

Statistical News

Autumn 1998 / Issue 121 / Office for National Statistics

Mapping and analysing - 200 years of the Census



- **Projecting National Statistics - continuing to meet the needs**
- **The GSS Annual Report 1997-98**
- **Cause for Complaint**
- **Official Financial Statistics - current published data and future plans**

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STATISTICAL NEWS

DEVELOPMENTS IN BRITISH OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Autumn 1998 - No. 121



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

Projecting National Statistics - continuing to meet the needs	3
The GSS Annual Report 1997-98	7
Mapping and analysing 200 years of the Census	14
Cause for complaint	20
Official financial statistics: current published data and future plans	23

■ News from around the GSS and beyond

Government Statistical Service	30
Office for National Statistics	30
Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions	33
Lord Chancellor's Department	34
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency	34
Scottish Office	35
Welsh Office	35
Departmental News Correspondents	36

■ Supplement

New Surveys	40
Departmental Listings	46

PROJECTING NATIONAL STATISTICS - CONTINUING TO MEET THE NEEDS

by **Guy Goodwin, Statistics Policy, Office for National Statistics**

INTRODUCTION

The climate for official statistics is changing and the GSS is adjusting to the new environment but needs to do even more - that was the pervading theme at the annual GSS Statisticians' residential conference at the Wembley Hilton on the 22/23 October. The conference, titled "projecting national statistics - continuing to meet the needs", attracted some 100 GSS delegates from across the country with a mixture of high profile speakers and workshops.

CHANGING CLIMATE FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS

At the heart of the conference was the belief that fundamental changes are taking place in society bringing the need for the GSS to be continuously developing in order to keep its statistics relevant and to meet user needs. The current Government is committed to evidence-based policy and to monitoring closely the performance of its policies; there is a growing emphasis on cross-cutting policy issues - generating new data needs and putting current GSS arrangements under strain; there is the prospect and reality of devolution and the emphasis on regional statistics which is challenging the GSS's ability to deliver using existing survey sources; and there are great opportunities provided by information technology and new data sources both in the private and public sectors.

Dr Tim Holt, Director of the Office for National Statistics and Head of the GSS, in his keynote address to the conference, emphasised that "these



Guy Goodwin

changes bring opportunities and I would argue imply a positive outlook for official statistics with increasing demand for high quality, timely and relevant statistics. But they also pose a challenge in that we will only meet these future needs by learning how to cooperate and support each other even more than we do now".

In truth, a glance at the programme for the conference was enough to realise a change of emphasis. The opening address was given by Ed Balls, Economic Advisor to the Chancellor, on how statistics can be improved to support cross cutting policy developments, think tanks were held on meeting Government's future needs, measuring targets, social exclusion, welfare to work, arrangements for the new monetary policy and devolution - new issues for a new agenda.

WORK PRESENTATIONS - FIRST DAY

<i>Comprehensive Spending Review</i>	Allen Ritchie /Andrew Holder /Paul Randall HM Treasury
<i>Social Exclusion</i>	Linda Murgatroyd /Tim Harris Office for National Statistics
<i>Welfare to Work</i>	Lesley Longstone Department for Education and Employment
<i>Arrangements for the New Monetary Policy</i>	Bill Allen Bank of England
<i>Waiting Lists</i>	Martin Campbell Department of Health

FORMULATION AND MONITORING OF POLICIES

One of the aims of the GSS is to provide government at all levels with a statistical service to support the formulation and monitoring of social and economic policies. GSS statisticians are involved actively in providing independent statistical support for the policies of the day - the new deal, poverty and social exclusion and the integrated transport policy, health and education and employment policies. The feedback from the conference was of a constructive role with policy officials in these areas.

There is less emphasis today on traditional departmental boundaries and more on so-called joined-up government with interest rising in cross-cutting issues like gender issues, children and the family, drugs, and poverty and social exclusion. These issues bring an increased need for co-ordination across Government and for a strong and co-ordinated GSS. The GSS has been looking to co-operate with other organisations to maximise its contribution in these areas of work and also to seek partnerships to take forward new data collections or to enhance existing ones - for example, seeking joint sponsorship for longitudinal studies and a UK time use survey.

STATISTICS AS A PUBLIC GOOD

The GSS already has a good track record of cooperation in many areas, such as with its compendia publications like *Social Trends* and *Regional Trends*. These publications are examples of publications produced largely to provide the wider community with data, to stimulate research and inform debate. The consultative Green Paper *Statistics: A Matter of Trust*, published in February 1998, recognised explicitly that the public, government and Parliament all have a legitimate interest in statistics which provide an objective account of the economy and society.

Seeing statistics as a public good, as a window on the work and performance of government itself, brings its own challenges. The recent launch of StatBase, a GSS-wide database, attempts to make the GSS's data more open to the public than ever before. StatBase is one of the most ambitious GSS projects to date and should become the main shop window for the GSS. It is an integrated database which provides a comprehensive catalogue of official statistics, a route map to the statistics and datasets, metadata and software tools for analysing the statistics. At this stage, the amount of data on the system is limited but the GSS plans to expand the contents further taking into account customers' initial feedback - you can access the system through the GSS and ONS Websites.

EUROPE AND INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS

The Government Statistical Service got a refreshing seal of approval from Yves Franchet, Director-General of Eurostat, in his keynote address on the future of international statistics. He sees the UK statistical system as leading the way in Europe and a role model for other European countries. He praised how the UK manages to balance the need to keep close to policy development, and by doing so to ensure the relevance of its outputs and advice, with the need to maintain its statistical independence and integrity.

He went on to stress the importance of the European Dimension in the Government Statistical Service's future work; the GSS should see this as a challenge and an opportunity. There would be a new emphasis in the brave new world of "Euroland" and he hoped the UK would play an active role in new statistical developments.

WORKSHOPS ON THE SECOND DAY

<i>Continuous Improvement</i>	Colin Youngson/Lisa Baird Defence Analytical Services Agency (DASA)
<i>Dissemination: where do we go from here?</i>	Gordon Barclay Home Office
<i>Working with other national cultures: best practice for international consultancy</i>	Darren Short Office for National Statistics
<i>Developing management skills for statisticians</i>	Allan Smith, ONS Victoria Widdows, DSS
<i>Nature of Motivation - being productive and identifying commitment</i>	Peter Collinson Office for National Statistics
<i>Devolution: working together across the GSS</i>	Catriona McKay, Jill Alexander Scottish Office

DEVOLUTION

The requirement for close co-operation extends itself well to a future with at least four national administrations in the United Kingdom (UK, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales). Catriona McKay and Jill Alexander from the Scottish Office, in a well-attended workshop, gave the background to devolution and explained the possible implications. They stressed the need for UK policy departments to involve them to a greater extent in wider policy initiatives.

The issue of consistency of approach across the UK is of substantial interest to GSS customers

and it is clear that this will be easier in some areas than others - for example, where Scottish issues or activities differ from other UK countries, priorities on data collection may turn out quite different post-devolution.

Devolution is expected to lead to a demand for improvements in individual country data - yet statistics drawn from samples for individual countries inevitably have greater sampling errors than those for the UK. This might expose some shortcomings in the samples of UK/GB-based surveys currently conducted by the GSS. The devolved bodies will be free to collect additional data in their own right and, for example, through the Scottish Household Survey, we are already seeing the introduction of an extra survey geared to enhancing Scottish estimates.

STATISTICS GREEN PAPER

Underlying much of what was discussed at the conference was a sense of expectancy, but also uncertainty, in anticipation of the Government's proposals on official statistics following the Statistics Green Paper *Statistics: A Matter of Trust*. The Government's goal is to ensure outputs are of an assured quality and that the production and presentation of official statistics are transparently free from political interference. By doing so, it aims to enhance the integrity, both actual and perceived, of official statistics. Dennis Roberts, Office for National Statistics, responding to the main themes of the Conference, said that the key was to build trust in official figures - trusted outputs was what the public wanted and needed.

CONCLUSIONS

In winding up the Conference, Ed Swires-Hennessey, Welsh Office, thanked the speakers and those that had organised the conference.

There was much the GSS already had right but there was also more it could do - cross-departmental successes, like *Social Trends*, were still too far and few between. Think future ... be relevant be customer focused ... extend cross-cutting analysis ... and continue to lead in Europe. He urged the delegates to contribute in the coming months to the new agenda and future challenges facing the GSS so that it could “continue to meet the needs”.

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Details of the outcomes of the consultation exercise on official statistics, and their implications, will be covered in future editions of *Statistical News*.

THE GSS ANNUAL REPORT 1997-98

by Frances Pottier, Office for National Statistics

The fifth edition of the *GSS Annual Report* was published in September. This year's Report changed in structure from departmental to subject area and also contained some new material. This article explains how and why the Report was changed, and highlights some of the main information in it.



Frances Pottier

WHY HAVE A NEW LOOK?

Until this year, the *GSS Annual Report* was divided into chapters about the work of each department. Useful if you want to know what the Home Office are doing, but not helpful if you are interested in the whole area of Crime and Justice. A readership survey was distributed with the 1996-97 Report which included questions about the structure. Although there were few replies, it was clear from those that were received that while central government readers found it useful to identify departmental work, readers outside government would have preferred to concentrate on subject areas.

During the planning for the 1997-98 Report, there were also other factors which supported the need for change:

- The new Government's manifesto pledge to an independent National Statistical Service. This pledge led to publication of the Green Paper *Statistics: A Matter of Trust* - the Government's response is due in Winter 1999. An important part of independence is external accountability, and the Annual Report is one way of explaining the GSS and its work to users, data suppliers and the wider community. It is also a means of widening

public knowledge about official statistics. But to achieve this, the Report needs to give an accurate and wide-ranging picture of GSS work in a way which will appeal to as wide an audience as possible.

- A few years before, the GSS had started to publish an International Annual Report as well, explaining the international work and context of UK official statistics. An internal review of procedures found that there was duplication of content and audience between the main Report and the International Report, and an ad hoc survey of the main users of the International Report found that most would welcome a single Report from the GSS. However, little of the international work of the GSS sits neatly in one department's responsibilities, and it became obvious that the Reports could only be combined if the new Report were structured by subject area.
- At this time the GSS Dissemination Committee and ONS Marketing and Customer Service Committee were working on the "pillar branding" of official statistics. Pillar branding is a way of dividing outputs into subject areas, or pillars, so that a user interested in a particular subject can easily find information about it, and is a concept used in the marketing of many different kinds of products. The use of this structure in the Report would ensure that it was consistent with other GSS outputs, in particular the GSS catalogue *The Source*. An explanation of the GSS pillar structure is given below.

These factors meant that the argument in favour of change was strong, and the decision was taken to restructure the Annual Report.

HOW THE REPORT HAS BEEN CHANGED

THE PILLAR STRUCTURE

Pillar branding is a marketing idea for identifying related products. For example, a food company might have a particular name for all Chinese-style products and another for Indian-style food. The GSS has begun to use a similar system to classify outputs, to enable users to easily identify publications on a particular subject area. The pillars, or themes, currently used are:

- Agriculture and fishing;
- Commerce, energy and industry;
- Compendia and reference;
- Crime and justice;
- Education and training;
- Environment;
- Health and care;
- Labour market;
- Population and migration;
- Social and welfare;
- The economy;
- Transport, travel and tourism;
- Other services.

These headings were used in the latest edition of the GSS catalogue *The Source*, and are also used in StatBase, the GSS's new on-line directory and database. A slightly altered version of these headings was used for the Annual Report. *Compendia and reference* was removed and *Other services* became *Other government*, to cover the work of statisticians in departments such as the Cabinet Office, Ministry of Defence and Department for International Development.

INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION

The new Report contains more information about international work than previously, with

explanations of how the GSS works with international organisations and contributes to initiatives. A large proportion of this is with Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Union, although there is also much work with the United Nations and the OECD. In some areas, there is a lot of international involvement – for example, there are several European Union (EU) Task Forces into areas of the national accounts, principally working towards international comparability. Other areas, such as crime and justice statistics, have a limited amount of international involvement.

The GSS provides statistical consultancy services to developing countries to assist them in all areas of statistical work. These services are funded by the countries themselves, or by EU or UK aid budgets. Consultancy work involves both visits by foreign statisticians to the UK, and GSS statisticians travelling abroad.

WHAT IS IN THE REPORT ?

Following an introduction from Dr Tim Holt, Head of the GSS, the Report explains what the GSS is, what it produces and how it collects data and minimises the burden on data suppliers:

- **What the GSS produces**
The GSS produces and analyses figures about all areas of national life, for example on education, crime, the labour market and the economy. This work underpins many of the decisions underpinning our daily lives as well as providing information for a range of users.
- **Data collection**
The GSS collects data in a number of ways. Many statistics are derived from administrative systems, for example migration is measured by recording the movement of

doctors' patients between health authorities. Other data are collected using statistical surveys designed to provide statistics on specific topics, such as family expenditure, or diet and nutrition.

- **Minimising the burden on suppliers**

ONS has responsibility for survey control across all government departments. Its Survey Control Unit (SCU) is consulting with other departments on proposals for revising the present survey control mechanisms, focusing on departmental compliance and quality improvement plans rather than detailed examination of individual surveys.

The Report then goes on to explain how the GSS assures quality through the Official Statistics Code of Practice, staff training and work with the Royal Statistical Society. There is information about how the GSS is run, how it consults suppliers and users of data, and the work of the territorial departments – the Scottish Office, Welsh Office, General Register Office for Scotland and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency – and the impact of devolution. Finally the statutory framework in which the GSS operates is outlined:

A number of countries have an administrative Statistics Law, which defines the role and responsibilities of the official statistical service and which provides the framework for compulsory surveys and for statistical confidentiality. There is no such law in the UK. However there are a number of Acts of Parliament specific to statistics, of which the most significant are the Census Act 1920, the Population Statistics Act 1938, the Statistics of Trade Act 1947 and the Agricultural Statistics Act 1979. In addition, there are a number of other Acts relating to, for example, employment and finance, which contain provisions for the collection of information.

HIGHLIGHTS AND PLANS

The Report includes several of the main GSS achievements and highlights for the year, and future plans. In 1997-98 the main highlight was the publication of the Green Paper on official statistics *Statistics: A Matter of Trust*.

There were a number of other highlights to 1997-98, including:

- Development of a new presentation to improve public confidence in labour market statistics. The new Integrated National and Regional First Press Releases give greater prominence to Labour Force Survey results but include complementary measures, such as claimant unemployment and workforce jobs, to give a more rounded and coherent picture of an increasingly complex labour market. The first Integrated First Press Release was introduced in April 1998;
- The Business Data Analysis Service was launched in October 1997. The aim of the service is to allow users to define their own data needs by single series or on a horizontal 'mix and match' basis. Several key data series are included. The service operates via a Freephone number, 0800 731 5761

GSS plans for the future include:

- The Office for National Statistics and General Register Office for Scotland, working in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, will conduct a Census Dress Rehearsal in 1999. This is part of an extensive development programme to ensure the success of the 2001 Census;

- A GSS website became operational in April 1998, providing a central access point to all GSS statistics on the Internet. The GSS will develop further electronic methods for making official statistics more accessible. Options under consideration include on-line access to databases, print-on-demand services, more disk and CD-ROM services and expanding the range of statistics released via the Internet.

SUBJECT CHAPTERS

Each chapter contains a description of the information available in that subject area, how the information is collected and published, who the main customers are and how both they and suppliers are consulted, and the international perspective. Finally the achievements of the previous year and plans for the current year in that subject area are given, as well as contact points for further information.

The chapter on Commerce, Energy and Industry makes a good example of the information in this chapter of the Report:

Commerce, Energy and Industry

This chapter covers the work of GSS staff in the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR), ONS, the Office of Telecommunications (OFTEL), the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), HM Customs and Excise (HMCE) and the Northern Ireland Department of Economic Development (NIDED). The chapter begins by explaining that data on output, trade, prices, stocks, capital expenditure, employment, productivity, and energy production use and prices are available and that they are used to monitor and understand the performance of the economy. Key users include Government, businesses and analysts, who use the data to make policy decisions and to monitor their own performance and that of

their industry. The Business Statistics User Group has been set up to provide a forum for discussing issues in business statistics, and the ONS, DTI and DETR are all represented on it.

A key issue in this area is balancing the need for detailed information against the burden on businesses which have to supply it. The GSS is looking at ways in which the recommendations of the Osmotherly Group for easing burdens can be extended from ONS to the whole GSS

Information on this subject area are published in a range of bulletins and annual reports, including the *Annual Energy Report*, *Housing and Construction Statistics* and the detailed *Sector Reviews*, as well as by other means such as the *Pacstat* CD-ROM, which contains data from the annual census of production and construction.

The GSS is involved in much international work in this area, including chairing the European Union Council Working Parties on the Short Term Indicators Regulation during 1998, and supporting the development of energy statistics in Eastern and Central Europe.

The other chapters are also structured along similar lines.

OTHER INFORMATION

The Annual Report contains much useful information in annexes, including the size of the GSS, details of the annual recruitment of fast stream graduate staff and the location of GSS staff.

GSS staff are employed by 26 different departments, some of which have very few statisticians, others have large numbers. The staffing levels in each department are shown in the following table:

Departments and Other Bodies Employing GSS Members ¹ – 1 April 1998

	All GSS staff ²	Of whom Statistician Group ³
Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Ministry of	147	25
Cabinet Office (Office of Public Service)	12	2
Culture, Media and Sport, Department of	4	2
HM Customs and Excise	406	14
Defence, Ministry of	119	19
Education and Employment, Department of	259	42
Environment, Transport and the Regions, Dept. of	242	55
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	3	1
Forestry Commission	3	2
General Register Office for Scotland	88	6
Health and Safety Executive	28	11
Health, Department of	191	46
Home Office	85	26
Inland Revenue	45	21
International Development, Department for	25	8
Lord Chancellor's Department	12	4
National Savings, Department for	7	2
Office of Manpower Economics	8	6
Office for National Statistics ⁴	2,405	170
Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED)	15	3
Office of Water Services (OFWAT)	2	2
Scottish Office	117	34
Social Security, Department of	145	32
Trade and Industry, Department of ⁵	86	36
HM Treasury	34	11
Welsh Office	70	24
Total Government Statistical Service	4,558	604

1. GSS members are defined as members of the Statistician Group and staff managed by them, and are therefore sensitive to organisational changes.

