

Abbreviation

AA -	Automobile Association
CA -	Contribution Agency
CDLS -	Career Development Loans
CoI -	Central Office of Information
COMAH -	Control of Major Accident Hazards
DSA -	Driving Standards Agency
DME -	Degradation of Materials in Aggressive Environments
EU -	European Union
NEDB -	National Exposer Database
PAMS -	Professions Allied to Medicines
PESCA -	Italian for Fish
PSYBT -	Prince's Scottish Yacht Business Trust
RSA -	Regional Selective Assistance
SME -	Small and Medium Enterprise
TA -	Territorial Army
VAT -	Value Added Tax
* -	Assessed by Survey Control

FR-Frequency

A -	Annual
AH -	Ad hoc
C -	Continuous
Q -	Quarterly
Y2 -	Every 2 years

LOC-Location

E -	England
EA -	East Anglia
EM -	East Midlands
EW -	England and Wales
ES -	England and Scotland
GB -	Great Britain
S -	Scotland
SE -	South East
UK -	United Kingdom
W -	Wales
WM -	West Midland
YH -	Yorkshire and Humberside

SURVEY CONTROL UNIT

In accordance with survey control procedures, most regular surveys of businesses or local authorities are subject to through review at least every five years. Surveys conducted more frequently than annually are reviewed every three years. The following reviews have recently been completed.

SURVEYS TO BUSINESSES

DETR	Road Accident Statistics (Stats 1A)
MAFF	Farm Business Survey
MAFF	Survey of Vegetables and Flowers
MAFF	Glasshouse Census, Area Production
ONS	Short Period Retailing Inquiries
ONS	Credit Grantors
ONS	Quarterly Cinema Inquiry
ONS	Overseas Earnings of Insurance Brokers
ONS	Annual Business Inquiry
ONS	Scottish and Welsh Top-Up Inquiries

SURVEYS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES

ONS Register of Electors

For more information contact:

Ehshan Sumun, Survey Control Unit
Office for National Statistics
☎ 0171 533 6324

DEPARTMENTAL LISTINGS

OFFICE FOR NATIONAL STATISTICS

RECENTLY AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS

■ Published by The Stationery Office

All Change? (Health in England 1997)

Price £30, ISBN 0 11 621065 6

Report on the third Health Education Monitoring Survey for the Health Education Authority, with information on the health-related knowledge, attitudes and behaviour of adults aged 16 to 74 living in England.

Focus on the South West

Price £30, ISBN 0 11 621064 8

Comprehensive statistical picture of the South West of England produced jointly by ONS and the Government Office for the South West.

Mortality Statistics 1996: Injury and Poisoning, DH4 no.21

Price £30, ISBN 0 11 621052 4

Statistics on deaths in England and Wales in 1996 attributed to accidents, poisoning and violence.

Population Trends No. 93 - Autumn 1998

Price £19, ISBN 0 11 620971 2

Includes the following articles:

- Geographic variations in suicide mortality, 1982-96;
- Teenage mothers and the health of their children;
- Drug-related mortality: methods and trends;
- Marriages in 'approved premises' in England and Wales: the impact of the 1944 Marriage Act.

EUROPEAN SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTS (ESA95) TITLES

Introducing the European System of Accounts 1995 in the United Kingdom

Price £25, ISBN 0 11 621061 3

An explanation of the changes to the UK accounting system, including interpretation of the ESA95 framework in the UK context and the reasoning behind the decisions to adopt ESA.

Sector Classification for the National Accounts

Price £25, ISBN 0 11 621058 3

Classification of businesses, charities and other public and private organisations for compilation of the National Accounts, widely recognised as an authoritative reference for economists and statistical analysts. Consistent with ESA95.

United Kingdom Balance of Payments 1998 (ONS 'Pink Book')

Price £39.50, ISBN 0 11 621060 5

Estimates of the United Kingdom current account (trade in goods and services, income and current transfers), the capital account, the financial account and the international investment position, compatible with ESA95.

United Kingdom Input-Output supply and use balances for the United Kingdom, 1992 - 1996

Price £39.50, ISBN 0 11 621057 5

UK annual Input-Output balances consistent with the ONS 'Blue Book' (below) and with ESA 95. Matrices showing, for every industry,

which industries consume their products. Invaluable in identifying markets and supply demand relationships.

United Kingdom National Accounts 1998 (ONS 'Blue Book')

Price £39.50, ISBN 0 11 621059 1

Details on how the United Kingdom makes and spends its money with up-to-date information and definitions, compatible with ESA95.

United Kingdom National Accounts: concepts, sources and methods

Price £75, ISBN 0 11 621062 1

The first comprehensive description of the UK national accounts since the previous publication of *Sources and Methods* in 1985. It explains in detail the new presentation of the UK national accounts, the concepts underlying the accounts and the sources and methods used to compile them under the ESA95 framework.

Total price for the set of six (also including *UK National Accounts 1998* CD-ROM) £243.50.

All of the above publications are available from:

The Stationery Office Publications Centre
P.O. Box 276
London, SW8 5DT
☎ 0171 873 9090
Fax: 0171 873 8200

■ **Published by Office for National Statistics**

POPULATION AND HEALTH MONITORS

- Estimates of newly diagnosed cases of cancer, England and Wales, 1993-1997 (*MB1 98/2*)
- Infant and perinatal mortality 1997: social and biological factors (*DH3 98/3*)

- Legal abortions, January quarter 1998 (*AB 98/5*)
- Mid-1997 population estimates (*PP1 98/1*)
- Sudden infant deaths 1993/97 (*DH3 98/2*)

Price £4 each

OTHER

Key Health Statistics from General Practice 1996

Price £30, ISBN 1 85774 273 7

Analyses of morbidity and treatment data, including time trends (1994-96) for England and Wales. The report is the second in an annual series of morbidity and treatment data derived from the General Practice Research Database.

Social Trends Pocket Book

Price £12.50 for pack of ten, ISBN 1 85774 270 2

Pocket-sized selection of tables from *Social Trends 1998*, designed for use in schools and colleges. Available to the education sector only.

All of the above publications are available from:

ONS Direct
Room D.140
Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
Newport, NP9 1XG
☎ 01633 812078
Fax: 01633 812762
E-mail: sales.ons@gtnet.gov.uk

COURT SERVICE

NEW STATISTICAL BULLETIN

Information Bulletin 1/98: Time Intervals for Criminal Proceedings in Magistrates' Courts: October 1997 (published May 1998)

For further information, contact:

Peter Lumb
Information Policy Branch
Room 922
Selborne House
54-60 Victoria Street
London, SW1E 6QW
☎ 0171 210 8602

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND THE REGIONS

NEW PUBLICATION

Local Government Financial Statistics England, No. 8 1997

Price £12, ISBN 1 85112 057 2

This report provides the latest statistics on a range of local government financial data, including the Revenue Account, Income from Council Taxes, Non-Domestic Rates and Community Charges, the Capital Account, Borrowing and Investment and pension funds.

Available from:

DETR Publications Sales Centre
☎ 01709 891318

Many of the statistics can be accessed from DETR's Internet site:

<http://www.detr.gov.uk>

Summary statistics are also presented in a pull-out pocket-sized *Local Government Finance Key Facts England* information sheet and is available from:

Dawn Workman
☎ 0171 890 4163

FORESTRY COMMISSION

Forest Visitor Surveys 1997

A series of reports, written by Sheila Ward, giving results of visitor surveys carried out at selected Forestry Commission sites during 1997.

Summary reports for visitor surveys and cycling surveys; also 15 reports for individual locations. Price £2 for each report. *For more details, see the article in "News from Around the GSS and Beyond".*

National Inventory of Woodland and Trees

A series of Scottish regional reports for the National Inventory of Woodland and Trees is being published during the second half of 1998. For latest details of availability, see the Web site, which also has copies of the full reports. Paper copies are priced £5 each.

Wood Supply and Demand 1997

Published in August 1998, this report gives statistics on British wood supply and deliveries to sawmills and other wood processing industries, showing trends over the 10 years to 1997. Price £2. Also on the web site. *The publications are available from:*

HQ Statistics, Forestry Commission
231 Corstorphine Road
Edinburgh, EH12 7AT
☎ 0131 314 6351

Many statistics and reports can also be viewed on the Forestry Commission Internet web site:

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk>

For further information contact:

Simon Gillam ☎ 0131 314 6280 or
Sheila Ward ☎ 0131 314 6218 or
e-mail: statistics@forestry.gov.uk

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Prescription Cost Analysis: England 1997

Prescription Cost Analysis, published in May 1998, provides details of the number of items and net ingredient cost of prescription items dispensed in England during 1997, at individual preparation level. The information is listed within the chemical name of the drug and by therapeutic class.

The data are based on all prescriptions dispensed in the community in England during 1997. The majority are written by General Medical Practitioners but prescriptions written by hospital doctors, dentists and nurses and dispensed in the community are also included. The publication also includes prescriptions written in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man, but dispensed in England.

Statistics of prescriptions dispensed in the community: England 1987 to 1997

This bulletin, published in July 1998, is based on all prescriptions dispensed in the community and provides information by leading therapeutic groups, details of the number and cost of free prescription items dispensed by category of

exemption (eg; children and young people and elderly people); and generic prescribing. The bulletin also contains details of changes in prescribing since 1987.

The key findings in 1997 are:

- the net ingredient cost of all prescriptions dispensed was £4,367 million; an increase of 9.0 per cent or 6.1 per cent in real terms since 1996;
- the total number of prescription items dispensed in 1997 was 500 million; an increase of 3.1 per cent since 1996;
- the average net ingredient cost per prescription item was £8.73; an increase of 5.7 per cent or 2.9 per cent in real terms since 1996;
- there were on average 10.1 prescription items per head of population compared to 9.9 in 1996;
- 85 per cent of prescription items were free to patients;
- 60 per cent of all prescription items were written generically.

For further information contact:

Ann Custance
☎ 0171 972 5513

Community pharmacies in England and Wales: 31 March 1998

This bulletin presents information about community pharmacies in contract with Health Authorities (HAs) in England and Wales on 31 March 1998 to dispense National Health Service (NHS) prescriptions. It also provides information about openings and closures of such contractors, decisions on applications in

connection with such contracts and schemes for the disposal of unwanted medicines. Similar information for 30 September 1997 was published in *Bulletin* 1998/02.

The main findings were:

- 10,491 pharmacies were in contract with HAs, virtually the same number as six months and twelve months earlier;
- Over the last six months the number of pharmacies in contract changed by no more than three in any HA. There were increases of three pharmacies in Avon, North Essex and Oxfordshire; the maximum decrease in any HA was two;
- In the last six months there were 30 openings and 26 closures. 50 per cent of the closures were within 500 metres of another pharmacy. 87 per cent of openings were at least 500 metres from the nearest pharmacy, 67 per cent were at least 1 km away;

- 54 per cent of pharmacies received a payment for providing additional agreed hours of service; 38 per cent received a payment for providing advice to residential and/or nursing homes;
- 284 pharmacies received a payment under the Essential Small Pharmacies scheme.

For further information contact:

Beverley Henry

☎ 0171 972 5004

FULL LIST OF DH STATISTICAL PUBLICATIONS

Statistical Bulletins - all free, annual and relating to England only unless otherwise stated

		Compiler	Copies held by (*)
FHS Related			
1	Statistics for general medical practitioners in England	STATS (GMS)	H
2	Statistics of prescriptions dispensed in the community	SDIC	H
3	General Pharmaceutical Services	SDIC	H
4	Community pharmacies England and Wales (<i>six monthly</i>)	SDIC	H
5	Ophthalmic statistics for England 1986-87 to 1996-97	SDID	H
6	Cervical Cancer Screening	SD2B	H
7	Breast Cancer screening	SD2B	H
HCHS Related			
8	NHS Hospital Activity Services 1996-97. ISBN 1 85839 7808	FPA-PA	
9	Hospital Waiting List Statistics : England (Monthly)		
10	HCHS medical staff		
		STATS (W) A	H
11	HCHS non-medical staff	STATS (W) B	H
12	Waiting times for first outpatient appointments in England (<i>quarterly</i>)	FPA-PA	
13	Ambulance Services, England	SD2B	H
14	NHS Maternity Statistics, England	SD2B	H
15	In-patients formally detained in hospital under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation, England: 1991-92 to 1996-97	SD2C	H
Personal Social Services			
16	Community Care Statistics: Personal Social Services: Day and Domiciliary Services for Adults	SD3B	H
17	Community Care Statistics: Residential Personal Social Services for adults. Detailed statistics on residential and nursing care homes and Local Authority-supported residents	SD3B	H
18	Children looked after by Local Authorities	SD3A	H
19	Personal Social Services: Current and capital expenditure in England: 1994-95	SD3C	H
20	Residential accommodation for elderly and for younger physically disabled people - all residents in LA voluntary and private homes - LA supported residents. Last published for year ending March 1994. (<i>Free</i>)	SD3B	H
21	Residents in LA voluntary and private registered homes - LA supported residents. Last published for year ending March 1994. (<i>Free</i>)	SD3B	H

		Compiler	Copies held by (*)
22	Residential accommodation: Detailed statistics on residential care homes and supported residents. First published for year ending March 1995. (<i>Free</i>)	SD3B	H
23	Community care: Detailed statistics on Local Authority personal social services for adults. First published for 1994. (<i>Free</i>)	SD3B	H
Personal Social Services: Childrens' Services			
24	Childrens day care facilities (<i>Annual free</i>)	SD3A	
25	Children in Care / Children looked after by Local Authorities	SD3A	
26	Children and Young People on Child Protection Registers (<i>Annual free</i>)	SD3A	
27	Private fostering and place of safety orders	SD3A	
28	Supervision Orders (<i>Annual free</i>)	SD3A	
29	Children accommodated in secure units (<i>Annual free</i>)	SD3A	
30	Childrens' homes	SD3A	
Personal Social Services: Staffing			
31	Staff of Local Authority Social Services Departments (<i>Annual free</i>)	SD3C	
32	Personal Social Services: An Historical Profile of Reported Current and Capital Expenditure 1983-84 to 1993-94, England	SD3C	
Personal Social Services: Key Indicators			
33	Key indicators of Local Authority Social Services (includes printed publication, disk version, and graphical presentation package as disk only with printed user guide) (<i>Twice yearly free</i>)	SD3C	
34	Personal Social Services current and capital expenditure in England 1996-97	SD3C	
Hospital Activity and Facilities			
35	Bed Availability and Occupancy 1996-97. <i>Annual £6.00. ISBN 1 85839 791 X</i>	FPA-PA	H
36	Handling Complaints: monitoring the NHS complaints procedure 1996-97. <i>ISBN 1 85839 825 8</i>		
37	Outpatients and ward attenders. <i>ISBN 1 85839 793 6</i>	FPA-PA	H
38	Ordinary and day care admissions 1996-97 <i>ISBN 1 85839 792 8</i>	FPA-PA	H
39	Private hospitals, homes and clinics - England Regional Health Authority and Regional Office Areas registered under section 23 of the Registered Homes Act 1984, Vol 1. <i>Annual £7.00, ISBN 1 85839 495 3</i>	SD3B	H
40	Private hospitals, homes and clinics - District Health Authority summaries registered under section 23 of the Registered Homes Act 1984, Vol 2. <i>Annual £11.00, ISBN 1 85839 496 1</i>	SD3B	H
41	Imaging and radiodiagnostics 1996-97. <i>ISBN 1 85839 792 8</i>	FPA-PA	H
42	Wheelchairs and artificial limbs 1996-97. <i>ISBN 1 85839 796 0</i>	FPA-PA	H