2. Full-time equivalents. Statistician Group staff who work outside the GSS are excluded.

3. Statistician Group staff are those recruited through the annual graduate recruitment competition run by the Civil Service Selection Board.

4. ONS also employed 570 full-time equivalents

associated with its registration activities. These staff report to Tim Holt in his capacity as Registrar General, and are not part of the GSS.

5. Includes the Office of Fair Trading, Monopolies and Mergers Commission and the Office of Telecommunications (OFTEL).

RECRUITMENT

Members of the professional Statistician Group are recruited in an annual competition, which

forms part of the Civil Service fast stream graduate recruitment programme. Vacancies are advertised each Autumn in the national press and in student directories, as well as through contact with University Career Services, and visits to Universities. The Civil Service Commissioners,

who oversee recruitment, require an analysis of the recruitment competition by sex, age and ethnic origin to be published – in the case of statisticians the analysis is published in the Annual Report:

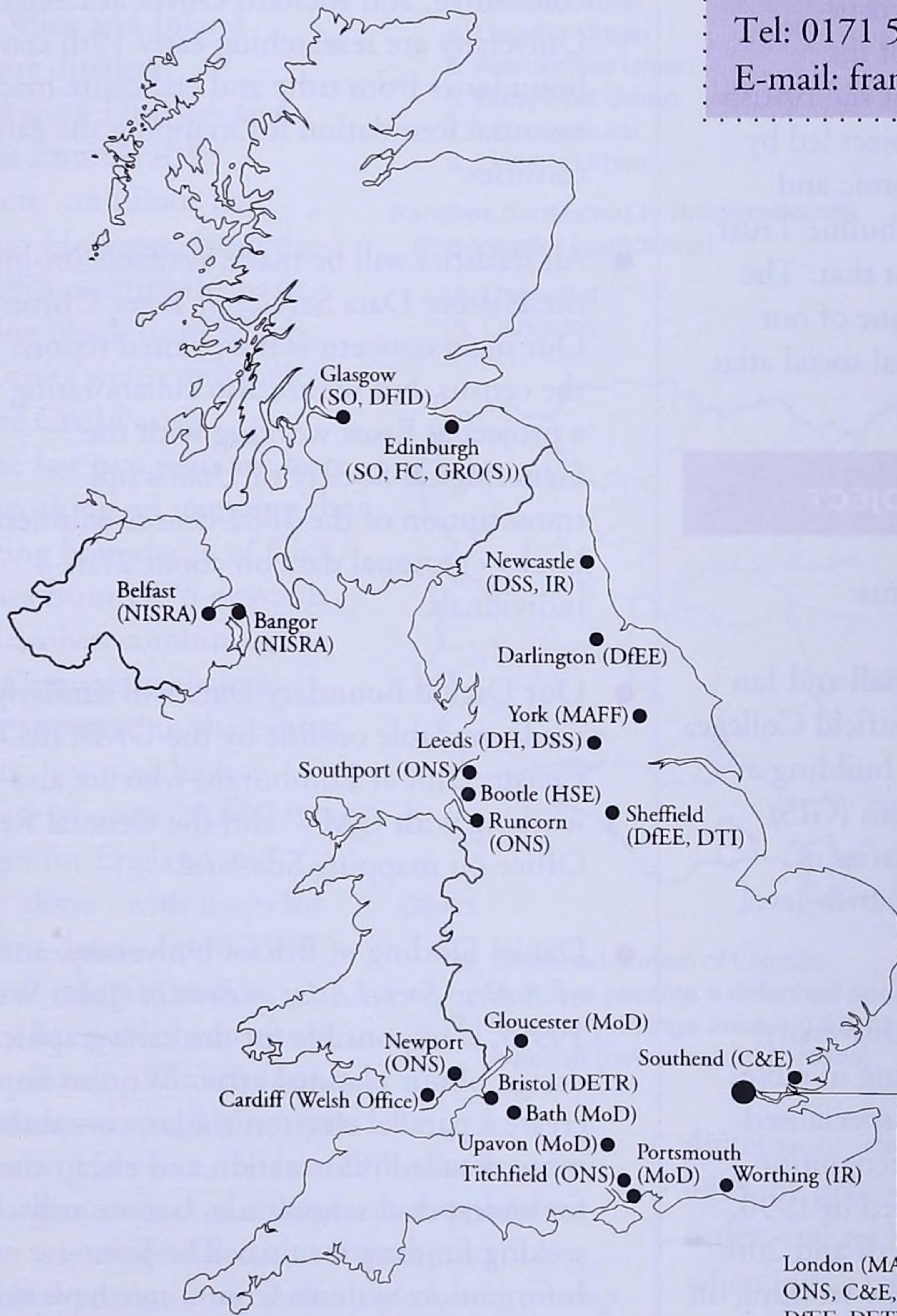
	Total Applications	Interviewed	Recommended for fast stream	Offered Statistical Officer post ¹
Total	355	173	26	47
<i>By Sex</i>				
Male	176	84	13	19
Female	179	89	13	28
<i>By Age</i>				
20-24	249	130	18	34
25-29	61	25	6	7
30-34	19	13	2	4
35-39	14	2	0	1
40-44	5	2	0	1
45+	7	1	0	0
<i>By Ethnic Background</i>				
White	299	163	26	46
Black, of Caribbean origin	3	1	0	0
Black, of African origin	11	1	0	0
Asian, of Indian origin	16	4	0	0
Asian, of Pakistani origin	6	2	0	1
Asian, of Bangladeshi origin	3	1	0	0
Asian, of Chinese origin	2	0	0	0
Asian, or other origin	5	0	0	0
Other Groups	5	1	0	0
No Response	5	0	0	0

1. Statistical Officer is a new grade which is part of the main stream grading structure. STOs also belong to the Statistician Group and are actively supported in managing and developing a career as a professional statistician. They also benefit from the centralised formal statistical training

that is offered to Assistant Statisticians and will also be able to move departments in order to gain development opportunities. The expectation is that some STOs will progress to Statistician level and beyond in the GSS.

LOCATION

GSS staff are located throughout Great Britain, from Ministry of Defence staff in Portsmouth to Scottish Office and Department for International Development staff in Glasgow. The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, which is not part of the GSS but works in close association with it, has staff in Belfast and Bangor. The map below shows where staff are located :



London (MAFF, ONS, C&E, MoD, DfEE, DETR, HSE, DH, HO, IR, LCD, DFID, OPS, DSS, DTI, HMT)

If you would like a copy of this year's Report, it is available free from the National Statistics Information and Library Service, tel: 01633 812973.

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MAPPING AND ANALYSING 200 YEARS OF THE CENSUS

by **Humphrey Southall, Queen Mary, University of London;**
Daniel Dorling, University of Bristol;
Paul Ell, the Queens' University, Belfast;
Ian Gregory, Queen Mary, University of London

The 10th of March 2001 will mark the two-hundredth anniversary of the first census of population and should be an opportunity to look back not merely at the history of census-gathering but at the development of the population, economy and society of the British Isles. A major university-based project led by ourselves and funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, the Leverhulme Trust and other bodies is trying to do just that. The project is supported by ONS and one of our central goals is to create an historical social atlas for publication at the bi-centenary.

COMPONENTS OF THE PROJECT

The project has six main components:

- A team led by Humphrey Southall and Ian Gregory at Queen Mary & Westfield College, London University (QMW), is building a Geographical Information System (GIS) containing the changing boundaries of statistical reporting units from parish-level upwards, as explained below.
- A second team at the Queen's University, Belfast, led by Paul Ell is scanning in tables from the census reports using a specialised ProLector Optical Character Recognition system. The team was established in 1990, has already computerised the 19th and 20th century Irish censuses, and is now working on England, Wales and Scotland from 1801 to 1961. Computerising the Irish censuses took the Belfast team 18 person-years and we have funding for only ten person-years to cover Great Britain, so even though our data entry capacity is large we are having to be rather more selective than we would like. We are emphasising demographic data, which are very consistent from one census to the next, and, conversely, data that are unique to single censuses, such as the fertility data collected in 1911.
- Roger Kain, chair of our management committee, and Richard Oliver at Exeter University are researching early 19th century boundaries from tithe and enclosure maps, an essential foundation for mapping the earliest censuses.
- All statistics will be made available on-line by the History Data Service at Essex University. Our main concern is the printed reports of the census, but we are also collaborating with a project at Essex working with the Genealogical Society of Utah's full transcription of the 1881 census enumerators' books - personal data on about 27m. individuals.
- Our Digital Boundary Data will similarly be made available on-line by the UKBORDERS Census Unit at Edinburgh, who are also working with QMW and the General Register Office on mapping Scotland.
- Daniel Dorling of Bristol University, author of *A New Social Atlas of Britain* (John Wiley, 1995), is responsible for the cartographic design of our planned atlas. We also hope to create a parallel electronic atlas, containing far more detailed information and cheap enough for widespread schools use, but are still seeking funding for this. The Joint Information Systems Committee have funded an investigation of how best to do this and we have a demonstration system, developed from an existing historical atlas, available at <http://www.geog.qmw.ac.uk/aib>.

BUILDING THE HISTORICAL GIS

The vast majority of the information in the published census reports concerns specific areas within Britain, not the country as a whole. The 1871 Census listed population counts for seventeen distinct categories of unit: counties, hundreds and parishes; parliamentary, petty sessional and police divisions; municipal boroughs and towns with improvement commissioners; lieutenancy sub-divisions; highway, local board, military, Post Office and Inland Revenue districts; Registration Districts and Census Enumeration Districts; and Poor Law unions. However, from the mid-19th century the basic building block from which other units were constructed was the Civil Parish. For the last two years we have been working on mapping the changing boundaries of Civil Parishes from 1876 onwards. This involves combining the lists of boundary changes which appeared in the census reports - we now have a database of some 20,000 changes for England and Wales alone - with maps for different dates. From 1900 onwards, the Ordnance Survey has published county sheets showing administrative boundaries at roughly ten-year intervals. However, the late 19th century saw very large numbers of changes, as the parish system was rationalised and fragmentary 'detached portions' were eliminated, and to map these we have made extensive use of unpublished maps in the Registrar General's papers in the Public Record Office.

Figure 1 shows just the changes in a thirty year period in a Welsh county chosen for its relative simplicity: new parishes were created in the more industrial south and east while more rural areas were rationalised. All this information is combined together into a GIS which, very unusually, contains a continuous time

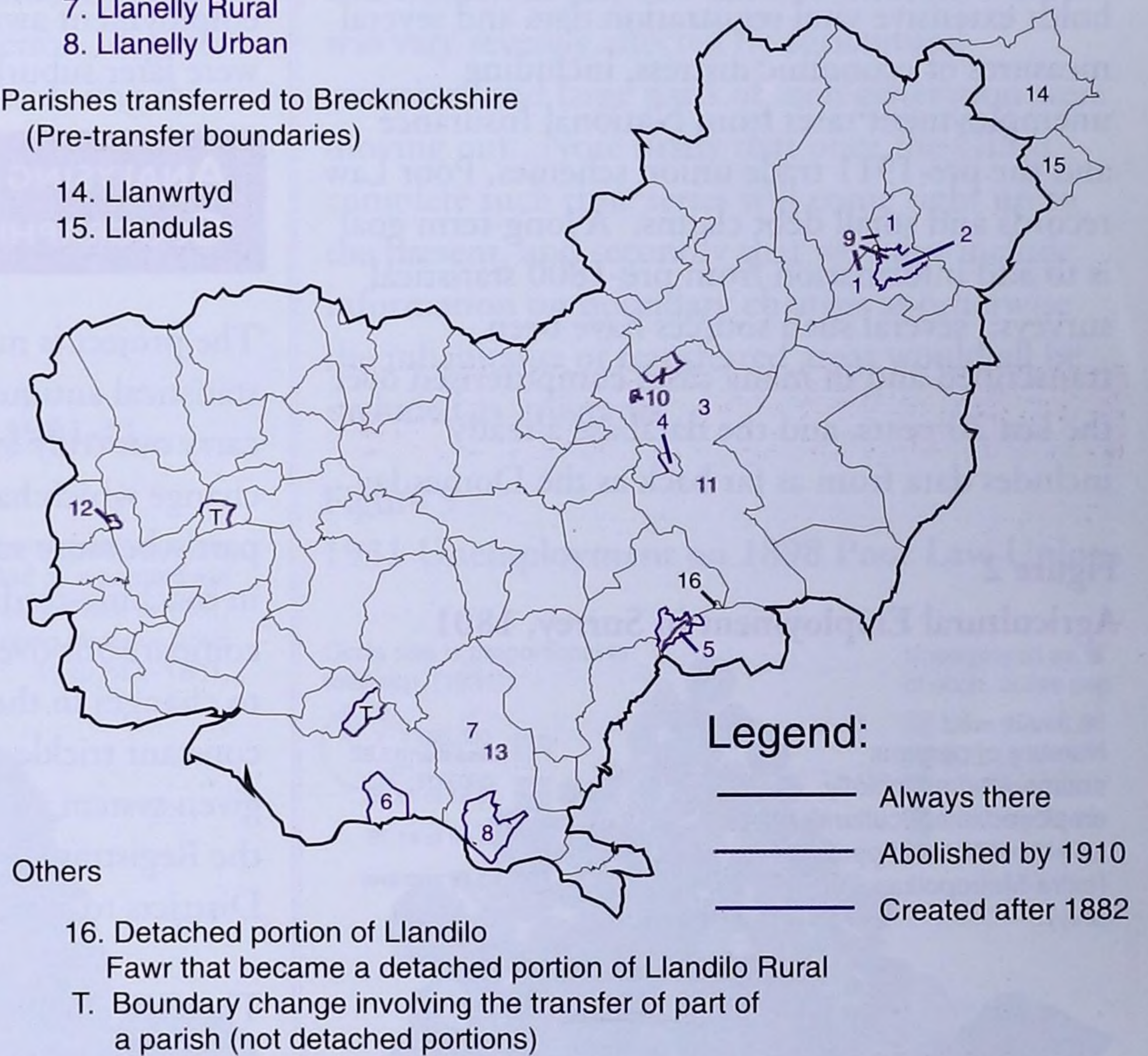
Figure 1 Camarthenshire boundary changes 1881-1911

Parishes Created 1882 to 1910

1. Llandigat Without
2. Llandigat Within
3. Llandilo Rural
4. Llandilo Urban
5. Ammanford Urban
6. Burry Port Urban
7. Llanelly Rural
8. Llanelly Urban

Parishes transferred to Brecknockshire (Pre-transfer boundaries)

14. Llanwrtyd
15. Llandulas

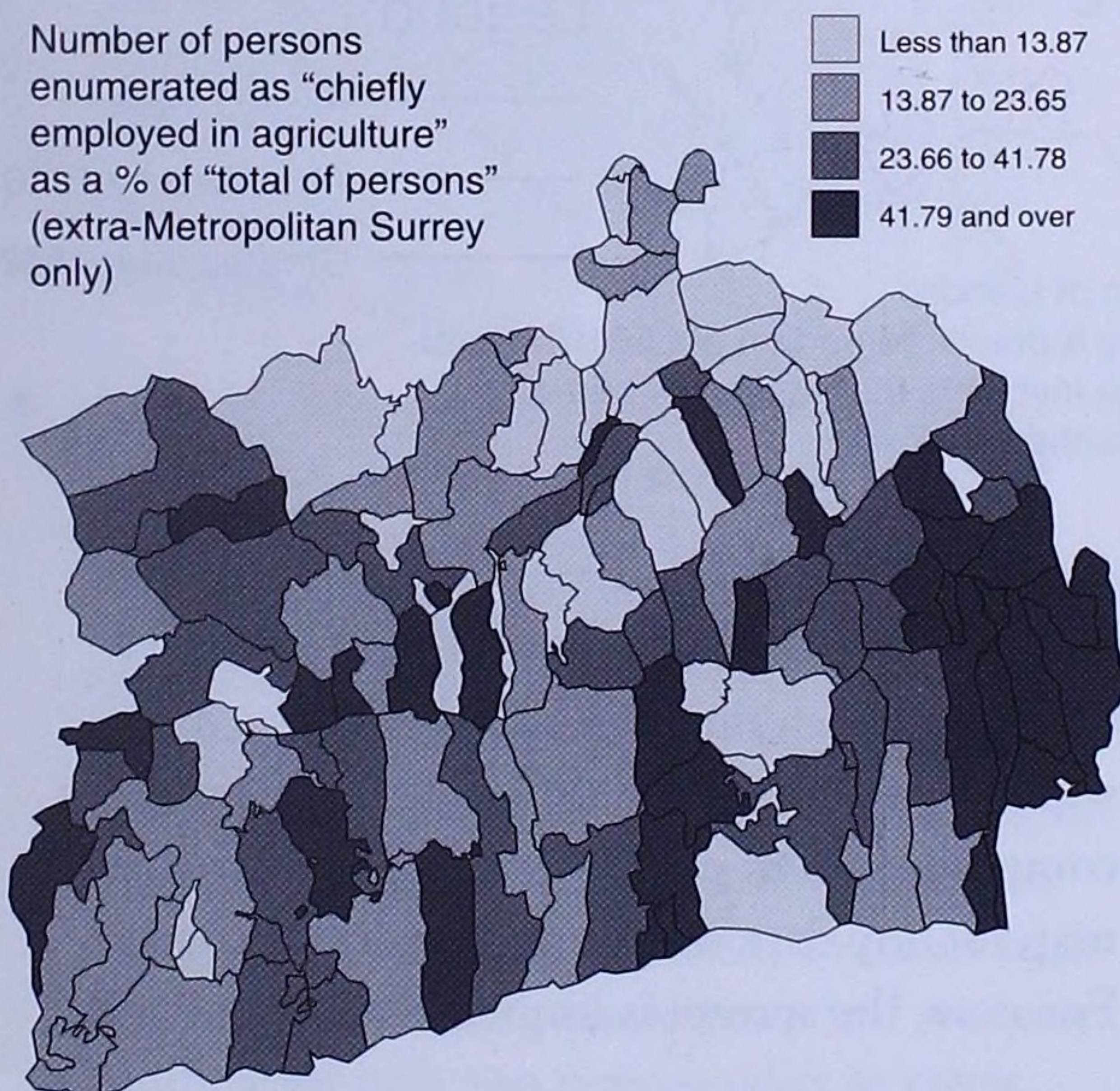


dimension: each boundary change is recorded with the precise date of the relevant statutory order, and each unit is labelled with the dates when it was created or abolished. The resulting computer system can generate an accurate base map for any date within the period we cover. For now, the system is limited to England and

Wales, as are the examples in this article, but we will be integrating a digital map of Scottish boundaries created in Edinburgh to provide complete coverage of Great Britain. Our Belfast team already has some limited mapping of historic Irish boundaries but we are seeking funds to create a full record of the townland system, the components from which parishes of different denominations were constructed.