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| 43 | In-patients formally detained in hospitals under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation: NHS Trusts, High Security Hospitals and Private Facilities 1996-97. <i>Annual</i> £2.00, ISBN 1 85839 8541 | SD2C | H |
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Community Activity

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|----|--|------|--|
| 44 | Immunisation programmes (<i>Annual free</i>) | SD2B | |
| 45 | Maternity services - midwife clinics and domiciliary visits (<i>Annual free</i>) | SD2B | |
| 46 | Health visitor activity (<i>Annual free</i>) | SD2B | |
| 47 | District nurses activity (<i>Annual free</i>) | SD2B | |
| 48 | Community psychiatric nurses activity (<i>Annual free</i>) | SD2B | |
| 49 | Community mental handicap nurses activity (<i>Annual free</i>) | SD2B | |
| 50 | Community specialist care nurses activity (<i>Annual free</i>) | SD2B | |
| 51 | Chiropody services (<i>Annual free</i>) | SD2B | |
| 52 | Clinical psychology services (<i>Annual free</i>) | SD2B | |
| 53 | Occupational therapy services (<i>Annual free</i>) | SD2B | |
| 54 | Physiotherapy services (<i>Annual free</i>) | SD2B | |
| 55 | Speech and language therapy services (<i>Annual free</i>) | SD2B | |
| 56 | Family planning clinic services (<i>Annual free</i>) | SD2B | |

Other

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|----|--|---------|-----|
| 57 | Registered blind and partially sighted people (<i>Triennial</i>) | SD3B | |
| 58 | Registers of physically disabled persons (general classes) (<i>Triennial</i>) | SD3B | |
| 59 | People registered as the deaf or hard of hearing (<i>Triennial</i>) | SD3B | |
| 60 | Guardianship under the Mental Health Act (1983) (<i>Annual free</i>) | SD3B | |
| 61 | Survey of age, sex and length of stay characteristics of residents of homes for elderly and younger people who are physically handicapped (<i>1988 only</i>) | SD3B | |
| 62 | NHS Day care facilities 1996-97. (ISBN 1 85839 797 0) | SD3B | H |
| 63 | Hospital Episode statistics:
Vol 1: Finished Consultant episodes by diagnosis, operation and speciality | SD2 HES | H |
| | Vol 2: Finished Consultant episodes by time of elective admissions, injuries / poisoning by external sources | SD2 HES | H |
| 64 | Hospital Waiting List statistics: England (<i>Quarterly</i> £12.80) | FPA-PA | |
| 65 | Quarterly Review | FPA-PA | HLL |
| 66 | Waiting times for first out-patient appointments in England: Detailed statistics (<i>Quarterly</i> £12.80) | FPA-PA | |
| 67 | Prescription Cost Analysis - prescription items dispensed in England and listed alphabetically within therapeutic class (<i>Annual</i> £10.00) | SD1E | H |
| 68 | Drug misuse statistics (<i>Six monthly</i>) | SD2J | |
| 69 | Bulletin on smoking (<i>Occasional</i>) | SD2D | H |
| 70 | Hospital Waiting List Statistics : England (resident based) (<i>Quarterly</i>) | | |

HEALTH OF THE NATION RELATED PUBLICATIONS

Health Of The Nation: A Strategy For Health In England

- | | | | |
|----|---|--|----------|
| 71 | Waiting Times for first out-patients appointments in England: detailed statistics (resident based) (<i>Quarterly</i>) | | |
| 72 | Sun Exposure: Adults' behaviour and knowledge 1997 (<i>ISBN 1 85839 865 7</i>) | | |
| 73 | The White Paper (<i>Free</i>) | | HP1 |
| 74 | Specification of National Indicators (<i>Free</i>) | | HP1 CHMU |

The Health Survey for England

An annual survey reporting on the different aspects of the health of people in England. The survey monitors the Health of the Nation targets on blood pressure and obesity. The 1991 - 1994 surveys also majored on cardiovascular disease and the 1995 and 1996 surveys majored on asthma and accidents. The 1995 survey also covered disability.

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|----|---|------|-----|
| 75 | Health Survey for England 1991 £27.50 (<i>ISBN 0 11 691532 3</i>) | SD3S | TSO |
| 76 | Health Survey for England 1992 £27.50 (<i>ISBN 0 11 691569 2</i>) | SD3S | TSO |
| 77 | Health Survey for England 1993 £38.00 (<i>ISBN 0 11 691614 1</i>) | SD3S | TSO |
| 78 | Health Survey for England 1994 £40.00 (<i>ISBN 0 11 321895 8</i>) | SD3S | TSO |
| 79 | Health Survey for England 1995 £60.00 (<i>ISBN 0 11 322021 9</i>) | SD3S | TSO |
| 80 | Health Survey for England 1996 £60.00 (<i>ISBN 0 11 322091 X</i>) | SD3S | TSO |

In addition a Summary of Key Findings booklet is available for the 1994 and 1995 surveys.

Public Health Common Data Set Incorporating Indicators from The 'Health Of The Nation'

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|----|---|------|-----|
| 81 | Public Health Common Data Set, data definitions and user guide for computer files available from the years 1990 to 1997. From 1992 onwards, includes indicators from the 'Health of the Nation' and from 1995 'Population Health Outcome Indicators'. Issued annually, the 1996 version includes England and Wales, England, Regional Office areas, DHAs, new HAs, FHSAs and LAs. (<i>Only available to the NHS, individual academic users and academic institutes of public health.</i>) | SD2F | NIE |
| 82 | Public Health Common Data Set national volumes available for the years 1990 to 1996. From 1992 onwards, includes indicators from the 'Health of the Nation' and from 1995 'Population Health Outcome Indicators'. Issued annually, the 1996 edition covers England and Wales, England, Regional Office areas and new HAs.
(<i>Price for four volumes 1996 edition £135.00. ISBN 1 852 37197 8</i>) | SD2F | NIE |

Epidemiological Overviews

83	Asthma (£11.00, ISBN 0 11 321667 X)	HPI CHMU	TSO
84	Coronary Heart Disease (£11.00, ISBN 0 11 321667 X)	HPI CHMU	TSO
85	Stroke (£11.00, ISBN 0 11 321668 8)	HPI CHMU	TSO
86	Health of Elderly People (£10.30, ISBN 0 11 321485 5)	HPI CHMU	TSO
87	Elderly People Companion Papers (£6.00, ISBN 0 11 321486 3)	HPI CHMU	TSO

Formal Publications

88	Health and Personal Social Service statistics (£11.95)	SD3C	TSO
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Other Reports (Statutory Publications)

89	Annual report under Section 83(6) of the Children Act 1989 (formerly section 79(3) of the Child Care Act 1980) on children in care in England and Wales. (For periods following the implementation of the Children Act 1989, this publication will cover a wide range of children's services.) (Annual £6.80, ISBN 0 10 128782 8)	SD3A	TSO
90	Annual statement under Section 18(3) of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970, on handicapped persons in residential care in England and Wales	SD3B/CS	TSO

Other Statutory Publications not produced by SD but which have a Statistical Input provided By SD

91	Annual statement under section 17(2) of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970: Separation of younger patients from older patients in hospitals (December, ISBN 0 10 206395 8)	SD2A	TSO
92	Report under section 11 of the Disabled Persons (Services, Consultation and Representation) Act 1986 on the development of services for people with learning disabilities (mental handicap) or mental illness in England	SD2C	TSO
93	The NHS Performance Guide (Annual Free)	FPA-PA	HLL

¹ The forms which underlie items 24-30 have been revised to accord with the Children Act 1989 (implemented October 1991).

² This publication has been discontinued following the 1994 publication.

H = Department of Health
PO Box 410
Wetherby, LS23 7LN
☎ 0541 555455

NIE = National Institute
of Epidemiology
☎ 01483 450450

HLL = Health Literature Line
☎ 0800 555 777

TSO = The Stationery Office
☎ 0171 873 9090

CONTACTS AND PHONE NUMBERS FOR DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PUBLICATIONS

Department Of Health

*Skipton House
80 London Road
London, SE1 6LH
☎ 0171 97 (followed by ext number)*

Family Health Services (Branch SDI)

General Dental and Community
Dental Services *Ext 25392*
General Pharmacy Services *Ext 25504*
General Ophthalmic Services *Ext 25507*
Prescription Analysis *Ext 25515*

Hospital And Community Health Services (Branch SD2)

Mental illness / handicap *Ext 25545*
Community and cross-sector services *Ext 25524*
Public Health Common Dataset *Ext 25562*
Drug misuse *Ext 25550*
Legal status *Ext 25545*
Smoking and Alcohol *Ext 25551*

Personal Social Services (Branch SD3)

Childrens' services *Ext 25689*
Adult services *Ext 25585*
Staffing *Ext 25595*
Financial (Revenue out-turn
expenditure) data *Ext 25595*
Key indicators *Ext 25599*

NHS Executive

*Quarry House, Quarry Hill
Leeds, LS2 7UE
☎ 011325 (followed by ext number)*

Workforce (Branch Stats (W))

NHS medical and dental staff *Ext 45892*
NHS non-medical staff *Ext 45744*
General Medical Services *Ext 45991*

FPA - PA

Waiting lists *Ext 45555*
Hospital activity *Ext 45522*

*Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London, SW1A 2NS
☎ 0171 210 (followed by ext number)*

Personal Social Services Financial Statistics (Branch F6)

PSS Budget data and Public
Expenditure Survey *Ext 5699*

*Wellington House
133 - 135 Waterloo Road
London, SE1 8UG
☎ 0171 97 (followed by ext number)*

Central Health Monitoring Unit

Health of the Nation target
monitoring *Ext 24645*

*National Institute of Epidemiology
14 Fredric Sanger Road
Surrey Research Park
Guildford
Surrey, GU2 5YL
☎ 01483 450540*

The Health Literature Line

☎ 0800 555 777

NEW PUBLICATIONS**Control of Immigration: Statistics, United Kingdom, Second Half and Year 1997**

Statistical Bulletin Issue 13/98

The Home Office. Free, ISSN 0143 6384

The regular half-yearly Home Office Statistical Bulletin on the control of immigration was published on 21 May 1998. It contains summary information for the whole of 1997 and earlier years on: grants of entry clearance; admissions to the UK; applications for asylum; extensions of stay including settlement; and enforcement action.

The main points from the annual figures for 1997 were:

- an increase to nearly 24,000 in spouses admitted for a probationary year prior to settlement, mainly reflecting the abolition of the primary purpose rule in June 1997;
- an increase to 32,500 in applications for asylum;
- a decrease to 58,700 in persons accepted for settlement (ie allowed to stay indefinitely);
- a decrease to 19,800 in enforcement action initiated against immigration offenders but an increase (to 6,500) in persons leaving the UK as a result of such action.

Asylum Statistics United Kingdom 1997

Statistical Bulletin Issue 14/98

The Home Office. Free, ISSN 0143 6384

The regular annual Home Office Statistical Bulletin on applications for asylum in the United Kingdom was published on 21 May 1998. It contains detailed information on applications for asylum, grants of refugee status and of

exceptional leave to remain, refusals, appeals and enforcement action for 1997 and earlier years.

The main points for 1997 were:

- an increase to 32,500 in applications for asylum in the United Kingdom;
- a decrease to 36,000 asylum decisions;
- an increase to 4,000 in persons recognised as refugees and granted asylum;
- an increase of over 50 per cent in asylum appeals heard;
- an increase to over 7,000 in unsuccessful applicants leaving the United Kingdom as a result of enforcement action.

RESEARCH AND DIRECTORATE PUBLICATIONS**Research Findings**

72. **Offending on bail and police use of conditional bail.** *David Brown 1998.*
73. **Voluntary after-care.** *Mike Maguire, Peter Raynor, Maurice Vanstone and Jocelyn Kynch 1998.*
76. **The prison population in 1997: a statistical review.** *Philip White 1998.*

Key points are as follows:

- The average prison population in 1997 was 61,114. This is 11 per cent greater than the 55,281 average for 1996;
- The increase in 1997 included 19 per cent more female prisoners and 16 per cent more sentenced male young offenders;
- Since 1993 the prison population has increased by 37 per cent. Greater use of custody and longer sentences are the main reasons for this increase;

- The greatest proportion of sentenced prisoners (21 per cent) were held for 'violence against the person' offences;
- Among sentenced females, one third were held for drug offences;
- The average time spent in custody for untried prisoners (51 days for males) was shorter in 1997 than in most of the previous ten years;
- 3,721 prisoners serving life sentences on 30 June 1997, the highest ever figure;
- The number of prisoners, expressed as a rate per 100,000 population in England and Wales, was the second highest in western Europe in 1997;
- 56 per cent of all prisoners discharged from prison in 1994 were re-convicted of a standard list offence within two years of release.

Research Findings 74 and 75 have already been published.

Home Office Research Studies (HORS)

180. **Sentencing Practice: an examination of decisions in magistrates' courts and the Crown Court in the mid-1990s.** *Claire Flood-Page and Alan Mackie 1998.*
184. **Remand decisions and offending on bail: evaluation of the Bail Process Project.** *Patricia M Morgan and Paul F Henderson 1998.*
187. **Reducing Offending: an assessment of research evidence on ways of dealing with offending behaviour.** *Edited by Peter Goldblatt and Chris Lewis 1998.*

Home Office Research Studies 185 and 186 are not yet published. HORS 181, 182 and 183 have already been published.

HOME OFFICE STATISTICAL BULLETINS

Issue No.	Date	Title
12/98	20.05.98	Summary Probation Statistics, England and Wales 1997.
13/98	21.05.98	Control of Immigration, United Kingdom, Second Half and Year 1997.
14/98	21.05.98	Asylum Statistics, United Kingdom 1997.
15/98	28.05.98	Breath Test Statistics, England and Wales 1997.
16/98	29.06.98	Fire Statistics, Estimates, United Kingdom 1997.