The boundary data are only one half of the historical GIS. The linked statistical database already holds some data from the reports of all censuses apart from 1811 and 1821 (covered by retrospective figures published in 1851). It also holds extensive vital registration data and several measures of economic distress, including unemployment rates from National Insurance and the pre-1911 trade union schemes, Poor Law records and small debt claims. A long-term goal is to add information from pre-1800 statistical surveys: several such sources have been transcribed and in many cases computerised over the last 20 years, and the database already includes data from as far back as the Domesday

Figure 2
Agricultural Employment in Surrey, 1801



Book of 1086 for specimen counties; and Professor Kain's project at Exeter is researching the earliest systematic boundary maps; but all this requires further funding.

All the data are linked to the boundary mapping via gazetteers which contain the many different variants of each parish name, and tables defining units such as Parliamentary Constituencies in terms of their component parishes; this information is a significant resource in its own right. Figure 2 shows just one example, mapping 1801 data for Surrey parishes (on 1881 boundaries, for now) and showing that even then the growth of London was diversifying employment away from agriculture in areas that were later suburbanised.

ANALYSING LONG-RUN GEOGRAPHICAL CHANGE

The project is much more than an exercise in statistical antiquarianism. Our central goal is to carry out truly long-run studies of geographical change which have been impossible until now partly because sufficient data were not available in machine-readable form but mainly because comparisons over time appeared impossible due to changes in the reporting units, both the constant trickle of detailed boundary changes to a given system and major policy changes such as the Registrar General's shift from Registration Districts to local government districts in 1911.

The GIS enables us to overlay one reporting geography on top of another, and then compute the best possible estimates of data values for one set of units from available data from the other. There is of course nothing magical about this process, estimates are much more reliable where the target reporting units are coarser than those used in the source, and estimates will be substantially improved once we have a full record of parish-level boundaries and population densities.

Figures 3 and 4 illustrates the new analyses possible through combining sources, and also the importance of boundary changes. Most historical research into migration is based on responses to the census question about place of birth, but this tells us nothing about when in their life a person had moved, or why. By combining different sources, another approach is possible: given, say, the number of males aged 15 to 24 in some district from the 1901 census, the number aged 25-34 in 1911 would be identical if nobody had moved or died, so by using age-specific mortality data from the Registrar General's reports we can straightforwardly compute the number of net migrants over each inter-censal period. Figure 3 maps gaining and losing districts during the 1900s, revealing rural decline and expansion in the coalfields and London suburbs, while figure 4 shows trends over time for young men

Figure 3
Net Migration by Young Males 1901-11

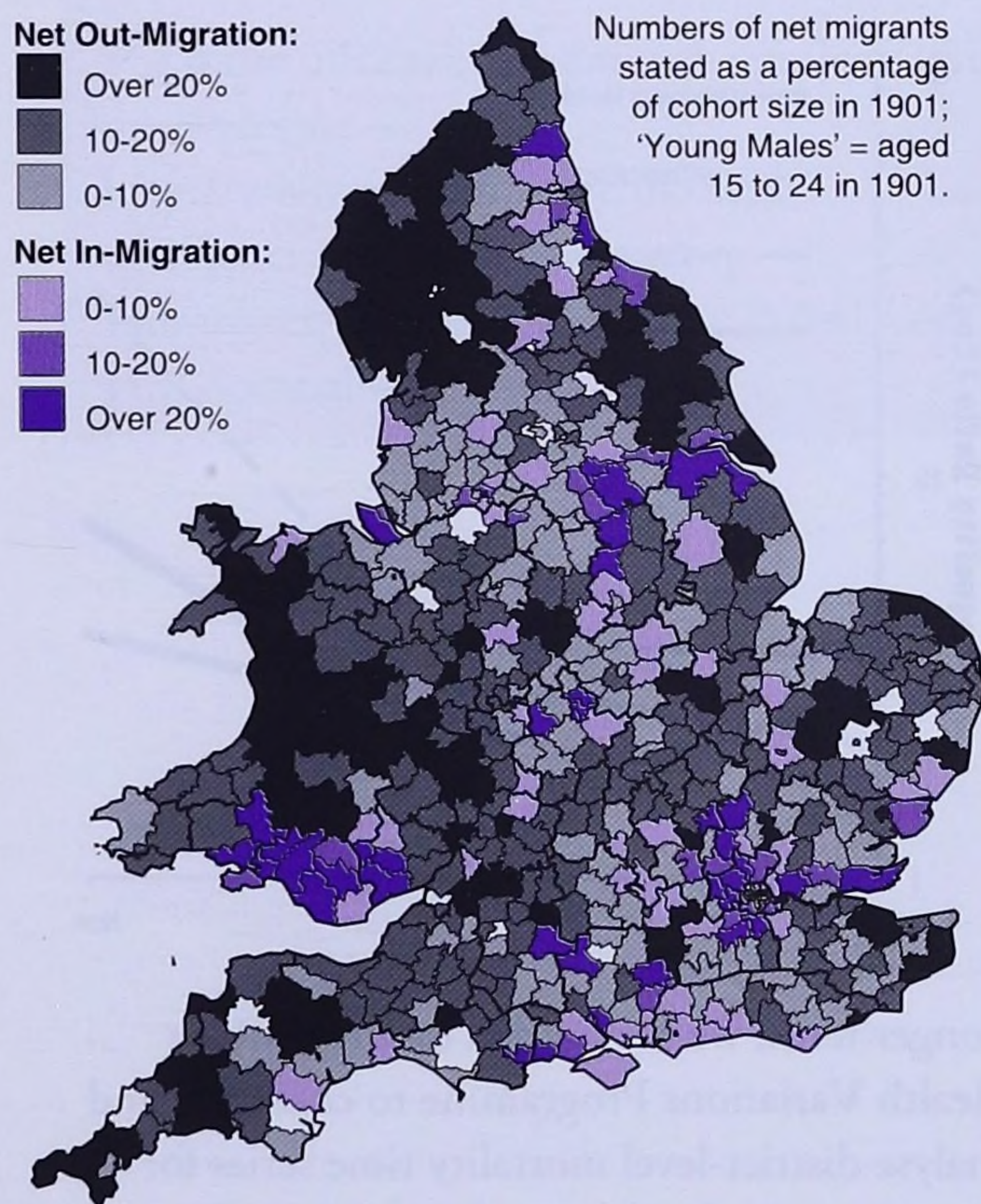
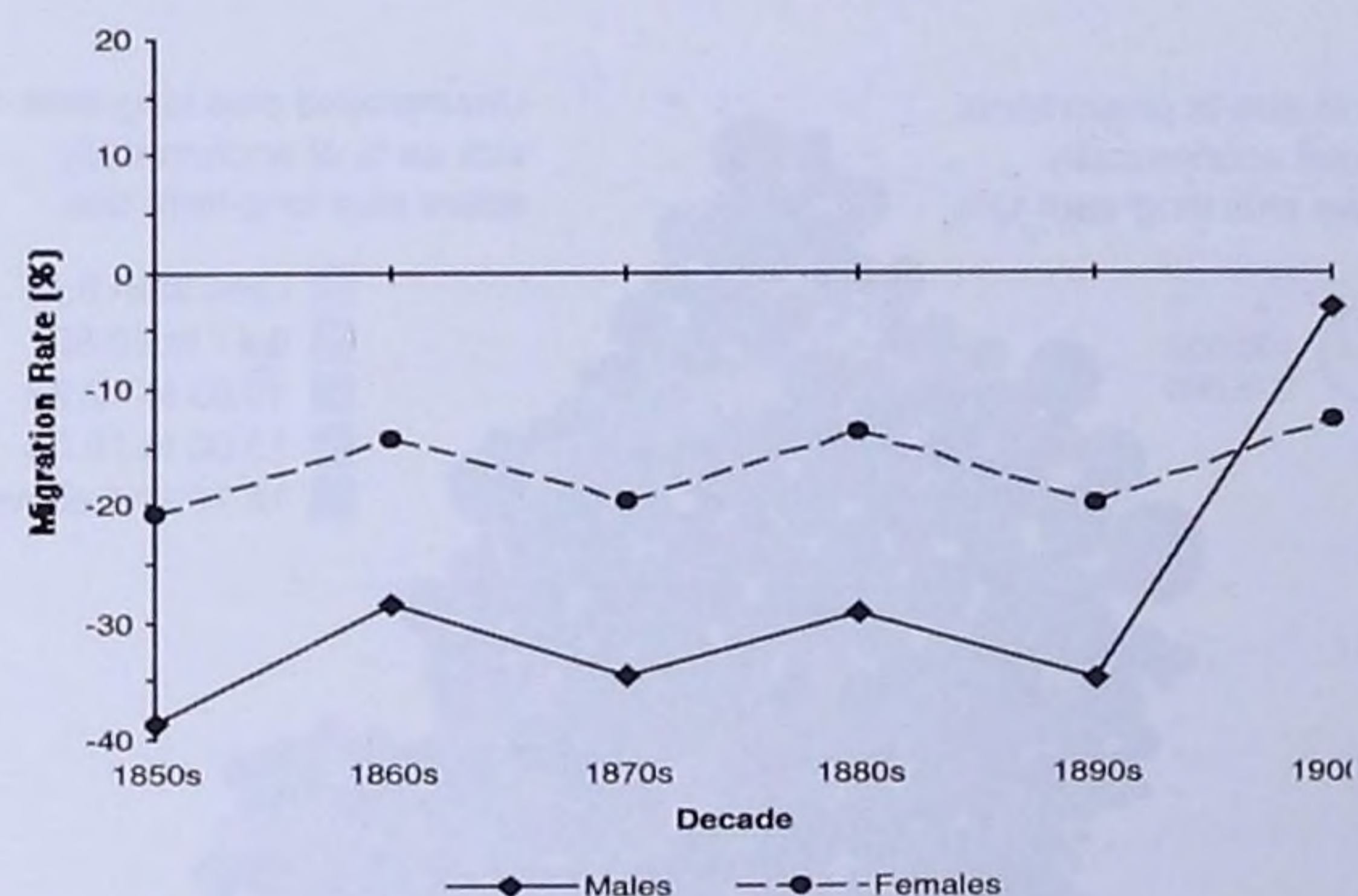
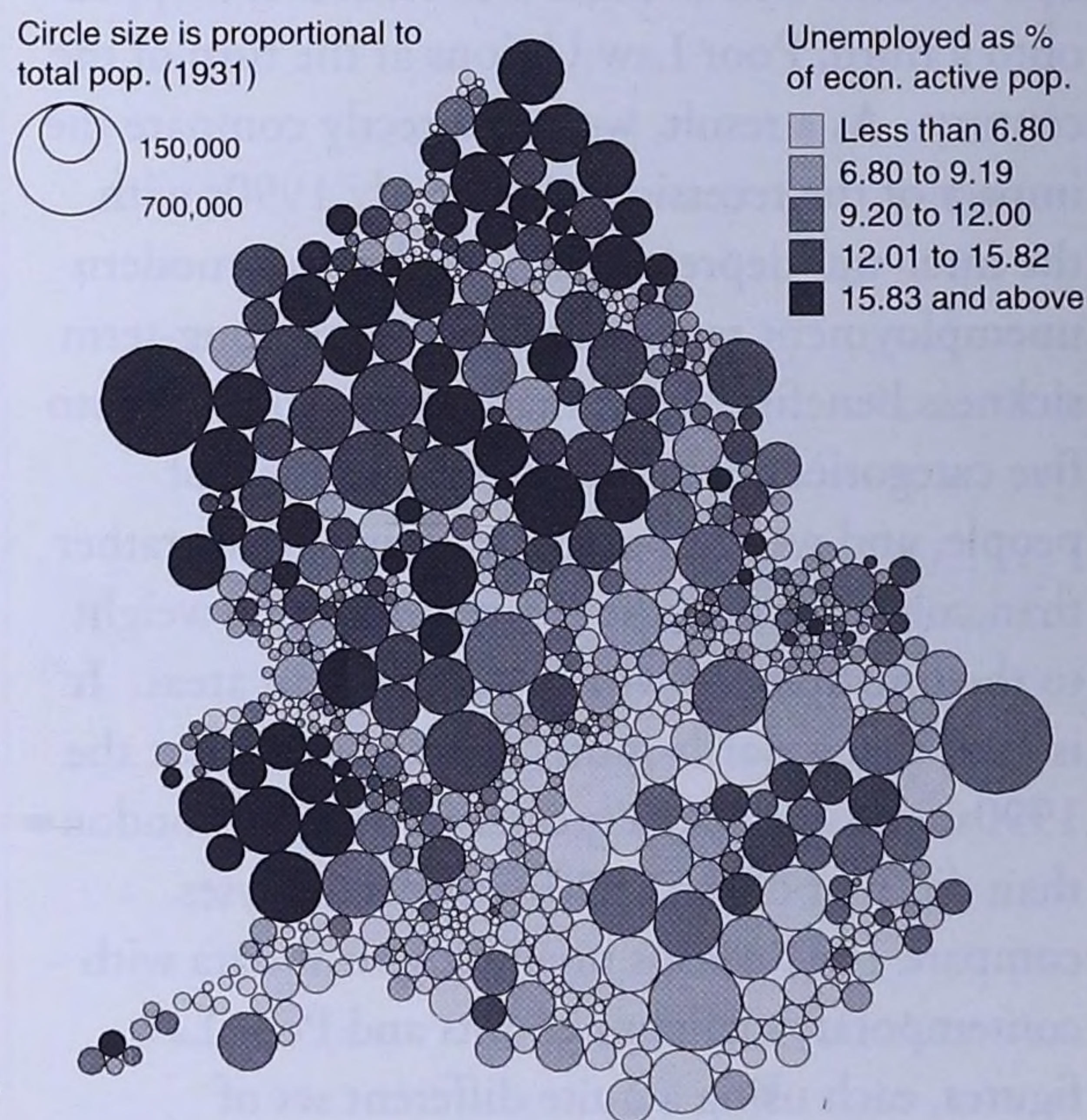


Figure 4
Net Migration by Young Adults from Saffron Walden, 1851- 1911



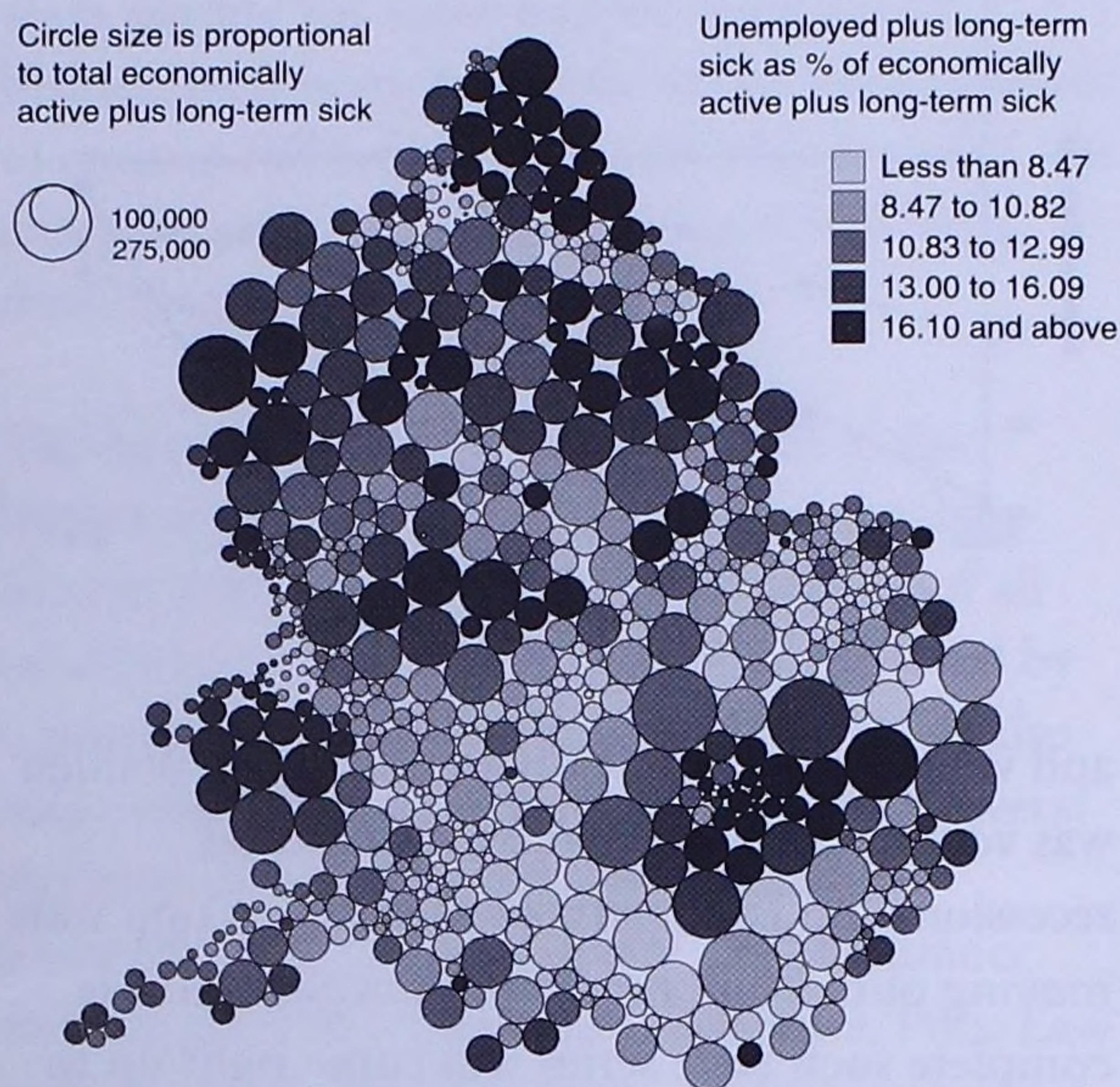
and women in just one district: Saffron Walden was very severely affected by agricultural recession, and large parts of each generation were moving out. Note firstly that once the GIS is complete such time series will come right up to the present, and secondly that we must include information on boundary changes as otherwise the inhabitants of transferred areas would all be included as 'migrants'.