Requests for Publications

Copies of the Home Office Research Studies, Research Findings and Home Office Statistical Bulletins can be obtained, subject to availability from:

Research and Statistics Directorate
 Information and Publications Group
 Room 201
 Home Office
 50 Queen Anne's Gate
 London, SW1H 9AT
 ☎ 0171 273 2084
 Fax: 0171 222 0211
 E-mail: rsd.ho.apollo@gtnet.gov.uk
 RSD Internet site: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rsd/rsdhome.htm>

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Agriculture in the United Kingdom 1997

The Stationery Office
Price £14, ISBN 0 11 243036 8

Agriculture in the United Kingdom 1997 is the tenth in a series which succeeds the *Annual Review of Agriculture* White Paper. It provides, in an accessible format, information on the economic conditions of the United Kingdom agriculture industry. The Government will draw on this information when considering policy issues including proposals by the European Commission for agricultural support in 1998/99.

The Digest of Agricultural Census Statistics: United Kingdom 1996

The Stationery Office
Price £22, ISBN 0 11 243039 2

The Digest of Agricultural Census Statistics: UK 1996 is a compendium of statistics from the June 1996 *Agricultural and Horticultural Census* at UK, country, region and county level. *The Digest of Agricultural Census Statistics* for 1997 should be on the Internet by the time this notice has been published and the paper copy will be available shortly after from The Stationery Office.

Farm Incomes in the United Kingdom 1996/97

The Stationery Office
Price £30, ISBN 0 11 243038 4

Farm Incomes in the United Kingdom 1996/97 provides an authoritative and detailed source of information on the incomes and financial structure of the agricultural industry in each of the four countries of the United Kingdom.

The thirteenth volume in an annual series gives detailed analyses of farm incomes (including some information on off-farm incomes), assets and liabilities and aggregate incomes for the agricultural industry for each of the four countries of the United Kingdom. Detailed farm accounts data, based on the *Farm Business Survey* (Farm Accounts Scheme in Scotland) are shown by farm type, business size and tenure. In addition, the publication contains estimates of the gross margins for a range of crop and livestock enterprises in England and Wales. In most tables the years covered are 1996 and 1997. Other enquiries about this publication should be directed to:

Mr R D S Price,
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food,
Economics (Farm Business) Division,
Whitehall Place West (Room 702),
Whitehall,
London, SW1A 2HH
☎ 0171 270 8620

National Food Survey 1996

The Stationery Office
Price £27, ISBN 0 11 243031 7

The *National Food Survey* is a long-established source of detailed statistical information on household food purchasing and eating out in Great Britain.

The results of the 1996 survey, expressed as averages of expenditure and consumption per person per week and intakes of nutrients per person per day, are presented in this annual report. For household food, comparisons are made with expenditure and consumption one year and ten years ago and a breakdown of 1996 consumption results by quarter is provided. The usual breakdown of NFS results by region, income group and household composition are also included.

The household part of the survey was extended to include Northern Ireland in 1996. Although full results for Northern Ireland will be published separately, some are shown in the 1996 regional tables of this report. This year's special analysis looks at regional food expenditure, consumption and nutrient intakes averaged over the years 1994-96. Comparisons are also made with the period 1984-86. The new regions (Government Office Regions) to be used in future reports are also introduced.

All of the above titles are available from:

The Stationery Office Publications Centre
P.O. Box 276
London, SW8 5DT
☎ 0171 873 9090
Fax: 0171 873 8200

Monthly Crop Reports on Fruit and Vegetables

Provides up-to-date statistics on production and marketing of fruit and vegetables for the current crop year.

Basic Horticultural Statistics (Annual)

Annual area, yield, production and supplies statistics for all the main fruit and vegetables covering the last 10 years.

Both of the above are available free of charge and are also on the MAFF web site (below). For further information, contact:

Christine Jeannette
☎ 01904 455069

Agricultural Market Report: England and Wales (Weekly)

The report, which is available on subscription, is published in two parts and contains price, quantity and quality information on selected

cereals, livestock, home-grown horticultural produce and other agricultural products.

For further information, contact:

Les Pearson/Jenny Higgins
☎ 01904 455247 or 01904 455250

STATISTICAL NOTICES

Farm Surveys

The following Statistical Notices are available free of charge:

- Agricultural and Horticultural Census June 1997;
- Annual survey of tenanted land (*annual*);
- Cereal production survey (*biannual*);
- Cereals stocks survey (*quarterly*);
- December survey of agriculture (*annual*);
- Dried pea and bean survey (*annual*);
- Earnings and hours of agricultural and horticultural workers survey (*monthly*);
- Farmed deer survey (*irregular*);
- Glasshouse census (*annual*);
- Grain fed to livestock survey (*monthly*);
- Irrigation of outdoor crops (*irregular*);
- Minor crops survey (*annual*);
- Oilseed rape production survey (*biannual*);
- Orchard fruit survey (*annual*);
- Vegetables and flowers survey (*annual*).

These are available on the MAFF web site (below) or from:

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food,
Publications and Output Section,
Statistics (Censuses and Surveys) A,
Room 133a, Foss House,
Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green,
York, YO1 7PX
☎ 01904 455332 or GTN: 5137 5332
Fax: 01904 455315 or GTN: 5137 5315

Farm Incomes and Agricultural Commodities

The following Statistical Notices are available free of charge:

- Farm incomes, outputs and productivity (*end of January*);
- Forecast of total income from farming (*end of November*);
- Bacon and ham production in Great Britain;
- Quarterly supplies and total for domestic usage of meat in the United Kingdom;
- UK poultry and poultrymeat (*monthly*);
- UK slaughter statistics;
- Utilisation of milk by dairies in England and Wales;
- Production of processed milk in the United Kingdom;
- UK milk prices;
- UK egg market (*monthly*);
- Wheat milled and flour production;
- Stocks of cereals held at ports and by agricultural co-operatives;
- Brewers, distillers and maltsters usage and stocks;
- Home grown apples and pears used in cider production (*annual*);
- Mushrooms, production and sales (*annual*);
- Oilseed crushed and the production of crude vegetable oil, oilcake and meal in the United Kingdom;
- Output of refined vegetable and marine oils and animal fats by UK processors;
- Production of margarine, other table spreads and solid cooking fats in the United Kingdom;
- Production of processed feeding stuffs and usage of raw materials;
- Poultry feed production for units in Great Britain with large flocks;
- Animal compound feedingstuffs: monthly average prices;
- Stocks in public cold stores in the United Kingdom.

These are available on the MAFF web site (below) or from:

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food,
Statistics (Commodities and Food),
Foss House,
Kings Pool,
1-2 Peasholme Green,
York, YO1 7PX
☎ 01904 455055 or GTN 5137 5055

Prices

Agricultural Price Indices - a monthly Statistical Notice is available free of charge on the MAFF web site or from the address below:

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food,
Statistics (Censuses and Surveys)A,
Room 145,
Foss House,
Kings Pool,
1-2 Peasholme Green,
York, YO1 7PX
☎ 01904 455253 or GTN 5137 5253

Agricultural Land Prices - an Annual Report and four quarterly statistical notices are available, priced at £35.00, from the address below:

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food,
Economics (Resource Use) Division,
Whitehall Place,
West Block,
London, SW1A 2HH
☎ 0171 270 8371/2

National Food Survey

Household food consumption and expenditure; nutritional value of household food - Quarterly Statistical Notices and more detailed data (on subscription) are available from:

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food,
Statistics (Commodities & Food) E,
Room 513, Whitehall Place (West Block),
London, SW1A 2HH
☎ 0171 270 8562/3 or GTN 270 8562/3

OTHER INFORMATION

Analyses of June Census Data

Region and County Results: Detailed results of the June 1997 Agricultural and Horticultural Census for England and Wales showing crops, labour, livestock and horticulture.

Frequency Distributions: Results of the June 1997 Agricultural and Horticultural Census for England and Wales showing frequency distributions of holdings and items by item size groups.

Small Area Statistics: Results of the June 1997 Agricultural and Horticultural Census 1988 to 1997, by Parish Groups, Agricultural Districts and Local Government Districts.

Charges will be made for Small Area Statistics where the order exceeds £40 in total. Additional chargeable data from the June Agricultural and Horticultural Census are available on an ad-hoc basis to suit individual requirements. Enquiries to 01904 455312 or the address below. All of the above are available on the MAFF web site (below) or from:

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food,
Publications and Output Section,
Statistics (C&S) A, Room 133a, Foss House,
Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green,
York, YO1 7PX
☎ 01904 455332 or GTN: 5137 5332
Fax: 01904 455315 or GTN: 5137 5315
Maff world wide web site -
www.maff.gov.uk/statistics

NORTHERN IRELAND DEPARTMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

New Publication

Size and Performance of the Northern Ireland Food Processing Sector 1996: Subsector Statistics

Price: £6

This report, the sixth in the series "Size and Performance of the Northern Ireland Food and Drink Processing Sector" presents information for the 1995 and 1996 calendar years on values for sales, value added, profitability, exports and employment for each of the ten constituent subsectors of the Food and Drinks Processing Sector in Northern Ireland. These statistics are supplemented with 15 performance indicators for each sector. Available from:

Economic and Statistics Division
Department of Agriculture
Room 817
Dundonald House
Belfast, BT4 3SB
☎ 01232 524594

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION NORTHERN IRELAND

New Publications

Press Releases

- Schedule for publication of statistics;
- First destinations of students gaining qualifications from higher education institutions: Northern Ireland 1995/96;
- Qualifications and destinations of Northern Ireland school leavers 1995/96 and 1996/97;

- Enrolments on vocational courses at Northern Ireland further education colleges 1997/98;
- Student enrolments on higher education courses: Northern Ireland 1997/98 (provisional).

Research Briefings

- DENI funded research 1997/98 (RB3);
- The success of young people in further education and vocational training: an economic analysis (RB4).

The above publications are available free of charge from:

Statistics and Research Branch
 Department of Education Northern Ireland
 Rathgael House
 Balloo Road
 Bangor, BT19 7PR
 ☎ 01247 279679
 or on the DENI web site at:
www.deni.gov.uk

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

New Publications

Northern Ireland Housing and Construction Bulletin (1 January - 31 March 1998)

Price: Free

Compilation of Northern Ireland housing and construction statistics. Contains data on new house sales and prices, housing starts and construction activity.

Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 1996/97

Price £10, ISBN 1 899824 359

Comprehensive Northern Ireland housing statistics. Contains data on housing stock, new house building, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Housing Associations, housing market activity and household surveys.

Northern Ireland Road and Rail Transport Statistics Bulletin (1 January - 31 March 1998)

Price: Free

Compilation of Northern Ireland road and rail transport statistics. Contains data on new vehicle and car registrations, vehicle and driver testing, road traffic injury accidents, use of public transport and petroleum usage.

Northern Ireland Transport Statistics 1996/97

Price £10, ISBN 1 899824 308

Comprehensive Northern Ireland transport statistics. Contains data on: roads, road transport, road accidents, air transport, rail transport and waterborne transport. All of the above available from:

Central Statistics and Research Branch
 Department of the Environment (NI)
 Room 436B, Clarence Court
 10 -18 Adelaide Street
 Belfast, BT2 8GB
 ☎ 01232 540800/1
 Fax: 01232 540782
 E-mail: csrb.doe@nics.gov.uk

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

New Publications

Hospital Statistics | April 1996 - 31 March 1997

Community Statistics | April 1996 - 31 March 1997

Available free of charge from:

Regional Information Branch
Department of Health and Social Services
Annexe 2
Castle Buildings
Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3UD
☎ 01232 522800

SURVEYS NOTIFIED TO NORTHERN IRELAND SURVEY CONTROL UNIT

APRIL TO JUNE 1998

For further information about the surveys, contact Máire Rodgers, Survey Control Unit, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, Arches Centre, 11-13 Bloomfield Avenue, Belfast, BT5 5HD ☎ 01232 526972.

Title	Department	Those approached	Approximate number approached	Frequency
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Surveys to Business

LRNI 1998 Customer Satisfaction Survey	DoE / LRNI	Solicitors and Law Searchers	450	R
Skills Needs Survey: Northern Ireland	DED / T&EA	Public and Private Businesses	750	AH
OSNI Customer Satisfaction Survey	DoE / OSNI	OSNI Customers	600	AH

Surveys to Households and Individuals

Housing Requirements for Young Singles	DoE / NIHE	Young Singles	500	AH
Continuous Tenant Omnibus Survey 1998/99	DoE / NIHE	NIHE Tenants	3,700	R
Housing for Single People	DoE / NIHE	Single Adults	900	AH
Follow-up Survey of Teachers who qualified in 1995	DENI	Those who obtained teaching qualifications in 1995	800	AH
Buying a House in Northern Ireland	DoE	Homeowners	5,700	AH
Northern Ireland Annual Abstract of Statistics Readership Survey	DFP / NISRA	Owners / users of Publication	600	AH

Abbreviations

Departments	DED	Department of Economic Development
	DENI	Department of Education for Northern Ireland
	DFP	Department of Finance and Personnel
	DoE	Department of the Environment
	LRNI	Land Registry for Northern Ireland
	NIHE	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
	NISRA	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
	OSNI	Ordnance Survey for Northern Ireland
	T&EA	Training and Employment Agency
	Frequency	AH
R		Regular
Location	All surveys were carried out in Northern Ireland	

TRANSPORT STATISTICS

The following transport statistics publications have appeared recently.

Statistical Bulletin: Key 1997 Road Accident Statistics

The Stationery Office
Price £2, ISBN 0 7480 7458 9

The main points contained within this bulletin include the following:

- The figures since 1978 show a clear long-term downward trend in the number of fatalities, but it appears numbers may be levelling out;
- The number of people killed in 1997 was 41 per cent below the average levels for the period of 1981 to 1985 (the baseline for the Government target of reducing the number of road accident casualties by a third by the year 2000);
- The bulletin also shows that 4,047 people were seriously injured in road accidents in 1997: the second-lowest number on record and 51 per cent below the 1981 to 1985 average;
- In 1997, there was also a fall in the number of children who were killed or injured in road accidents.

Key 1997 Road Accident Statistics contains tables and charts showing the number of accidents, casualties by severity, casualties by type of road, casualties by mode of transport, and child casualties, including trends in recent years, together with some comments on the points made in the tables and some notes on the definitions and sources of the statistics.

Scottish Transport Statistics: No. 17, 1998 Edition

The Stationery Office
Price £8, ISBN 0 7480 7108 3

The main points contained within this publication include the following:

- There were two million motor vehicles licensed in Scotland in 1997, three per cent more than in 1996, and around 32 per cent more than 10 years ago;
- There were 467 million passenger journeys on local bus services in 1996-97, six per cent less than in the previous year, and 28 per cent less than in 1986-87;
- In 1997, there was around a third more traffic on major roads, and over two-thirds more on motorways, than 10 years ago;
- In 1997, there were 14.4 million passengers at Scottish airports, nine per cent more than in the previous year and 85 per cent above the 1987 figure.