Figure 5
1931 Unemployment on 1898 Poor Law Unions



Source: 1931 Census of Population: Occupational Tables

Figure 6
1991 Unemployment on 1898 Poor Law Unions



Source: 1991 Small Area Statistics

This migration analysis is limited, so far, to data just for pre-1911 Registration Districts, but figures 5 and 6 use data for two quite different geographies, inter-war local government districts and modern census small area statistics, mapped onto a third, Poor Law Unions at the turn of the century. As a result, we can directly compare the impact of the recession of the early 1990s with the inter-war depression; note that our modern unemployment rate includes those on long-term sickness benefits. Both maps divide districts into five categories containing equal numbers of people, and we use population cartograms rather than conventional base maps to give due weight to the unemployed within dense urban areas. It is clear that a north-south divide persists but the 1990s recession had a greater impact on London than did that of the 1930s. Other analyses compare 1931 census unemployment data with contemporary claimant counts and Poor Law figures, each using a quite different set of reporting units.

Figure 7
Median rates for infant mortality, overcrowded housing, and persons in social class V in 1898

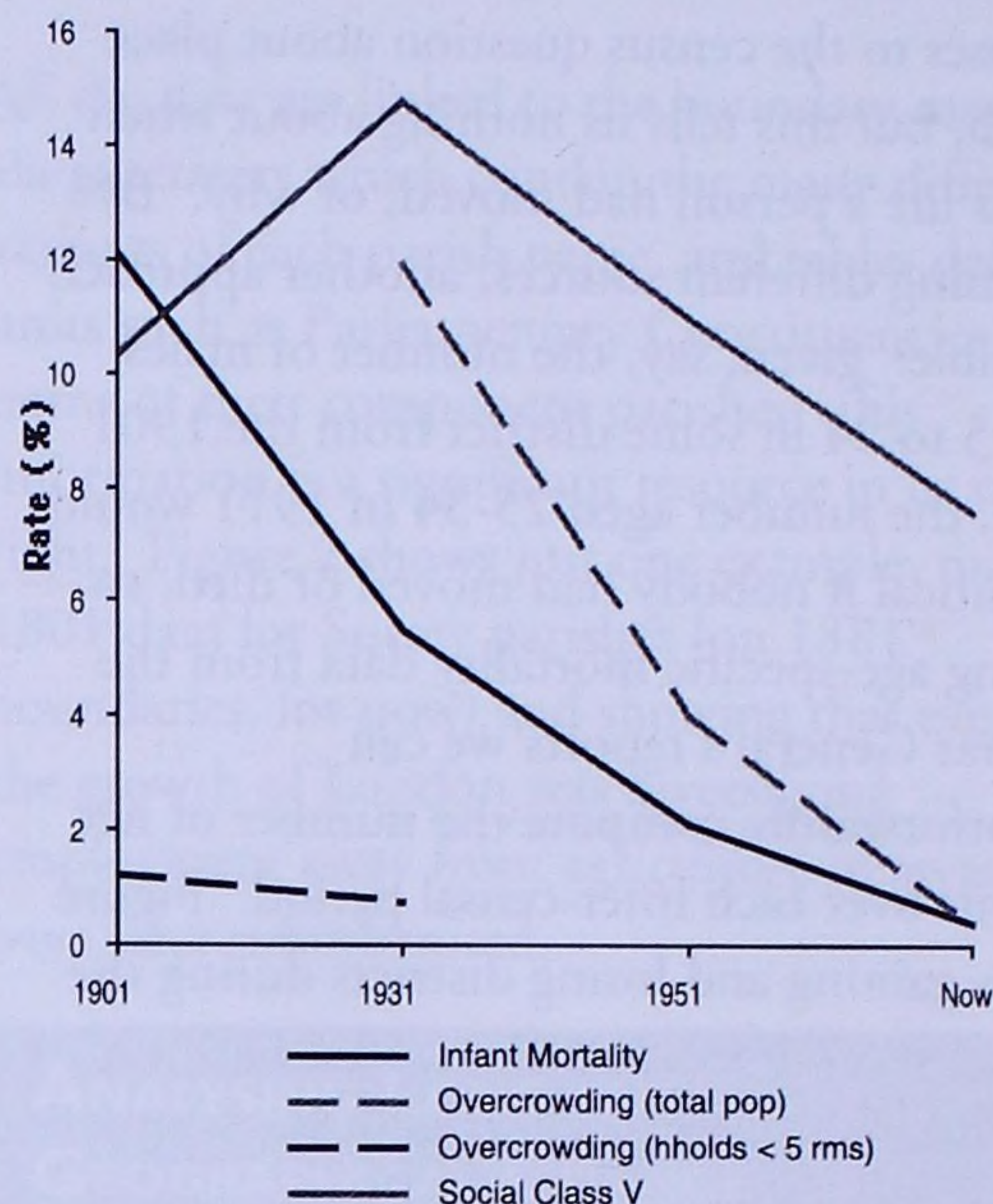
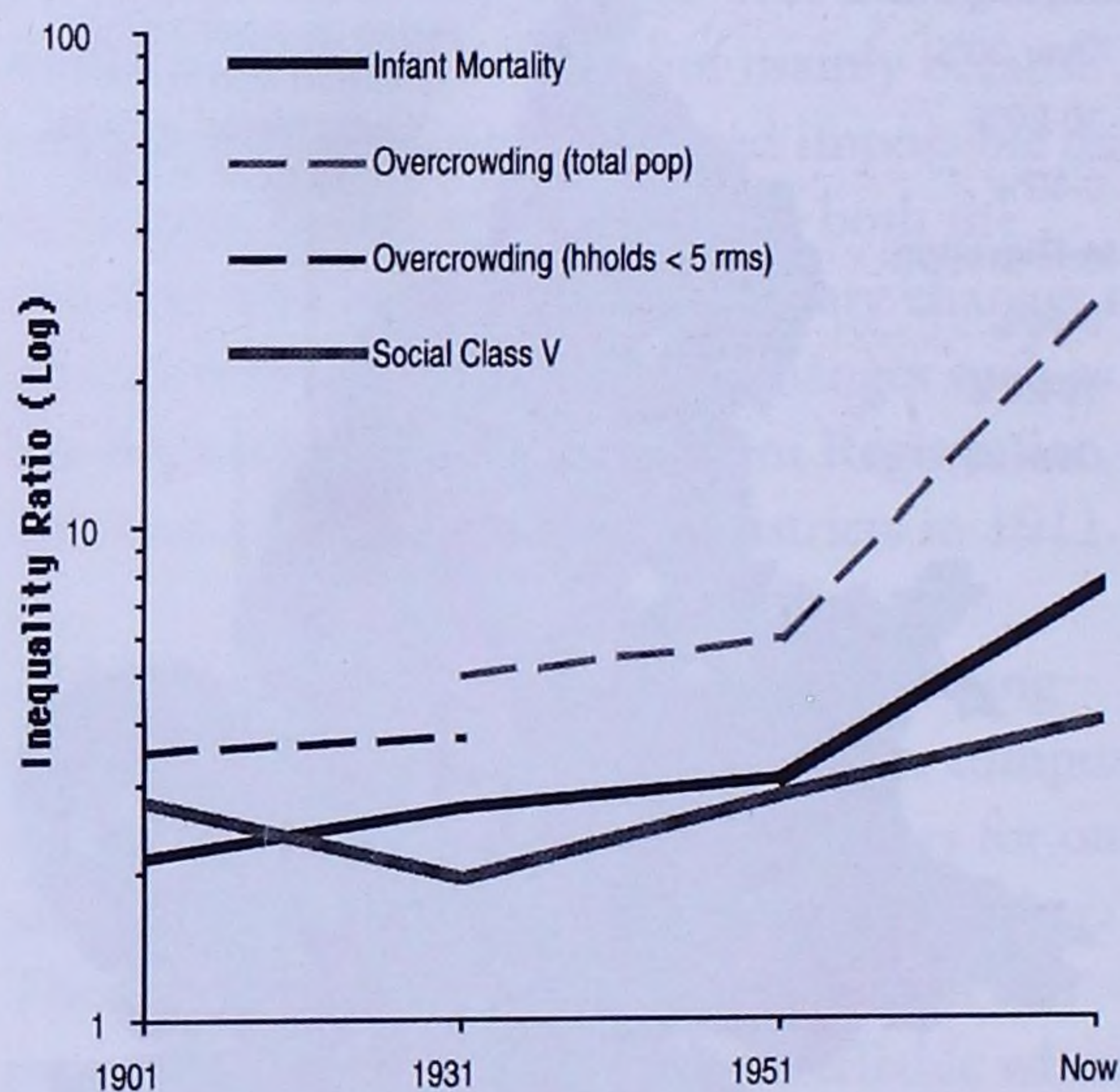


Figure 8
Inequality ratios for infant mortality, overcrowded housing, and persons in social class V in 1898 PLUs, c.1901-91.



Longer term, we are funded by the ESRC's Health Variations Programme to construct and analyse district-level mortality time series for constant units from 1920 onwards, developing

the analysis in Daniel Dorling's *Death in Britain* (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 1997). Figures 7 and 8 present initial results from a study of geographical inequality since 1901 using data on infant mortality, housing conditions and the distribution of persons in social class V, taken as a proxy for low incomes. Figure 7 shows the vast improvement there has been over the century in 'typical' levels. However, figure 8 plots trends in an 'inequality ratio' which measures the relationship between the 10 per cent worst-off and the 10 per cent best-off, and shows a long-run upward trend. This may indicate that society has been becoming more unequal, but an alternative interpretation is that the scale of social segregation and exclusion has been changing; this analysis can only identify differences between quite large districts, not differences between communities and streets within a district. Longer term, the GIS will be a very powerful tool for studying such issues.

CONTACTING THE PROJECT

For more information about the project, visit our web site:

<http://www.geog.qmw.ac.uk/hgis>

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CAUSE FOR COMPLAINT

by Chris Taylor for the Office of Fair Trading

Consumers complain about goods and services worth about £2.5 billion a year. The OFT tracks the grievances reported to Trading Standards and Environmental Health Departments, and this data informs its investigations of markets from second-hand cars to double-glazing. This article highlights the recent trends in what consumers complain about, and examines how the way that complaints are recorded is being updated.

Gathering, collating and reporting on consumer complaints has been part of the OFT's role since its foundation. It falls under the Director General of Fair Trading's general duty under the Fair Trading Act to monitor activities which may be detrimental to consumers' economic interests.

The value of the survey to the OFT is that it identifies which categories of goods and services are causing the greatest number of complaints dealt with by local authorities' Trading Standards Departments (TSDs) and Environmental Health Departments - the prime sources for the OFT's statistics - and what trading practice caused the complaint. This information helps the OFT (and the TSDs themselves) identify trends, establish areas of concern and prioritise its work.

Since 1987, the OFT has been monitoring consumer complaints under 59 categories of goods and services, and nine trading practices. Before that, it reviewed no fewer than 175 categories, and 155 practices - an unwieldy load. But products, services and consumer behaviour are all changing fast - in 1987 few of us had much to do with personal computers, video games, mobile phones, or Internet providers - and to meet this challenge the OFT formed a working party with representatives of TSDs to agree changes to the way complaints are recorded (*see panel: New categories*).

In addition, two trading practices (credit and mail order/pre-payments) have been removed as they account for few complaints or are adequately provided for elsewhere, while a new trading practice of age restricted sales is introduced. The end result is 72 categories, and eight practices.

Differences in interpretation of the system have occasionally skewed the reporting. For example, some local authorities have recorded complaints about mobile phone services under the category 'Telecommunications'; others have included them under 'Other personal goods and services'. Not only will the new categories resolve such anomalies, the accompanying guidelines seek to prevent similar confusions arising in the future. They explain, for example, that if someone bought a book via the Internet and it failed to arrive in the mail within the promised period, the complaint would be classified under the category 'Books, newspapers and magazines' and the trading practice 'Non-delivery of goods'. It would not be recorded as a complaint under the category 'Internet service providers'.

There has also been some confusion over what exactly constitutes a complaint, and this too has been comprehensively addressed. In the past, some TSDs have included consumer enquiries as complaints, and some have included complaints from businesses. Following the recommendations of the TSD/OFT working party, quarterly statistics should be collected from each TSD in one of three discrete areas:

- individual/household consumer complaints, broken down by goods/service category and by trading practice;
 - traders acting as consumers complaints, broken down by goods/service category;
 - consumer enquiries, with an optional breakdown by goods/service category.

A consumer complaint - the first area - concerns dissatisfaction with goods or services provided or advertised to the complainant, and has now been clearly defined as a contact from an individual or household acting as a consumer in which the consumer, rightly or wrongly, considers that the goods, services or property, are faulty or wrongly described; in which the goods, services or property are subject to conditions imposed by the supplier which appear to the consumer to be unreasonable; or in which the supplier has adopted an attitude or engaged in a trading practice, which the consumer regards as detrimental to his/her other interests.

The aim is clearer data - which should provide more accurate statistics, allowing trends to be recognised earlier, and acted upon quicker. It is also hoped that the changes will make the statistics more meaningful and relevant and useful for the local authorities, so that the small minority of local authorities who at present do not send in returns will be persuaded to do so.

So what happens when the OFT identifies a particular good or service which is attracting a high level of complaints, or where the number of complaints is rising sharply?

A short consultation process takes place first, to ensure that the causes of complaint are both fair and justified. If this is the case, and the area of concern would best be dealt with by the OFT rather than other regulatory bodies, a full OFT inquiry can then be launched and a report issued. The results can be spectacular, as with the inquiry into timeshares, where the number of complaints fell dramatically from over 3,000 complaints a quarter during 1990, 1991 and 1992, to around a third of that figure today, following an OFT report linked to EU action.

Ironically, however, the first result of the announcement of OFT action can be for the

number of complaints to increase, due to a greater awareness among consumers of the issues involved, and individuals who had kept quiet about their grievance deciding to issue a complaint. Increased awareness, fuelled by widespread coverage in the media, may be a factor in the current level of complaints about the gas supply industry.

Having consulted and prepared a report, Part III of the Fair Trading Act gives the Director General John Bridgeman the legal powers to take action against traders who persist in conduct unfair to consumers which involves breaches of the law or their duties. (This process is also under review as it is unwieldy and slow. The Director General has suggested a new approach which will allow him to issue stop orders requiring traders to end unfair practices without the lengthy process of evidence gathering - which can, and does, in some cases, take many years.)

The changes to the way consumer complaints are classified are due to become effective next April. Once the new system is being used, the OFT will be asking TSDs if any types of complaint are difficult to classify using the categories agreed. Trading Standards Officers and Consumer Advisors will also be encouraged to contact the OFT whenever they have difficulty classifying a complaint, so that new guidance can be given and issued as appropriate. If new categories are needed, or old ones are obsolete, this should then become apparent more quickly than in the past.

NEXT STEPS

Full details of the reclassifications, together with copies of documentation and the latest *Trends In Consumer Complaints* report can be found on the OFT website at <http://www.of.gov.uk/research/stats.htm>. Statistics are also in the OFT's Annual Report.

NEW CATEGORIES

- personal computers and related hardware;
- large white goods and major fixed appliances;
- other electrical domestic appliances;
- mobile phones and services;
- Internet service providers;
- gardens, inc. plants, garden furniture, equipment, tools and services;
- homeworking schemes;
- credit repair services (i.e. the service of offering to remove or attempt to remove county court judgements on payment of a fee);
- pensions excluding occupational;
- extended warranties and extended guarantees;
- other professional services;
- toys, games, & video consoles, excluding video games software or computer software;
- CDs, audio & video tapes, records, video games software & computer software;
- pets, pet foods, veterinary goods & services;
- betting, competitions & prize draws;
- photography;
- no goods or services specified.

THE COMPLAINTS CHART

In 1997, a total of 859,000 consumer complaints accounting for goods and services worth about £2.5 billion, were reported to the Office by Trading Standards Departments. This represents an increase in complaints of 21 per cent over five years.

So what are the biggest culprits, causing the most complaints? In the first quarter of 1998, the top

ten categories accounted for 63 per cent of all complaints during the quarter. They were:

1. Other personal goods and services (24,900 in the period, up 40 per cent in five years. A large proportion of these are believed to be complaints about homeworking schemes);
2. Second-hand cars (22,100, up 16 per cent in five years);
3. Radio, TV, and other electrical goods (18,200, down seven per cent in five years);
4. Home maintenance repairs and improvements (15,000, up 33 per cent in five years);
5. Clothing and clothing fabrics (13,300, down six per cent in five years);
6. Major appliances (10,900, down 13 per cent in five years);
7. Food and drink (9,500, down four per cent in five years);
8. Upholstered furniture (8,900, up 15 per cent in five years);
9. Other recreational goods and services (7,700, up nine per cent in five years);
10. Double glazing products and installation (7,400, up 21 per cent in five years);

If those were the leading categories of complaint, what were the main *causes* of complaint which increased? Over the last five years, complaints about substandard or defective goods and services were up by almost a half, complaints about price and value for money rose by a fifth, and complaints about non-delivery increased by nine per cent.

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OFFICIAL FINANCIAL STATISTICS: CURRENT PUBLISHED DATA AND FUTURE PLANS

by Elizabeth Ogborn and Christopher Yeates, Bank of England

The following article is a record of the Financial Statistics User Group (FSUG) seminar held on 6th October 1998. More than a hundred delegates attended the meeting, which was hosted by Nav Shah at the Association of British Insurers and chaired by Simon Briscoe of Nikko Europe. The audience included representatives from the worlds of business and academia as well as from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Bank of England. Speakers examined the needs of the users and the quality, style, and dissemination of official financial statistics. They highlighted areas of change and improvement over the last eighteen months, and also suggested possible enhancements and areas for improvement in the future.

The Bank of England and the ONS actively support the FSUG. However, the views expressed below are those of the speakers and do not necessarily represent the views of their organisations, the Bank or the ONS.

USERS' VIEWS

A POLICY-MAKER'S VIEW

Bill Allen, a Deputy Director of the Bank of England, opened the session by examining the importance of financial statistics for monetary policy-makers in the pursuit of monetary and financial stability.

He began by explaining that the belief in a relationship between the stock of money and the price level is hundreds of years old, and lies behind the view that monetary policy should aim

at achieving a carefully selected target rate of monetary growth. The idea is to set a target for whichever definition of monetary growth has the closest relationship with inflation and to choose a level of the target which promises to deliver a satisfactory rate of inflation.

However, over the years the relationship between monetary growth and inflation has become more complicated, and it is therefore very difficult to rely on that relationship on its own as a guide to monetary policy. So, why bother to collect any monetary statistics at all?

The approach that the Bank of England has adopted, he explained, is to scrutinise all macro-economic and monetary developments very closely, in order to understand how the economy is developing and in what way economic relationships and economic behaviour are changing. And this requires a massive statistical base. The following areas are of prime importance:

- Although it is acknowledged that the relationship between monetary growth and inflation is unreliable, nobody thinks it is non-existent. Given the imprecision of our understanding of economic behaviour and economic relationships, it would be foolish simply to ignore monetary growth; therefore, it is monitored closely and carefully.
- In this country, money on its broad definition mainly consists of the sterling deposit liabilities of the banks and building societies. Statistics of the deposit and lending activity of the banks and building societies contain a very large amount of information about likely future developments in output and inflation.

- The Bank of England acknowledges a responsibility for maintaining financial stability as well as monetary stability. Financial stability means avoiding major disruptions of economic activity which could result from threats to the stability of individual financial institutions. Such threats can arise from a wide variety of sources. Banking statistics make an indispensable contribution to monitoring them.
- Banking supervisors and regulators (no longer part of the Bank of England but concentrated in the Financial Services Authority) need statistical data as the foundation for their supervisory judgements about individual institutions.

Bill Allen then moved on to discuss areas for change in the future. Statistical methods need to keep up with financial market developments, otherwise the resulting data will fail to be representative. This is a perennial and increasingly difficult task, and it requires statisticians who have analytical talent and market understanding, as well as statistical skills. Another very important issue is transparency. It is not possible to provide too much detail when describing exactly how statistics are compiled. The Bank of England tries to achieve transparency through careful annotation of its statistics and through articles in the monthly *Monetary and Financial Statistics* publication.

Bill Allen concluded by saying that the Bank of England warmly welcomes the Government Green Paper on National Statistics and the opening up of a discussion on the production of official statistics. The Bank sees a lot of attraction in the option of establishing a statistical commission. In its role as a producer of statistics, the Bank of England would aim to comply with whatever standards might be established under any new arrangements for

national statistics. It would be highly desirable to bring into the important field of statistics a still greater degree of openness and transparency - which would in some respects be comparable to that which the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee has brought into monetary policy. This openness and transparency could become a means of ensuring both that all national statistics are compiled in a way that reflects the needs of users. And that as the needs of users change (as they certainly will) the statistics and methodology change accordingly. This could enhance the esteem in which national statistics are held, because it would represent an additional and independent check on their credibility.

A CITY USER'S VIEW

As an avid user of both Bank of England and Office for National Statistics data, David Walton, Director of Economic Research at Goldman Sachs International, set out developments he had observed over the last eighteen months in relation to timeliness, reliability, coverage, accessibility and clarity.

Starting with the issues of timeliness and reliability, he commented that there was a clear trade off between the two. Nevertheless, in an international context, the UK is at the forefront as far as speed of production is concerned - producing M0 in three days and sectoral accounts within three months of the end of the quarter to which they relate. From a user's perspective, substantial revisions were an impediment best avoided; failing this, some indication of the likelihood of revisions and reliability of data would be helpful. Like Bill Allen, he also emphasised the importance of producers of statistics keeping abreast of latest developments in the fast moving world of the financial markets.

Moving on to coverage, he noted that there were still identifiable gaps in the financial sectoral accounts and in particular in the stock of capital issues. No progress had been made since the March 1997 meeting of FSUG on this or on the availability of statistics relating to the size of the sterling bond market. As far as the 1995 European System of Accounts (ESA95) and the public finances were concerned, the speaker pointed out that certain key series of data, including back data on the public finances and gilt yields, were now only available from the 1980s. They previously were available in runs back to 1963. If this situation continued indefinitely, he felt that it would seriously hamper economic analysis. Even data produced on a 'best guess' basis were better than nothing at all.

On accessibility, David Walton commented that the Bank was to be highly commended on the speed and efficiency with which it disseminated data, both in hard copy, with monthly editions of *Monetary and Financial Statistics*, and on the Internet. He had also been impressed with the speed with which the Bank had taken up suggestions for improvements – for example, increasing the amount of regularly published historic data to facilitate the calculation of year on year changes. By contrast, the ONS service Statfax was unreliable; the downloading process could be cumbersome, and the data were not always legible. He said that the ONS' website¹ did not always contain the most recent data and many of their more detailed tables were not available via the Internet.

Turning to the issue of clarity, he said that the Bank's *Monetary and Financial Statistics* presented data in a logical order, with helpful explanatory notes, and warnings of anomalies or distortions affecting the figures. But the publication was not always easy to read. The equivalent ONS publication, *Financial Statistics*,

had better quality print and table design but a somewhat less focused content. The new treatment of public finances was now available, in the new format, and the ONS had been very quick to produce their first release. There had been much good work done by the ONS on preparation for the new GDP and Balance of Payments figures, although the presentation of the public finances in *Financial Statistics* he felt could be much improved.

In summary, he said that more work needed to be done on the presentation of the public finances, and more time devoted to the expansion of the ONS's Internet facilities, and perhaps an overhaul in the content of *Financial Statistics*. There followed a brief discussion concerning the production of historic data and break-adjustments. The general feeling was that the compilers of statistics were often in the best position to understand the intricacies of the data and to perform adjustments, such as the Bank's production of break-adjusted growth rates and break-adjusted 'smooth levels' series for monetary aggregates.

AN ACADEMIC'S PERSPECTIVE

Professor Philip Molyneux, of the Banking and Finance Department at the University of Wales, gave an academic's viewpoint on developments since the early 1990s in Bank of England official publications. He surveyed changes in the nature of statistical provision and gave some suggestions for possible future developments.

Prior to 1992, longer and more detailed time series of banking and financial data such as runs and breakdowns of monetary aggregates were available from the statistical annex to the *Quarterly Bulletin*. However, since then, this publication has altered its emphasis from the presentation of statistical information in the annex to a concentration on more analytical

**PUBLICATIONS AND FUTURE PLANS:
OFFICE FOR NATIONAL STATISTICS**

pieces of work on recent economic and financial developments, together with reports and speeches.

Since 1992, the annual two volume Bank of England *Statistical Abstract* has reproduced this data, with some welcome additions. New data presented in the annual *Statistical Abstract* includes data on the net public sector debt, sectoral analysis of British government debt holdings, and its distribution by instrument, further information on sterling commercial paper and medium-term notes, and data on capital issues and redemptions. More detailed breakdowns of the money figures have also been provided, with more information given on the components and characteristics of M4; Divisia components, lending data vis-à-vis individuals, mortgages and consumer credit, and data on banks' income, expenditure and dividends. Since January 1997, monthly figures have been available in *Monetary and Financial Statistics*. This publication provides similar types of data to the annual *Statistical Abstract*, and is more comprehensive than the old *Quarterly Bulletin* statistical annex.

In summary, Professor Molyneux felt that the level of statistical provision has improved significantly since the early 1990s. There is increased emphasis on lending and the consumer credit market, stronger emphasis on monetary aggregates and longer time series with more details of breaks and other adjustments. Turning to possible future enhancements, Professor Molyneux suggested the following: a breakdown of 'other overseas banks' business into further nationality categories; more detail on lending activities to firms, depending on their size (although this is partly provided for by the Bank's reports on small business financing); benchmark industry interest rates on types of retail banking products such as fixed rate mortgages etc; and more detail on banks' derivatives activities.

Uzair Rizki, from the ONS, discussed the publication of financial statistics by the ONS, and also listed the other ONS publications. He gave particular reference to changes to *Financial Statistics* necessitated by ESA95. All such changes, and general updating, are documented in the *Financial Statistics Explanatory Handbook 1999* to be published in late October 1998.

Electronic media for accessing ONS data consisted of Databank, the ONS website, Statbase - via the Government Statistical Service's (GSS) website², and CD-ROM / floppy disks. These allow for a much greater degree of transparency. For example, the *1998 Blue Book* is available on CD-ROM containing full tables as well as an explanation of their context and methodology.

Uzair Rizki highlighted future developments to improve consistency and standardise presentation between publications. Market research and customer satisfaction surveys ensure that users receive the statistics that they require; new products can be developed if necessary. He said that constructive criticism is always welcomed and feedback from users such as FSUG is essential for the improvement of the service ONS provides.

Martin Brand (ONS) continued by considering the more detailed picture i.e. what was available at a more micro level for users. The various responsibilities for statistical collection of the Bank of England, the Building Societies Commission and the ONS were outlined. He emphasised the fast changing nature of the financial sector and statistical users' requirements. Root and branch reviews of ONS inquiries including insurance, pension funds and trusts were being conducted. This included

registers, survey designs and estimation. Improvements in data quality were already flowing from this programme and would continue progressively into 1999. Picking up Bill Allen's earlier point about the need for transparency, Martin explained that it was ONS's aim to document and publish methodology for all of its business surveys. ONS had also begun a programme of calculating and publishing sampling errors for business surveys as an aid to users in assessing this aspect of quality.

Martin Brand outlined improvements made very recently to the quarterly *First Release* and *Business Monitor* covering investment by insurance companies, pension funds and trusts. A great deal of detail was available. In terms of future plans, these were clearly shaped by the need to be responsive to users' changing needs. Firm commitments included publishing securities dealers' statistics in *Financial Statistics* (early 1999), improving *Financial Statistics* tables for non-bank financial institutions (1999) and the introduction of a new overseas trade in services publication (January 1999). Likely further developments included the publication of statistics on derivatives.

Databank and Statbase were again highlighted as vehicles for obtaining data in a more flexible format. Users were also encouraged to ask ONS for analyses they could not find 'off the peg' in publications; for any bespoke data analysis only ONS's analysis costs would be charged.

PUBLICATIONS AND FUTURE PLANS: BANK OF ENGLAND

John Thorp considered the Bank of England's releases and publications and called for users to say if they are not receiving what they require – prioritisation of development depends on feedback from private as well as official users.

He welcomed use of the new industrial analysis of bank deposits by City analysts and mentioned possible expansion of capital issues figures - stock figures, mentioned earlier by David Walton, are on the work programme. *Monetary and Financial Statistics* ('Bankstats'), free via the Internet, is a comprehensive monthly publication containing the statistics, articles and explanatory notes and definitions; the front cover highlights important changes in content and lists the articles on methodology etc. The annual *Statistical Abstract* contains long runs of data, extra series, a bibliography, and a historical diary of events relevant to the statistics.

He listed planned improvements. More detail on secured lending is published with effect from the September issue of *Bankstats*, and data on banks' euro business should be available in the New Year. Work is continuing, in conjunction with the ONS, on statistics for derivatives – conceptual problems of defining 'transactions' are being addressed. Development of interest rate data is continuing with particular emphasis on trying to compile consistent time series and to produce accurately weighted rates for each sector's deposits and borrowing, taking account of the range of effective rates for each sector. Interest rate data are important to the Monetary Policy Committee as they show the extent to which official rates are feeding through the financial system, and the willingness of the banks to supply credit. Recent international developments have triggered a demand for quicker and more frequent (quarterly) country exposure data for banks. It was also an aim to make long runs more accessible, and consistent with *Bankstats'* monthly updates, once an updated computer system has been installed.

John Thorp asked how much written description of the statistics is desirable. He argued that too much interpretation, and even the insertion of

trend figures, might result in the data being used without the full understanding of the user. To conclude, he again stressed the need for feedback, particularly in the following areas: interest rates, long runs, possible totals for groups of liquid assets outside M4, trends, increased description on releases, and general clarity.

DISSEMINATION

Philip Powell (ONS) spoke on the dynamic £3.5 billion UK information market. He stated that data are supplied so that informed decisions can be made and the more the ONS can understand these decisions the more relevant the figures will become.

Timeliness and relevance are essential to ensure that statistics are fully utilised. Information technology facilitates this and enables a shift from 'fixed' outputs to a more flexible approach to dissemination. He argued that future strategies, whilst continuing to 'push' specific data sources, should place greater emphasis on allowing the sophisticated user to 'pull' out the relevant data in the required format.

Brian Meakings (ONS) proceeded to give an overview of the current GSS StatBase system. A variety of searches were demonstrated and he explained that all currently available data could be downloaded free of charge. But further data, added at a later date, may only be available on a chargeable basis.

David Hyett, from the Bank of England, demonstrated the Monetary & Financial Statistics Division's website³. The Division's flagship publication, *Monetary and Financial Statistics*, and all press releases since December 1996 are downloadable free of charge. Future plans include 'hyperlinks' to other related sites / documents and a longer-term development plan of dynamic query access to databases.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Topics raised in the discussion included the need for more international comparisons in UK financial statistical publications; the importance of long runs of consistent data; and the importance of speed in getting the data into the public domain.

The level of data interpretation required by users was then returned to, and examined in some depth. Bill Allen stated that, historically, the statisticians' remit was to produce purely factual information. But, the current climate is demanding an ever-greater level of analytical input. He asked the User Group whether this might run the risk of introducing inappropriate bias to the data?

David Smith, from Williams de Broe Plc, argued that certain analysis, of break-adjustments for example, is essential to avoid misinterpretation of the data – only the Bank of England and the ONS have the necessary technical, institutional and historical knowledge to provide this information. Richard Froud, from Barclays Bank plc, felt that interpretation of special technical features was necessary and that this could be included without imparting any slant on the data. He therefore agreed that both the Bank and the ONS had a responsibility to provide this information. Stuart Brown from the ONS, said that statisticians have a responsibility to ensure that users are informed about changes in data series and any other factors that would affect analysis or interpretation. He also said that ONS statisticians took this responsibility seriously, and highlighted the efforts made in the run up to ESA95 implementation as an example.

The lively discussion concluded that responsibility for drawing a line between necessary analysis and inappropriate bias must be taken by both the producers and users.

Simon Briscoe suggested returning to this topic at a future meeting concerning the creation of an independent statistical office.

For further information contact:
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Bank of England
Tel: 0171 601 5573/4470

¹ www.ons.gov.uk

² www.statistics.gov.uk

³ www.bankofengland.co.uk/mfsd

GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL SERVICE

OFFICIAL STATISTICS: GOVERNANCE AND CONSULTATION

A revised edition of *Official Statistics: Governance and Consultation* has recently been published. This book explains how the GSS consults all its stakeholders, and effectively governs its own activities, and gives information and contact points for a range of advisory committees, users' groups and internal management committees.

There are 53 advisory committees in total, ranging in coverage from the general Statistics Advisory Committee to more specific committees such as the National Road Maintenance Condition Survey Executive Group. Some meet several times a year and others work entirely by correspondence. All provide independent and authoritative advice to the GSS, balancing the needs of both users and suppliers, and are served by secretariats from the relevant departments.