Scottish Transport Statistics contains chapters on road transport vehicles, bus and coach travel, road freight, toll bridges, road network, road traffic, injury road accidents, rail services, air transport, water transport, finance and personal and cross-modal travel. Each chapter consists of groups of tables and charts on that topic, together with some comments on points shown in the tables, and some notes on the definitions and sources of the statistics. The publication also includes a summary of trends in Scottish transport over the past ten years, and some longer-term historical series.

For further information on these two publications, contact:

Martin Bolt
Transport Statistics Branch
The Scottish Office Development Department
Room 3-F82
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ
☎ 0131 244 7255
Fax: 0131 244 0888
E-mail: martin.bolt@so005.scotoff.gov.uk

EDUCATION STATISTICS

Statistical Bulletin: Further Education Statistics, 1996-97

The Stationery Office
Price £2, ISBN 0 7480 7163 6

The main points contained within this bulletin include the following:

- A total of 430,117 students registered on further education courses in Scotland in 1996-97. Of these, 287,098 students attended vocational courses at the further education colleges. A further 67,265 students were undertaking higher education (HE) courses in the further education colleges in 1996-97;
- Between 1995-96 and 1996-97, the number of full-time students on vocational courses in the further education colleges rose by almost 10 per cent from 56,037 to 61,495;
- In 1996-97, more than half (53.5 per cent) of those students in the further education colleges whose age was recorded were aged 25 or over. More than half of both full-time (50.7 per cent) and part-time (53.5 per cent) students were female;

- From 1995-96 to 1996-97, the number of students studying courses at SVQ level 3 or equivalent rose by around 39 per cent for both full-time and part-time attendance;
- The majority of HE students in the further education colleges were registered on courses in a small number of subject areas. In 1996-97, almost half of all HE students studied subjects related to business and management, engineering or information technology. Enrolments on FE courses were more widely spread across subject groups;
- There were a total of 12,287 full-time graduates and diplomates from further education colleges in 1995-96. Of those students whose first destination was known, 49.2 per cent continued with full-time study while 42.6 per cent entered into employment.

For further information contact:

John Gibb
Education Statistics Division, SOEID
Room 1-A, Victoria Quay
Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ
☎ 0131 244 0327
Fax: 0131 244 0354
E-mail: john.gibb@so013.scotoff.gov.uk

CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATISTICS

The following bulletins in the Criminal Justice series have recently been published:

Statistical Bulletin: Liquor Licensing Statistics, 1997

The Stationery Office
Price £2, ISBN 0 7480 7500 3

This bulletin presents information on the activity of licensing boards in Scotland during 1997. It

includes, for example, information on the number of liquor licences in force and the number of new applications by council area.

For further information contact:

Fred Thorne
Criminal Justice Statistics - Br 1
The Scottish Office Home Department
W1(C) Spur
Saughton House
Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
☎ 0131 244 2227
Fax: 0131 244 2286
E-mail : fred.thorne@so082.scotoff.gov.uk

Statistical Bulletin: Firearm Certificates, Scotland 1997

The Stationery Office
Price £2, ISBN 0 7480 7571 2

This bulletin presents information on the certification of firearms in Scotland during 1997. It includes, for example, information on the number of firearm and shot gun certificates on issue, the number of applications for new or renewal of certificates and the number of registered firearm dealers in Scotland.

For further information contact:

Gary Hunter
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The Scottish Office Home Department
W1(C) Spur
Saughton House
Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
☎ 0131 244 2228
Fax: 0131 244 2286
E-mail : gary.hunter@so082.scotoff.gov.uk

HOUSING STATISTICS

Statistical Bulletin: Housing Trends in Scotland: Quarters Ended 30 June and 30 September 1997

The Stationery Office
Price £2, ISBN 0 7480 7506 2

This bulletin presents standard quarterly analyses of housing activity in Scotland for the second and third quarters of 1997, including public sector house sales, new housebuilding and the improvement of existing dwellings. The bulletin also provides a summary of local authority estimates of the number of dwellings below the Tolerable Standard in each of their areas at March 1997.

For further information contact:

Irene McDermaid
Economic Advice and Statistics: Housing
The Scottish Office Development
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1-G24, Victoria Quay
Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ
☎ 0131 244 7236
Fax: 0131 244 0446
E-mail:
irene.mcdermaid@so060.scotoff.gov.uk

Copies of all these Scottish Office publications may be purchased from:

The Stationery Office Bookshop
71 Lothian Road
Edinburgh, EH3 9AZ
☎ 0131 228 4181
Fax: 0131 622 7017

The above publications can also be found on the Scottish Office web site at:

www.scotland.gov.uk

BANK OF ENGLAND

Inflation Report

The *Inflation Report* reviews developments in the UK economy and assesses the outlook for UK inflation over the next two years or so in relation to the inflation target. The *Report* starts with a short overview section, while the second investigates money, credit and financial market data, including the exchange rate, and the following three sections examine demand and output, the labour market and pricing behaviour respectively. The concluding sections present an assessment of medium-term inflation prospects and risks, and information about non-Bank forecasts.

Bank of England: Quarterly Bulletin - Growth in UK Manufacturing Between 1970-92 (by Gavin Cameron of Nuffield College, Oxford, James Proudman of the Bank's Monetary Instruments and Markets Division, and Stephen Redding of New College, Oxford and CEPR).

This article examines productivity growth and levels in UK manufacturing between 1970-92. During this period, UK manufacturing output fell, but by less than the number of hours worked in manufacturing, and so labour productivity increased. Within manufacturing, economic performance varied considerably, both across sectors and time, including a notable difference between the two peak-to-peak business cycles 1973-79 and 1979-89. To understand manufacturing economic performance more fully, the article considers disaggregated data for 19 manufacturing industries, using two measures of productivity: labour productivity and Total Factor Productivity.

Competition and co-operation: developments in cross-border securities settlement and derivatives clearing (by Bob Hills and Chris Young of the Bank's Payment and Settlement Policy Division).

European securities settlement systems and derivatives clearing houses are preparing for EMU by offering members clearing and settlement services in foreign as well as domestic instruments. This article outlines recent developments and new initiatives in cross-border securities settlement and derivatives clearing. It suggests that competition for post-EMU business is already resulting in increased co-operation, in the form of links between systems. These developments have implications for the risks in cross-border clearing and settlement and for market structure, and raise issues for central banks and regulators.

The financing and information needs of smaller exporters (by Stuart Cooper and Inke Nyborg of the Bank's Business Finance Division).

This article outlines the key structural issues facing smaller firms seeking to enter or remain in export markets. It finds that effective access to focused advice and information is the most important enduring issue facing smaller exporters, especially those new to exporting. Access to finance does not appear currently to be a major difficulty for firms with some experience of exporting, some evidence that smaller exporters are less active than larger exporters in taking steps to manage their foreign exposure, possibly making them more vulnerable to the risks arising from fluctuations in foreign exchange rates and the failure of foreign buyers. The final section of the article notes the likely

impact of the single currency on smaller exporters.