In addition to these advisory committees there are 11 statistics users' groups, independent of both government and single interest groups. Many are sponsored by the Statistics Users' Council, a voluntary body which provides a forum for users of official statistics to meet, exchange views and liaise with the GSS.

The GSS also has an internal Policy and Management Committee, which has 9 sub-committees supporting it in its work. These committees assist on policy development and also provide a useful forum for sharing best practice around departments and for co-ordination of departmental activities.

Official Statistics: Governance and Consultation is available free from the National Statistics Information and Library Service, tel: 01633 812973.

For further information contact:

Frances Pottier
Zone D4/06
Office for National Statistics
1 Drummond Gate
London, SW1V 2QQ
Tel: 0171 533 6211
E-mail: frances.pottier@ons.gov.uk

OFFICE FOR NATIONAL STATISTICS

PREPARING FOR THE 2001 CENSUS

Census dress rehearsal

The Government's proposals for the 2001 Census are scheduled to be announced in a White Paper published early in 1999. As part of planning for the Census, ONS, GRO(S) and NISRA have recently announced that there will be a dress rehearsal in 1999 in seven different local authority areas covering about 134,000 households in the United Kingdom.

The dress rehearsal will ensure that all the methodologies and procedures for 2001 will achieve their objectives and that the Census will be acceptable to the public. The areas chosen represent a cross-section of the country and are (with the estimated number of households to be included) in parts of:

Health Statistics Quarterly, a new ONS journal, will be launched in February 1999. It will cover health information, giving greater emphasis to articles as well as containing regular and up-to-date statistics and commentary on health matters. It will be published quarterly, as a sister publication to the current *Population Trends*.

The new journal will present the latest information on deaths, childhood mortality, cancer, abortions, congenital anomalies and General Practice consultations data. It will be the key component of the health pillar of the ONS publication strategy. Statistics will be not only for England and Wales, but in many instances for each country in the United Kingdom, and the United Kingdom as a whole.

Each edition will include topical articles on relevant subjects, painting a picture of the changing health of the population. Articles will be illustrated with a range of tables, graphs, charts and maps. There will be regularly updated statistical tables, at international, national and sub-national level, showing trends and the latest quarterly information, including key statistics on population and vital events. There will be commentary on latest findings and on annual data, and short reports on items of interest.

Population Trends will be relaunched at the same time in a similar format. It will cover population and demographic statistics. It will continue to be produced quarterly.

The launch of these two journals follows a consultation exercise with readers of *Population Trends* earlier in the year. The two journals will be of interest to planners and administrators in central and local government and public health, and to academics and researchers.

<i>England</i>	Bournemouth	(20,000)
	Leeds	(34,000)
	Lincoln	(34,200)
<i>Scotland</i>	Angus	(8,200)
	Dundee City	(14,500)
<i>Wales</i>	Ceredigion	(6,900)
	Gwynedd	(7,800)

A further 8,000 households in the Coleraine and Limavady areas in Northern Ireland will also be covered.

There will be a full enumeration of all households in the selected areas. A temporary field force of Census Area Managers (in Leeds and Lincoln only), Census Officers, Assistant Census Officers and Enumerators will be recruited to carry out the work. About 500 temporary staff will be employed in Great Britain and ONS and GRO(S) will be using local sources, including job centres, to assist in the recruitment of potential employees.

Census Dress Rehearsal day will be 25th April 1999.

Consultation with users

The output strategy for the Census has been published and the main round of consultation on output will begin shortly. Contact with Census users will be through a new register of Census users and all users are asked to respond by either completing a Census user registration form (copies can be obtained from ONS Census Marketing on 01329 813800) or by completing the electronic version in the Census web pages on the ONS website at <http://www.ons.gov.uk>

For further information contact:

Celia Curtis
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Office for National Statistics
Segensworth Road
Titchfield
Hampshire, PO15 5RR
Tel: 01329 813398

For further information contact:

Barry Little
Room 1300
Office for National Statistics
Segensworth Road
Titchfield
Hampshire, PO15 5RR
Tel: 01329 813523
E-mail: barry.little@ons.gov.uk

If you are interested in subscribing, the cost of *Health Statistics Quarterly* will be £75 a year for four editions. The cost of *Population Trends* will also be £75. The annual cost of subscribing to both publications will be £135. The journals are available from The Stationery Office

Publications Centre,
tel: 0171 873 9090

SOCIAL TRENDS QUARTERLY

In November 1998, the pilot edition of *Social Trends Quarterly* was published and circulated, free of charge, to around 6,000 current and potential customers and contributors. The aim of this pilot is to test whether there is interest in a regular, affordable publication which brings together the latest research and statistics on topical issues in society. It is hoped that the publication will have broad appeal among opinion makers everywhere: in Government, Parliament, market research, the voluntary sector, pressure groups, academia and research, schools, colleges and business.

The complimentary pilot copies of *Social Trends Quarterly* were accompanied by a questionnaire which recipients were asked to complete and return by mid-January 1999. These responses will then be collated and, based on the results, a decision taken in February on whether to launch *Social Trends Quarterly* next Autumn/Winter and on what form it might take.

If you are interested in taking part in the consultation exercise, please contact:

Magdalen Williams,
Zone B4/11
Office for National Statistics
1 Drummond Gate
London, SW1V 2QQ
Tel: 0171 533 5786
Fax: 0171 533 5777
E-mail: magdalen.williams@ons.gov.uk.

ANNUAL PRODUCTION SURVEY 1996

Updated results of the Annual Production Survey are now available in the latest edition of the PACSTAT CD-ROM and *Production and Construction Inquiries – Summary Volume (PA1002)*, both available from ONS Direct.

PACSTAT contains a range of industry-specific statistics including, employment, wages and salaries and capital expenditure. Data on PACSTAT can be selected in a variety of ways such as employment sizeband, region and predefined sets or combinations of variables chosen by the user. Users can then view the information in tables, charts or maps, offering greater access and flexibility to the data.

The 1996 survey is the first to use the new Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR) and includes for the first time businesses, mostly with low turnovers, that did not appear on the previous VAT based register. This new database will make a major contribution to the drive for better economic statistics by improving inquiry coverage. It also provides greater consistency for all business surveys, making figures across government departments more comparable.

For the first time this third edition of PACSTAT contains data for the higher level aggregates within the Standard Industrial Classification 1992. In addition to the 1996 data this latest version of PACSTAT contains data for 1993, 1994 and 1995, together with figures for selected main variables for 1986 – 1992. Previously published data for 1993 – 1995 have been revised to reflect the change to the new Inter Departmental Business Register.

The 'Summary Volume' (PA1002) also contains data for 1993 – 1996, including higher aggregate data. The thirteen tables contained within this publication cover a wide range of variables, including employment, labour costs, capital expenditure and stocks. As with PACSTAT, data for 1993 – 1995 has been revised to the new IDBR levels.

In addition to both of these publications, individual industry results are available at a fee of £18 per industry by phoning 01633 812435 or faxing 01633 812575.

Copies of the PACSTAT CD-ROM (£350) and the 'Summary Volume' (£75) are available from ONS Direct, telephone 01633 812078.

Further information on the Annual Production Survey, individual industry tables and Summary Volume tables can be obtained from;

Julian Dowsell
Room 1.301
Office for National Statistics
Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
Newport NP9 1XG
Tel: 01633 812435

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND THE REGIONS

SUSTAINABILITY COUNTS

Proposals for a set of 13 'headline' indicators of sustainable development have been published for consultation.

The 'headline' indicators are intended to be used to monitor our progress, nationally, in achieving sustainable development and to raise public awareness and encourage action.

The indicators cover the four broad objectives of the developing national sustainable development strategy:

- maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment;
- social progress which recognises the needs of everyone;
- effective protection of the environment;
- prudent use of natural resources.

They encompass a range of related issues including; economic growth, social investment and employment, health, education and training, housing, climate change, air pollution, transport, water quality, wildlife, land use and waste.

The consultation period will close at the end of January 1999. Those wishing to obtain a copy (or copies) of the consultation document should contact DETR Free Literature; telephone 0870 1226 236 or fax 0870 1226 237. The consultation document is also available on the DETR web-site at <http://www.environment.detr.gov.uk/sustainable/>

In addition to the headline indicators, a more extensive and comprehensive national core set of about 150 indicators of sustainable development will be published in Spring 1999 alongside the Government's new Sustainable Development Strategy.

VAN SURVEY

The Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions is carrying out a new survey of Small Commercial Vehicle (van) owners. The survey collects a range of information about vans and the journeys that they make. The survey will be used to help the department better understand the needs of van owners and help the development of policies on highway provision and traffic management. The information collected will be especially important given the recent rapid growth in van traffic and its forecast continuation.

The survey began in October 1998 and is following up earlier surveys of vans undertaken by the Department of Transport in 1987 and 1992/93. Results from the first full year of the survey will be available in 2000.

This new survey collects information from a sample of vehicles with van and other commercial body types in the private and light goods taxation class. Around 400 vehicles will be sampled per week. Owners of the selected vehicles will be asked to provide information, for a single day only, about:

- the reason for their journeys;
- passenger occupancy;
- type and location of origin and destination;
- time of day when journeys were made; and
- type of goods and equipment carried.

In its first full year, the survey will seek to establish the current pattern of van use. In subsequent years, a less intensive survey (approximately 150 vehicles per week sampled) will provide information about any change in the patterns of van usage over the longer term.

For further information contact:

Adnan Tayabali
Tel: 0171 890 4442

LORD CHANCELLOR'S DEPARTMENT

NEW MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SERVICE

A new Management Information Service is being developed to meet the needs of LCD Headquarters and the Court Service for better information on performance against objectives and targets, and the use of resources. An important element will also be improved access by the Department's statisticians, economists and

operational researchers to the data collected on its operational systems together with flexible analysis and reporting tools.

The project is being managed by statisticians in the Information Policy Branch and Image team but the development work is being carried out by Deloitte & Touche as part of an existing Private Finance Initiative contract covering Resource Accounting and Budgeting and Corporate Information Systems.

Demonstrator sessions in selected pilot areas are being carried out this autumn. If successful, and provided a sound business case for development of the full system can be constructed, it is expected to proceed with full implementation early in 1999.

For further information contact:

Andy Maultby
Tel: 0171 210 8785
or Steve Meacher
Tel: 0171 210 1434

NORTHERN IRELAND STATISTICS AND RESEARCH AGENCY

HARASSMENT SURVEY

NISRA has been commissioned by the Civil Service Management Board to take the lead in developing a research project designed to find out about harassment in the Northern Ireland Civil Service and the Northern Ireland Office, and to provide advice to help incorporate the findings into future awareness training programmes for staff. As a first step a survey has been designed to gain an accurate picture of the current position. The survey, which was issued to all staff in October 1998, covers a number of areas such as sexual harassment, sectarian harassment and bullying.

For further information contact:

Dr Chris Hughes
Tel: 01232 526241

CORPORATE PLANNING

The NISRA Management Board organised an away-day at the end of September to review the Agency Corporate Plan and to initiate the preparation of an HR Strategy for NISRA. The exercise was facilitated by John Scrivener from ONS.

SCOTTISH OFFICE

THE LIAISON GROUP ON ROAD ACCIDENT STATISTICS

The last meeting of LGRAS took place in September, and discussed the implementation of the changes which will be made with effect from January 1999, following the Quinquennial Review of the GB-wide "STATS 19" (injury) Road Accident Statistics returns. The changes include revisions to the code-lists used for a number of variables, the collection (if available) of the postcodes of the home addresses of each driver and each casualty involved in an injury road accident, and the provision (on a voluntary basis) of information about accident contributory factors. The group was informed of various points which had been raised at English regional meetings, discussed possible improvements in communication and publicity arrangements, and noted that there might be an investigation of the possibility of developing a standard computer package to collect and store road accident statistics data. Members of the group advised The Scottish Office on the question of whether it should "close" its database to incoming records for late returns and amendments, and discussed some other matters. The next meeting of LGRAS will probably be held in April or May 1999.

WELSH OFFICE

WELSH STATISTICAL LIAISON COMMITTEE

A meeting of the committee was held in Builth Wells on 12th November 1998 to discuss topics which included: statistics under the Assembly (including closer co-operation between central and local government, following from the special WSLC meeting on 30th June 1998); deprivation (new indicators of socio-economic conditions and other measures of social exclusion); the latest position on NUTS areas, GDP estimates and structural funds; how to develop small area and other synthetic estimates and the Best Value initiative and associated issues.

Further details about the activities of the WSLC and copies of papers discussed at meetings are available from the Secretary:

David Blair
Demographic Statistics (SD1)
Welsh Office
Cathays Park
Cardiff, CF1 3NQ
Tel: 01222 825085
GTN: 1208 5085

The Welsh Statistical Liaison Committee is a consultative committee of the Government Statistical Service.

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Parliament Street
LONDON SW1P 3AG

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

New Surveys & Departmental Listings

Supplement



NEW SURVEYS NOTIFIED TO SURVEY CONTROL UNIT

APRIL 1998 TO JUNE 1998

For further information about the survey listed, the appropriate contact may be obtained from Julie Pollard, Survey Control Unit, Office for National Statistics, Room 1.072, Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent NP9 1XG. Tel: 01633 813271.

New Surveys Assessed

SCU No.	Title	Dept.	Ass. dept.	Activity of respondents	Number of respondents	Location	Freq.
11200029	VAT Policy Directorate Customer Service Survey	C&E		Finance	200	E	AH
11200030	EIC Advice Centre Scotland Customer Service Survey	C&E		Finance	1,500	S	AH
11200031	Insolvency Operations VOPS Customer Service Survey	C&E		Finance	1,500	E	AH
11200032	North West Collection VAT Registration Unit Customer Service Survey	C&E		Finance	1,500	NW	AH
11200033	Cheadle VAT Office Customer Service Survey	C&E		Finance	1,500	NW	AH
11200034	Redhill Advice Centre Customer Service Survey	C&E		Finance	180	SE	AH
11200035	South London & Thames Collection-Complaints Customer Service Survey	C&E		Finance	60	SE	AH
11200036	Southern England Business Advice Centre Customer Service Survey	C&E		Business serv.	600	E	AH
11200037	Newry VAT Registration Unit Customer Service Survey	C&E		Finance	1,500	UK	AH
11200038	Belfast Business Advice Unit Customer Service Survey	C&E		Business serv.	200	NI	AH
11200039	Anglia VAT Business Advice Centre Customer Service Survey	C&E		Customer	600	EA	AH
11200040	Central England VAT Office Customer Service Survey	C&E		Customer	1,520	E	AH
11200041	Wolverhampton VAT Registration Unit Customer Service Survey	C&E		Customer	1,000	E	AH
11200042	London Central VAT Advice Centre Customer Service Survey	C&E		Customer	75	SE	AH
12500044	Business Register Inquiry	ONS		Business	12,366	GB	C
12500087	Scottish And Welsh Top-Up Inquiries (old no. 10229)	ONS		Manufacture	1,412	S	Q
13400118	Key Statistics of Social Services	DH		Health	150	E	A
13900341	Evaluation of the National Tenant Training Programmes	DETR		Housing	860	E	AH
13900342	Environmental Expenditure by Industry	DETR		Business	10,200	UK	A
13900343	Customer Satisfaction Survey	DETR		Customer	1,000	EW	AH
13900344	Mixed-Use Development	DETR		Planning	400	E	AH
13900347	Monitoring The Implementation of HECA 1995- Part 1	DETR		Business serv.	120	E	AH
13900348	*Monitoring The Implementation of HECA 1995 - Part 1a	DETR		Housing	354	E	AH
13900349	Impact Assessment Food & Drink	DETR		Food & Drink	700	GB	AH
13900350	Impact Assessment Energy Management - Electronic Media EMMA & Clip Art	DETR		Computing	700	GB	AH
13900351	Follow Up Chemicals Sector EEBPP "Cascade" Literature	DETR		Chemicals	500	GB	AH

SCU No.	Title	Dept.	Ass. dept.	Activity of respondents	Number of respondents	Location	Freq.
13900352	Follow Up Training - "Fast Track" Newsletter	DETR		Business serv.	400	GB	AH
13900353	Follow Up Utilities Technologies Advanced Computing & Ctrl. Technology	DETR		Computing	75	GB	AH
13900354	Follow Up Extended Energy Helpline Service	DETR		Business serv.	200	GB	AH
13900355	Promotional Support Training-Current Trends in Energy Mgmt. Function	DETR		Trainee	400	GB	AH
13900356	Questionnaire to Local Planning Authorities - 'Planning For Leisure'	DETR		Planning	430	E	AH
13900357	Energy Consumption Guide - Non-Metallic Minerals Sector	DETR		Amenities	200	GB	AH
13900358	Repeat Energy Consumption Guide - Ferrous Foundries	DETR		Chemicals	300	GB	AH
13900359	Energy Consumption Guide - Spray Drying	DETR		Chemicals	100	GB	AH
13900360	Conversion of Offices to Dwellings	DETR		Landlord	500	GB	AH
13900361	Impact Assessment of MACC Audits	DETR		Business serv.	50	GB	AH
13900362	Identification & Prelim. Investigation of Energy Services Contracts	DETR		Business serv.	1,500	GB	AH
13900363	Publications Study	DETR		Library	400	GB	AH
13900364	Schools Design Guide	DETR		Construction	250	GB	AH
13900365	National Lottery Study	DETR		Engineering	350	GB	AH
13900366	SAP Workshops Study	DETR		Housing	300	GB	AH
13900367	Energy Consumption Guide 19 for Offices	DETR		Business serv.	160	GB	AH
14200120	1998 Inland Revenue/Contributions Agency Joint Employers Pack Evaluatn.	DSS	CoI	Business serv.	746	UK	A
14400187	Biological Weapons Convention Declaration Trigger Proposals	DTI		Forces	370	GB	AH
14400189	Interviews for the Evaluation of the Materials Measurement Programmes	DTI		Engineering	55	UK	AH
14400190	*Interim Evaluation of DTI's Biotechnology Means Business Initiative	DTI		Business serv.	495	E	AH
14400191	UK Business Potential for Virtual Reality	DTI		Business	200	UK	AH
14400195	Survey of Employers of Part-Time & Temporary Workers	DTI		Employer	650	GB	AH
14500299	*Green Transport Plans (LAs)	DETR		Transport	413	EW	AH
14500300	Safer Routes to School Type Projects	DETR		Transport	413	EW	AH
15100047	Evaluation of New Deal for Young Unemployed People: Survey of Employers	ES		Employer	2,000	GB	AH
16800073	Health & Safety Training Research	HSE		Trainee	2,500	UK	A
16800075	*FOD Intermediaries Project: Baseline Survey	HSE		Business serv.	130	E	AH
16800076	Evaluate Costs & Benefits of Substances Hazardous to Health Regs. 1994	HSE		Chemicals	25	GB	AH
16800077	Study of Health & Safety in the Rubber Industries	HSE		Manufacture	300	GB	AH
16800078	Psychological Effects of Exposure to Organo-Phosphates	HSE		Farming	1,500	UK	AH

SCU No.	Title	Dept.	Ass. dept.	Activity of respondents	Number of respondents	Location	Freq.
17100064	Corporate Tax Self-Assessment Survey	IR	CoI	Finance	5,502	UK	AH
17100065	Self Assessment Campaign Monitor	IR	CoI	Customer	2,500	UK	AH
17100066	Website Development and Evaluation	IR	CoI	Business serv.	420	E	AH
17100067	Inland Revenue Press Office Customer Service	IR		Journalist	200	UK	A
17100068	Accounts Office Cumberland - Survey of Telephone Callers	IR		Finance	400	UK	Y2
17100069	Call Centre Evaluation Survey	IR		Customer	4,357	GB	AH
17100070	Survey of Tax Law Re-Write Processes	IR		Professional	150	UK	AH
17100072	Employers' Helpline	IR		Employer	2,000	UK	A
17100073	Accounts Office Cumbernauld - Correspondence Survey	IR		Finance	1,000	UK	A
17900124	Flour Millers' Return (<i>Old No. 40127</i>)	MAFF		Flour-milling	728	UK	A
17900214	Hill Cattle and Sheep Special Study	MAFF		Farming	480	EW	A
17900215	Quality Assurance Procedures and Microbiology Laboratory Performance	MAFF		Food & Drink	106	GB	AH
17900217	Earnings & Hours of Agricultural and Horticultural Workers	MAFF		Farming	4,000	EW	A
17900219	*Anonymous Postal Survey on Scrapie (Pilot)	MAFF		Farming	300	E	AH
17900220	Review of Microbiological Methods in the Food Industry	MAFF		Chemicals	700	UK	AH
17900221	PSD Stakeholder Exercise	MAFF		Service	150	UK	AH
20400019	Customer(End-User) Satisfaction Survey	NGOV		Customer	450	UK	AH
23300027	Survey of Hours & Earnings of Agricultural & Horticultural Workers	SOAF		Farming	1,200	S	A
23300028	*Incidence Of Raspberry Bush Dwarf Virus (RBDV) in Scotland	SOAF		Farming	400	S	AH
23300029	*Socio-Economic & Agricultural Impacts of the ESAs In Scotland	SOAF		Farming	480	S	AH
23500024	Impact of Ferry Charges on Island Economies	SOED		Transport	245	S	AH
23600022	Review of Safer Routes to School in Scotland	SOEN		Service	32	S	AH
23700039	Procedures for Possession of Hereitable Property: Anti Social Behaviour	SOHH		Housing	270	S	AH
23700042	Domiciliary Care Research	SOHH		Soc. Services	292	S	AH
23800069	Skye Bridge Socio-Economic Impact Study Phase 3: 1998 Evaluation	SOID		Transport	250	S	AH
23800071	*Millennium Bug Research	SOID		Business	265	S	AH
23800073	Thematic Evaluation of Business Development Measures	SOID		Business	1,500	S	AH
23800075	Spring into Summer	SOID		Tourist	195	S	A
24600007	Pocket Budget 1998	TSY	CoI	Finance	800	GB	AH
24900068	*Welsh Development Agency Global Link Programme Evaluation Study	WO		Business	45	W	AH
25900012	*Annual Survey of Regularly Funded Organisation	DNH		Customer	480	E	AH

SCU No.	Title	Dept.	Ass. dept.	Activity of respondents	Number of respondents	Location	Freq.
26000023	Quinquennial Review: Survey Of Aid To Students	DFEE		Education	117	EW	A
26000156	The Graduate Labour Market in London	DFEE		Graduate	600	SE	AH
26000157	Evaluating "New" Work Experience	DFEE		Education	N/K	GB	
26000158	Evaluating Work Related Learning at Key Stage 4	DFEE		Education	N/K	GB	
26000159	Evaluation of ESF Objective 2 Programmes in England	DFEE		Employee	100	GB	
26000160	Employability: What is it, and how does it affect Labour Mkt. Success	DFEE		Education	200	GB	
26000161	Evaluation of Early ILA Development Activity	DFEE		Education	100	GB	
26000162	Skill Needs of Small Firms In Britain 1998	DFEE		Education	3,000	GB	
26000163	Skill Needs in Britain 1999 (SNIB99)	DFEE		Education	4,500	GB	
26000164	Research on the role of Informal Learning in the Workplace	DFEE		Education	400	GB	
26000165	Research on Training and Development of Flexible Workers	DFEE		Trainee	200	GB	
26000166	Continuing Vocational Training Survey 2 (CVTS2) Pre-Test	DFEE		Trainee	150	GB	
26000167	The Effective Use of Learning Support Assistants & THR Training Needs	DFEE		Education	30	GB	
26000168	Expenditure in School Sixth Forms	DFEE		Education	100	GB	
26000169	*Evaluation of Small Firms Training Loans	DFEE		Business serv.	188	GB	AH
26000171	User-Friendly Local "Equality Services"	DFEE		Business serv.	140	EW	AH
26000172	Promoting Good College Practice in working with Employers On NVQS	DFEE		Business	380	E	AH
26000173	Employer Network Support Workshop Survey	DFEE	NGOV	Employer	110	UK	A
11200028	Football Video Evaluation Research	C&E	CoI	Traveller	350	GB	AH
11400008	People's Panel Recruitment and First Wave Research	Cabt.		Employer	15,500	UK	AH
12000006	London Referendum Tracking - Post Check	CoI		Service	400	E	AH
12000009	World Cup Tracking	CoI		Service	2,000	ES	AH
12000010	Offer Ad Tracking	CoI		Business serv.	1,800	UK	AH
13400119	NHS Direct Pilot: Publicity Research	DH	CoI	Health	600	E	AH
13800043	Customer Service Questionnaire: Saving Certificates	DNS		Customer	2,000	GB	AH
13800044	Customer Service Questionnaire: Premium Bonds	DNS		Customer	1,000	GB	AH
13900345	Global Warming Tracking Pre/Post	DETR	CoI	Service	3,200	E	AH
14200121	New Deal for Lone Parents - Key Messages	DSS	CoI	Parent	102	GB	AH
14200122	Working Benefits Tracking	DSS	CoI	Employee	1,200	GB	AH
14500289	Co-Operative Crash Injury Study Phase 6	DETR		Driver	1,500	UK	AH
14500292	London Taxi On-Street Survey	DETR		Adult	3,000	SE	AH
14500293	Resurfacing with Porous Asphalt: Effects on Noise & Nuisance	DETR	HA	Transport	140	SE	AH

SCU No.	Title	Dept.	Ass. dept.	Activity of respondents	Number of respondents	Location	Freq.
14500294	Survey of Attitudes to Traffic Calming in Gloucester - After Survey	DETR		Transport	800	SW	AH
14500295	Patterns of Learning Among Driving Test Candidates	DETR		Driver	5,000	UK	AH
14500296	Cycle Challenge: Bikes On Trains	DETR		Cyclist	250	EA	AH
14500297	Courtesy on the Road Day	DETR		Driver	1,200	E	AH
14500298	VMS and Courtesy on the Road	DETR		Driver	1,200	E	AH
14500301	Greener Vehicles Campaign Evaluation	DETR	CoI	Transport	800	EW	AH
15100048	Adult Learners Week Research	ES	CoI	Adult	1,000	GB	AH
17900218	New Approaches to the Valuation of Agri-Environmental Policy	MAFF		Farming	400	UK	AH
18600064	T&Q Creative Development Research	MoD		Adult	40	E	AH
18600065	'Be The Best' multimedia Tracking	MoD		Adult	1,900	GB	AH
18600066	Officer Profiling Research	MoD		Forces	750	E	AH
18600067	Events Evaluation Research	MoD		Forces	620	E	AH
18600068	Advertising Tracking - May 1998	MoD		Forces	1,973	GB	AH
18600069	MOD/NATO Touring Exhibition Evaluation	MoD	CoI	Forces	60	GB	AH
23700040	The Community Impact of Traffic Calming Schemes	SOHH		Resident	1,515	S	AH
23700041	Impact of Ferry Charges on Island Households	SOHH		Business serv.	1,500	S	AH
23700044	Diversion From Prosecution to Social Work & Other Service Agencies	SOHH		Legal	60	S	AH
23800072	Skye Bridge Socio-Economic Impact Study Phase 3: 1998 Evaluation	SOID		Transport	4,200	S	AH
23800074	New Life for Urban Scotland 1998 Household Survey	SOID		Employer	2,000	S	AH
24600008	FSA "Pitch" Research	TSY	CoI	Finance	72	E	AH
24900070	Future Skills Need - Residents' Survey	WO		Employee	6,040	W	AH
26000170	Disability Discrimination Act Consultation Campaign Creative Research	DFEE	CoI	Disabled	48	E	AH
26000174	Reading & Learning - Advertising Pitch Research	DFEE	CoI	Adult	64	E	AH

Abbreviation Fr - Frequency

AA -	Automobile Association
CA -	Contribution Agency
CDLS -	Career Development Loans
COI -	Central Office of Information
COMAH -	Control of Major Accident Hazards
DSA -	Driving Standard 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 Liaison Officer

Loc - Location

A -	Annual	E -	England
Ah -	Ad Hoc	EA -	East Anglia
C -	Continuous	EW -	England and Wales
Q -	Quarterly	ES -	England and Scotland
Y2 -	Every two years	GB -	Great Britain
		S -	Scotland
		SE -	South East
		UK -	United Kingdom
		W -	Wales
		WM -	West Midlands
		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

MAFF Survey of flour millers.

For more information contact:

Julie Pollard,
Survey Control Unit,
Office for National Statistics,
Tel: 01633 813271.

OFFICE FOR NATIONAL STATISTICS

RECENTLY AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS

■ Published by The Stationery Office

Cancer Registrations 1992

Price £30, ISBN 0 11 621091 5

Cancer registration data for England and Wales in 1992 including information on current trends in cancer incidence.

Family Spending 1997/98

Price £39.50, ISBN 0 11 621047 8

Social and economic information on household income and expenditure taken from the 1997/98 Family Expenditure Survey.

Population Trends No. 94 - Winter 1998

Price £19, ISBN 0 11 620972 0

Includes the following articles:

- Population review of 1997: England and Wales;
- Birth statistics: recent trends in England and Wales;
- 2001 Census output areas: from concept to prototype;
- Trends in migration in the UK;
- Longitudinal study of socio-economic differences in the incidence of stomach, colorectal and pancreatic cancers.

Psychiatric morbidity among prisoners in England and Wales

Price £45, ISBN 0 11 621045 1

Baseline information on the prevalence of psychiatric disorders among male and female, remand and sentenced prisoners aged between 16 and 64 in England and Wales. Also examines the use of services, the receipt of care and key factors associated in mental disorders.

A free summary report of the above is available from ONS on 0171 533 5305.

Social Focus on Women and Men

Price £30, ISBN 0 11 621069 9

A focus on the differing social conditions experienced by the two genders, including patterns of employment, health and living standards. Produced jointly with the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Travel Trends

Price £39.50, ISBN 0 11 621090 7

Data on international passenger flows into and out of the United Kingdom for 1997 taken from the International Passenger Survey.

All of the above publications are available from:

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

■ Published by the Office for National Statistics

New Earnings Survey 1998

Annual analysis of the earnings and hours of Great Britain broken down by industry, occupation, region, age and sex.

Part A

Price £25, ISBN I 85774 276 I
Features streamlined analyses and overall description of the survey.

Part B

Price £25, ISBN I 85774 277 X
Features analyses by agreement and analyses of pension categories.

Part C

Price £25, ISBN I 85774 278 8
Features analyses by industry.

Part D

Price £25, ISBN I 85774 279 6
Features analyses by occupation.

Part E

Price £25, ISBN I 85774 280 X
Features analyses by region, county and small areas.

Part F

Price £25, ISBN I 85774 281 8
Features the distribution of hours, joint distribution of earnings and hours and part-time and age-group analyses.

United Kingdom

Price £25, ISBN I 85774 282 6

Set of parts A-F available at £120, set of parts A-F plus United Kingdom volume available at £130.

Population and Health Monitors

- Legal abortions: June quarter 1998 (*AB 98/6*)
- 1996-based population projections for local and health authorities in England (*PP3 98/1*)

Price £4 each.

All of the above publications are available from:

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

FORESTRY COMMISSION

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Forestry Industry Handbook 1998

Published in November 1998 by the Forestry Industry Council of Great Britain, in association with the Forestry Commission, this Handbook contains a wide range of forestry statistics compiled by the Forestry Commission, together with information provided by industry associations. Price £6 for paper copy. Complete publication available on web site.

Forestry Commission Facts & Figures 1997-98

This free leaflet, published in December 1998, gives selected forestry statistics for Great Britain, taken from the 1997-98 Annual Reports of the Forestry Commission and Forest Enterprise and from other sources. Also on web site.

Available from:

HQ Statistics
Forestry Commission
231 Corstorphine Road
Edinburgh, EH12 7AT

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, tel: 0131 314 6280 or
Sheila Ward, tel: 0131 314 6218 or
E-mail: statistics@forestry.gov.uk

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Community pharmacies in England and Wales: 31 March 1998

Bulletin ref. 1998/23

This bulletin was prepared by the Government Statistical Service. It 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.

Key findings:

- 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 3 in any HA. There were increases of 3 pharmacies in Avon, North Essex and Oxfordshire; the maximum decrease in any HA was 2.
- 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.

General Pharmaceutical Services in England 1997-98

Bulletin ref. 1998/30

This bulletin was prepared by the Government Statistical Service. It presents information about General Pharmaceutical Services (community pharmacies and appliance contractors) within the National Health Service (NHS) in England in 1997-98.

Key findings:

- There were 9,785 community pharmacies operating in England on 31 March 1998, virtually the same number as a year earlier.
- 41 per cent of community pharmacies belonged to chains of more than 5 pharmacies.
- Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster HA had the highest number of pharmacies per million population - 419 compared with a national average of 199. Twelve HAs had fewer than 160 pharmacies per million population.
- Half of all pharmacies dispensed more than 3,416 prescription items per month in 1997-98, and half dispensed fewer. The corresponding figure for 1996-97 was 3,251.
- 178 appliance contractors dispensed NHS prescriptions in 1997-98. 30 per cent of the contractors (53 outlets) dispensed over 80 per cent of all prescription items dispensed by these contractors.