For more information, contact:

Bank of England Publications Group

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Fax: 0171 601 5196

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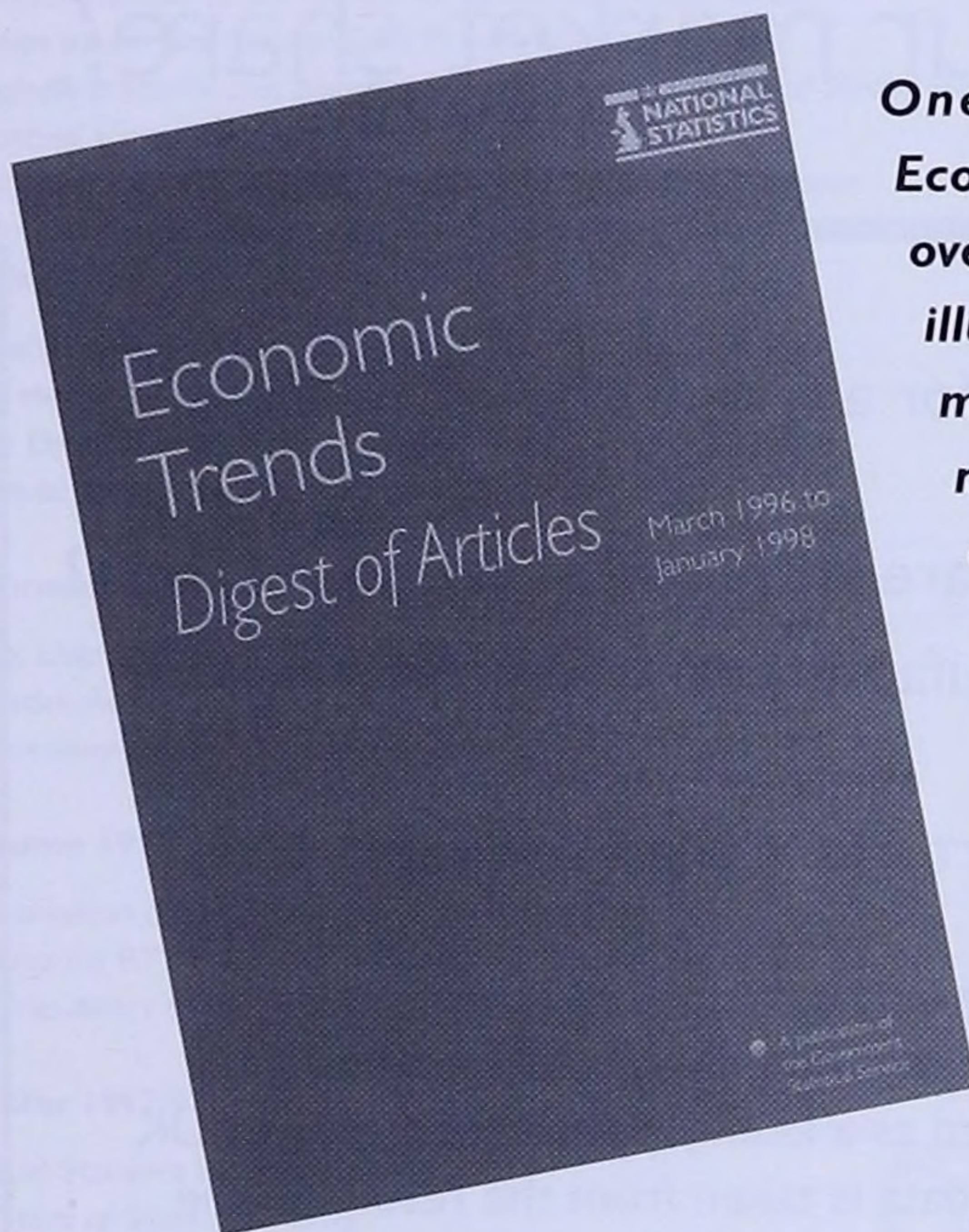
- March** Financial statistics user seminar
- May** Reporting panel selection and the cost effectiveness of statistical reporting
- June** Developments in international banking statistics in 1996
- September** Outcome of the review of banking statistics, including effects on monetary and other banking statistics - includes a list of the banking returns
- October** Reporting panel selection: a review of the income and expenditure enquiry form
- November** New IMF standards for dissemination of data

1998

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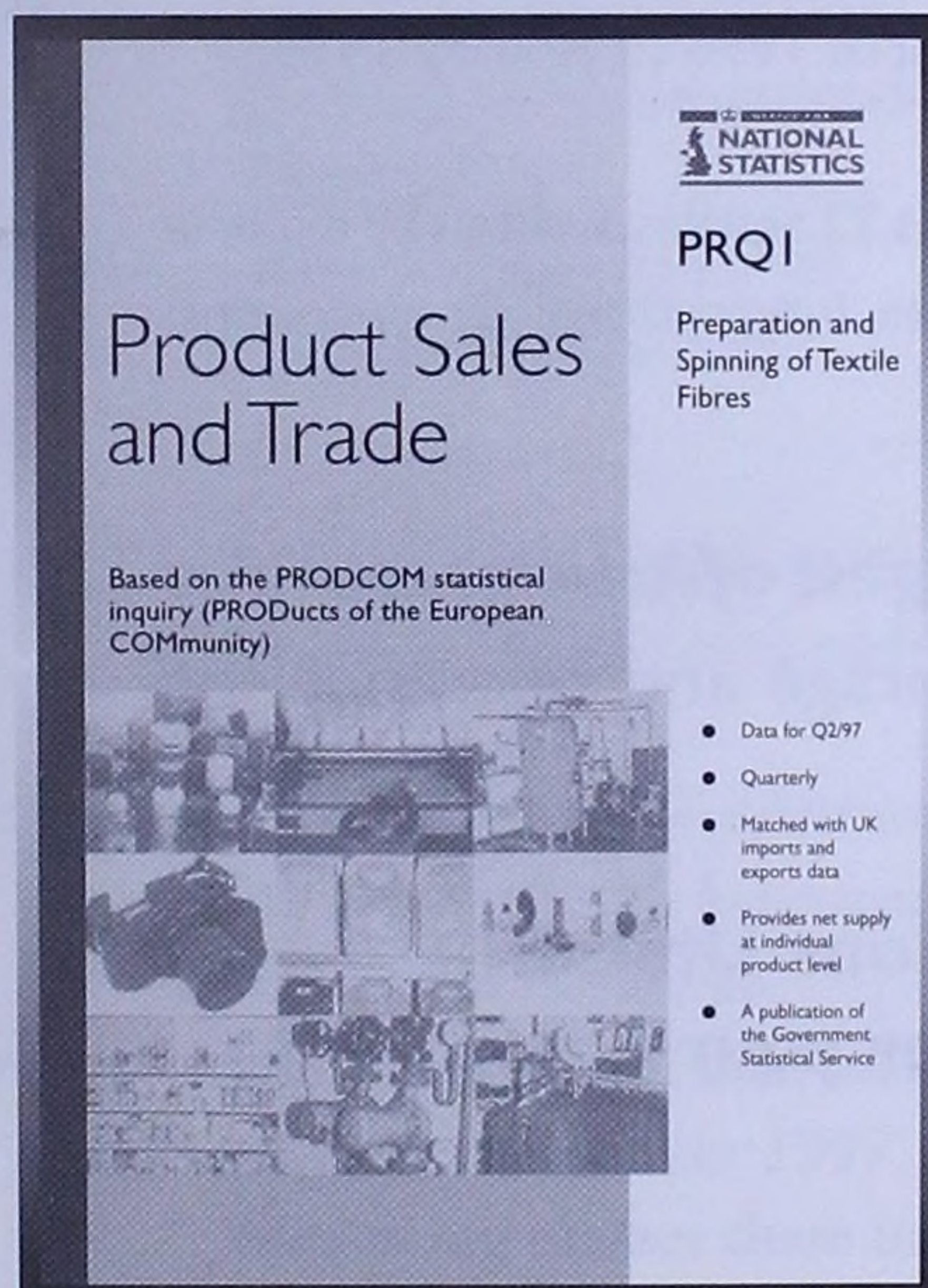
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Copies of the above and earlier articles may be obtained from:

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