For further information contact:

Tel: 0171 972 5501

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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 (<i>Monthly</i>)		
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

Other Publications - all annual and relating to England only unless otherwise stated**Personal Social Services: Adults' Services**

- | | | | |
|----|---|------|---|
| 20 | Residential accommodation: Detailed statistics on residential care homes and supported residents. First published for year ending March 1995. (<i>Free</i>) | SD3B | H |
| 21 | 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

- | | | | |
|----|--|------|------|
| 22 | Children looked after by Local Authorities | SD3A | SD3A |
| 23 | Children and Young People on Child Protection Registers (<i>Annual free</i>) | SD3A | SD3A |
| 24 | Supervision Orders (<i>Annual free</i>) | SD3A | SD3A |
| 25 | Children accommodated in secure units (<i>Annual free</i>) | SD3A | SD3A |
| 26 | Childrens' homes | SD3A | SD3A |

Personal Social Services: Staffing

- | | | | |
|----|---|------|------|
| 27 | Personal Social Services: An Historical Profile of Reported Current and Capital Expenditure 1983-84 to 1993-94, England | SD3C | SD3C |
|----|---|------|------|

Personal Social Services: Key Indicators

- | | | | |
|----|--|------|------|
| 28 | Key indicators of Local Authority Social Services (graphical presentation package on CD-ROM only) (<i>Twice yearly free</i>) | SD3C | SD3C |
| 29 | Key statistics of Personal Social Services for year ending March 1998 and budgets for 1998-99 | SD3C | SD3C |

Hospital Activity and Facilities

- | | | | |
|----|---|--------|---|
| 30 | Bed Availability and Occupancy 1997-98 | FPA-PA | H |
| 31 | Handling Complaints: monitoring the NHS complaints procedure 1996-97. ISBN 1 85839 825 8 | FPA-PA | H |
| 32 | Outpatients and ward attendees 1997-98 | FPA-PA | H |
| 33 | Ordinary and day case admissions 1997-98 | FPA-PA | H |
| 34 | Imaging and radiodiagnostics 1996-98. ISBN 1 85839 792 8 | FPA-PA | H |
| 35 | Wheelchairs and artificial limbs 1996-97. ISBN 1 85839 796 0 | FPA-PA | H |
| 36 | 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. Annual £2.00, ISBN 1 85839 854 1 | SD2C | H |

Community Activity

37	Immunisation programmes (<i>Annual Free</i>)	SD2B	SD2B
38	Maternity services - midwife clinics and domiciliary visits (<i>Annual free</i>)	SD2B	SD2B
39	Health visitor activity (<i>Annual free</i>)	SD2B	SD2B
40	District nurses activity (<i>Annual free</i>)	SD2B	SD2B
41	Community psychiatric nurses activity (<i>Annual free</i>)	SD2B	SD2B
42	Community learning disability nurses activity (<i>Annual free</i>)	SD2B	SD2B
43	Community specialist care nurses activity (<i>Annual free</i>)	SD2B	SD2B
44	Chiropody services (<i>Annual free</i>)	SD2B	SD2B
45	Clinical psychology services (<i>Annual free</i>)	SD2B	SD2B
46	Occupational therapy services (<i>Annual free</i>)	SD2B	SD2B
47	Physiotherapy services (<i>Annual free</i>)	SD2B	SD2B
48	Speech and language therapy services (<i>Annual free</i>)	SD2B	SD2B
49	Family planning clinic services (<i>Annual free</i>)	SD2B	SD2B

Other

50	Registered blind and partially sighted people (<i>Triennial</i>)	SD3B	H
51	People registered as the deaf or hard of hearing (<i>Triennial</i>)	SD3B	SD3B
52	Guardianship under the Mental Health Act (1983) (<i>Annual free</i>)	SD3B	H
53	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	SD3B
54	NHS Day care facilities 1996-97. (<i>ISBN 1 85839 797 0</i>)	FPA-PA	H
55	NHS Spectacle Voucher Scheme - results of 1997 survey	SD1D	SD1D
Hospital Episode statistics:			
56	Vol. 1: Finished Consultant episodes by diagnosis and operative procedure; injury/poisoning by external causes	SD2 HES	H
57	Vol. 2: Finished Consultant episodes: administrative tables	SD2 HES	H
58	Vol 3: Finished Consultant episodes: waiting times CD-ROM: hospital episode statistics, England	SD2 HES	H
59	Hospital Waiting List statistics: England (<i>Monthly</i>)	FPA-PA	H
60	Hospital Waiting List statistics: England (<i>Quarterly £12.80</i>)	FPA-PA	H
61	Quarterly Review	FPA-PA	HLL
62	Waiting times for first out-patient appointments in England: Detailed statistics (<i>Quarterly £12.80</i>)	FPA-PA	H
63	Prescription Cost Analysis - prescription items dispensed in England and listed alphabetically within therapeutic class (<i>Annual £10.00</i>)	SD1E	H
64	Hospital Waiting List Statistics: England (resident based) (<i>Quarterly</i>)	FPA-PA	H
65	Sight tests volume and workforce survey 1996-97 (<i>Annual report</i>)	SD1D	

Our Healthier Nation Publications

- 66 Our Healthier Nation - A Contract for Health
67 The Green Paper

CHMU

Health Of The Nation Publications

- 68 Health of the Nation - a strategy for Health in England: The White Paper (*Free*) CHMU
69 Specification of National Indicators (*Free*) 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.

- | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|------|-----|
| 70 | Health Survey for England 1991 | £27.50 (ISBN 0 11 691532 3) | SD3S | TSO |
| 71 | Health Survey for England 1992 | £27.50 (ISBN 0 11 691569 2) | SD3S | TSO |
| 72 | Health Survey for England 1993 | £38.00 (ISBN 0 11 691614 1) | SD3S | TSO |
| 73 | Health Survey for England 1994 | £40.00 (ISBN 0 11 321895 8) | SD3S | TSO |
| 74 | Health Survey for England 1995 | £60.00 (ISBN 0 11 322021 9) | SD3S | TSO |
| 75 | Health Survey for England 1996 | £60.00 (ISBN 0 11 322091 X) | SD3S | TSO |

In addition a Summary of Key Findings booklet is available for the surveys from 1994 onwards.

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

- | | | | | |
|----|--|--|------|-----|
| 76 | 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, FHSA's and LAs. (<i>Only available to the NHS, individual academic users and academic institutes of public health.</i>) | | SD2F | NIE |
| 77 | 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

- | | | | |
|----|---|------|-----|
| 78 | Asthma (£11.00, ISBN 0 11 321667 X) | CHMU | TSO |
| 79 | Coronary Heart Disease (£11.00, ISBN 0 11 321667 X) | CHMU | TSO |

	Compiler	Copies held by (*)
80 Stroke (£11.00, ISBN 0 11 321668 8)	CHMU	TSO
81 Health of Elderly People (£10.30, ISBN 0 11 321485 5)	CHMU	TSO
82 Elderly People Companion Papers (£6.00, ISBN 0 11 321486 3)	CHMU	TSO
83 Health-related behaviour: an epidemiological overview (£13.99, ISBN 0 11 321976 8)	CHMU	TSO
84 Burdens of Disease (NHS discussion paper)		

Compendium Publications

85 Health and Personal Social Service statistics (£16.50)	SD3E	TSO
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Other Reports (Statutory Publications)

86 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
87 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/CSSO	TSO

Other Statutory Publications Not Produced By SD But Which Have A Statistical Input Provided By SD

88 Annual statement under section 17(2) of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970: Separation of younger patients from older patients in hospitals	SD2A	TSO
89 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
90 The NHS Performance Guide	FPA-PA	HLL

1 The forms which underlie items 22-26 have been revised to accord with the Children Act 1989 (implemented October 1991).

H = Department of Health
PO Box 410
Wetherby, LS23 7LN
☎ 0541 555455
Fax: 0990 210266

NIE = National Institute of Epidemiology
☎ 01483 450450
TSO = The Stationery Office
☎ 0171 873 9090

HLL = Health Literature Line
☎ 0800 555 777

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH STATISTICAL CONTACTS

If you can't find what you need in a publication, please telephone:

Skipton House, 80 London Road, London SE1 6LH

0171 97 (followed by ext. number)

Family Health Services (Branch SD1)

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 SDI)

Mental illness/handicap	ext. 25545
Community and cross-sector services	ext. 25524
Demographic statistics	ext. 25562
Drug misuse	ext. 25550
Legal status	ext. 25545
Smoking and alcohol	ext. 25551
Hospital inpatient activity	ext. 25529

Personal Social Services and Surveys (Branch SD3)

Children's services	ext. 25581
Adults' services	ext. 25585
Staffing	ext. 25595
Financial (revenue out-turn expenditure) data	ext. 25595
Key indicators.	ext. 25599
Health Survey for England and other surveys	ext. 25560/92

Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds LS2 7UE

0113 25 (followed by ext. number)

Workforce (Branch STATS(W))

NHS medical staff	ext. 45892
NHS non-medical staff	ext. 45744
General medical services	ext. 45911

Waiting Lists (Branch FPA-PA)

Waiting lists	ext. 45555
Hospital activity	ext. 45522

NHS Expenditure (FPA-PX1)

ext. 45356

Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS

0171 210 (followed by ext. number)

Personal Social Services financial statistics (RMF-DPSS5)

PSS budget data	ext. 5140
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Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG

0171 97 (followed by ext. number)

Central Health Monitoring Unit

Our Healthier Nation target monitoring	ext. 24648
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The Health Literature Line

0800 555777

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Home Office Research Studies (HORS)

185. **Entry into the criminal justice system: a survey of police arrests and their outcomes.** *Coretta Phillips and David Brown with Zoe James and Paul Goodrich 1998.*
186. **The restricted hospital order: from court to the community.** *Robert Street 1998.*
189. **Mandatory drug testing in prisons: The relationship between MDT and the level and nature of drug misuse.** *Kimmitt Edgar and Ian O'Donnell 1998.*

Research Findings

76. **The Prison Population in 1997: a statistical review.** *Philip White 1998.*
77. **Rural Areas and Crime: Findings from the British Crime Survey.** *Catriona Mires-Black 1998.*
78. **A review of classification systems for sex offenders.** *Dawn Fisher and George Mair 1998.*
79. **An evaluation of the prison sex offender treatment programme.** *Anthony Beech, Dawn Fisher, Richard Beckett and Ann Scott-Fordham 1998.*
80. **Age limits for babies in prison: some lessons from abroad.** *Diane Caddle 1998.*
81. **Motor Projects in England and Wales: an evaluation.** *Darren Sugg 1998.*

Research Bulletins

The Research Bulletin consists mainly of short articles which report results from recent research.

Number 39 Special Edition: The use and impact of community supervision.

Home Office Statistical Bulletins

Issue No.	Date	Title
17/98	03.09.98	Police Service Personnel, England and Wales, as at 31 March 1998
18/98	17.09.98	Cautions, Court Proceedings and Sentencing, England and Wales 1997
19/98	25.09.98	Statistics of Mentally Disordered Offenders in England and Wales 1997
20/98	24.09.98	Police Complaints and Discipline, England and Wales, April 1997 to March 1998
21/98	13.10.98	The 1998 British Crime Survey
22/98	13.10.98	Notifiable Offences, England and Wales, April 1997 to March 1998

Requests for publications

Copies of the Home Office Research Studies from no. 143 onwards, Research and Planning Unit Papers, Research Findings, Research Bulletins and Home Office Statistical Bulletins are available subject to availability from:

Research Development and Statistics Directorate
 Information and Publications Group
 Room 201
 Home Office
 50 Queen Anne's Gate
 London, SW1H 9AT
 Tel: 0171 273 2084
 Fax: 0171 222 0211
 Internet e-mail: rds.ho@gtnet.gov.uk
 RDS Internet site: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.htm>

NEW PUBLICATION**Inland Revenue Statistics 1998**

The Inland Revenue has recently published its annual volume of statistics, *Inland Revenue Statistics 1998*. It is available through The Stationery Office priced at £32.50.

The publication is compiled from a range of sources by the Department's Statistics and Economics Division. It contains information and some analyses on Income Tax, Corporation Tax, Petroleum Tax, Inheritance Tax, Capital Gains Tax, Stamp Duties, Non-Domestic Rating and Property Transactions.

Other analyses are also given on personal income derived from the Survey of Personal Incomes, company income by industrial sector and estimates of the distribution of personal wealth. Further analyses not in the publication may be available from Statistics and Economics Division. *Inland Revenue Statistics 1998* contains a full list of contact points by subject.

Further information is available on the Internet at:

<http://www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/stats2.htm>

The contact point for general enquiries is:-

David Bailey
Inland Revenue
Statistics and Economics Division
Room F13
West Wing
Somerset House
Strand
London, WC2R 1LB
Tel: 0171 438 6794
Fax: 0171 438 6764

LCD RESEARCH SERIES**1997 Publications****No. 1/97 Monitoring the rise in the small claims limit: litigants' experiences of different forms of adjudication**

Professor John Baldwin (empirical study), 104 pages

This research assesses the expansion of the small claims regime from the perspective of litigants, drawing comparisons between their experiences of "open court" trial and the more informal small claims procedure. The contrasts between their experiences were striking. No matter what measure was adopted, the small claims regime came out well ahead. It was concluded in the research that, from the perspective of litigants, the rise in the small claims limit from £1,000 to £3,000 has so far been achieved without serious disruption. Few litigants in either sample could be said to regret the eclipse of "open court" trial and its increasing absorption into the newly expanded small claims regime.

No. 2/97 Delay in the Criminal Justice System

Dr Satnam Choongh (review paper), 28 pages

It is a common complaint that the criminal justice system is inefficient and that criminal cases drag on within the system for an inordinate length of time. The Government has recently announced its intention to speed up the criminal process by introducing radical administrative changes in the procedures currently employed to bring cases to trial. This Report summarises and reviews everything which has been published on the subject of delay in the last five years. The Report also provides an analysis of the overall research picture, which suggests that commentators have often made false assumptions about the causes of delay and that the solutions suggested to deal with the problem may not have the desired consequences.

No. 3/97 Resolving Civil Disputes: choosing between out-of-court schemes and litigation
Tamara Goriely and Tom Williams (review paper), 131 pages

When individuals seek redress for their grievances, they are often faced with a bewildering array of potential procedures - some within the courts and some through out-of-court alternatives such as ombudsmen or complaints systems. This report reviews the existing literature to ask how people make choices between alternative procedures. After reviewing the development of formal complaints systems, the report asks why so many people do not complain. It then considers the influences on complainant choice, including family and friends, the media and advice services. The report then looks at four specific areas where people face choices - health, housing disrepair, financial services and consumer problems. It argues that often complainants' decisions reflect deficiencies within existing procedures. Finally, the last chapter considers three broad strategies for reform: improving information; improving advice and overseeing improvements in procedures themselves.

No. 4/97 Law-And-Economics: State of the Art and Questions for the Future
Professor Anthony Ogus (review paper), 34 pages

This paper contains a review of law-and-economics research undertaken by British scholars. It reveals that there has been much work which, while patchy in its coverage, has illuminated many areas of English Law. In the light of equivalent research undertaken abroad, the authors identify some key areas for further investigation. They argue that future work should be better co-ordinated with policy needs, more integrated with socio-legal research and have a greater input from lawyers. To enhance the law-and-economic enterprise, more post

graduate training and research should be encouraged. Although there are major methodological problems, they also consider that some effort should be directed to studying the interaction between legal structures generally and national economic performance.

No. 5/97 Regulating Legal Services
Professor Robert Baldwin (review paper), 90 pages

Legal services are regulated by a host of institutions and techniques. To date, however, no map of this complex regulatory terrain has been available. This report seeks to provide such a map by describing; the bodies that influence legal service provision; the aspects of service they regulate; the particular mechanisms of control they exert and the broad regulatory techniques they employ. The discussion opens with a review of these features of the legal services market that may prove problematic and call for regulation. It concludes by outlining a number of fundamental questions that remain to be addressed.

No. 6/97 Judicial Appointments Commissions: The European and North American Experience and the possible implications for the United Kingdom

Discussion papers by Dr Cheryl Thomas and Dr Kate Malleon, 73 pages

Dr Cheryl Thomas - A growing number of continental European countries have created new procedures for judicial appointments; this report provides a critical assessment of the experience in six countries. Despite civil and common law differences, these continental experiences have implications for any future judicial appointments commission in the United Kingdom. The strengths and weaknesses of the European models are examined, as well as their political impact within the judiciary itself and the broader political system. In the continental experience, the creation of judicial self-governing bodies has

reduced the role of both the Ministry of Justice and senior judges in the appointment process, while increasing the political significance of the judiciary.

Dr Kate Malleon - The research examines the use of judicial appointments commissions in the US and Canada. It concludes that the evidence that they improve the representativeness or competence of the judiciary is mixed. Much depends on the approach of the commissioners. Where they are proactive, such as the Judicial Advisory Committee in Ontario, they can have a significant effect on the type of judges appointed. In many US states, however, they appear to make little difference. Nevertheless, in both countries they attract widespread public support.

No. 7/97 The Division of Marital Assets Following Divorce with Particular Reference to Pensions

Professor Antony Dnes (review paper), 62 pages

The move towards earmarking and splitting of pensions has increased awareness of the issue of dividing marital assets at divorce. This report examines possible bases for division from the perspective of the economics of contract law. The current amalgam of needs-based, expectations and restitution elements is problematic in that it can encourage opportunistic behaviour centred on marriage, as can any deviation from strictly enforcing promises (expectation damages). The report also considers the nature of modern marriage and the extent to which marital law encourages or discourages stable marriage.

No. 8/97 Household Indebtedness, voluntary and involuntary: a study of court summonses

Mike Hope, LCD Economist (review paper), 48 pages

There has been a substantial volatility in the quantum of involuntary indebtedness since 1980, which has not been fully appreciated, nor has its diminishing extent over the 1990s been well understood. This paper describes what has been occurring. The approach complements previous

studies, which have typically relied on survey information and the circumstances at one moment in time of a household. The paper examines the possible reasons for these trends:

- rising household indebtedness;
- more uncertain macroeconomic conditions;
- changes in household structure and activity;
- changes in lending and debt recovery practices.

The paper argues that the behaviour of households and lenders has responded over time to provide a buffer against a more uncertain macroeconomic environment.

No. 9/97 Expenditure on Legal Services

Mike Hope, LCD Economist (review paper) 37 pages

This paper examines trends in the income of solicitors. The analysis provides a means of considering the effects of the major programme of reform of the Lord Chancellor's Department embracing divorce law, legal aid including community legal services, and civil procedure. The report takes a comprehensive systems view across the administrative, civil, family and criminal justice systems. It views legal aid together with the provision of other legal services. Specifically, it examines:

- the income of solicitors over time, and the contribution of the legal aid fund;
- the distribution of income by category of case for advice agencies and barristers, as well as solicitors;
- the importance of expenditure on solicitors within expenditure on the justice systems;
- changes over time in the distribution of income of solicitors by category of case;

This allows an assessment of developments in the provision of dispute resolution services.

No. 10/97 Legal Aid Delivery Systems: which offer the best value for money in mass casework? A Summary of International Experience

Tamara Goriely (review paper), 87 pages

As legal aid budgets become increasingly constrained, the search is on to improve value for money. Could the same money be spent in better ways so as to improve the quality of service offered to litigants? This report, completed in February 1996, summarises experience from Canada, USA and Australia to ask what is the most effective way of delivering legal aid for mass casework. It compares fee for service arrangements through private practitioners with both contracted schemes and those employing salaried lawyers.

No. 11/97 Ethnic Monitoring of Defendants Appearing at Leicester Magistrates' Court in 1995

Home Office and Professor Philip Bean (short empirical study), 42 pages

The aims of the ethnic monitoring study at Leicester Magistrates' Court were to enable the LCD and Home Office to establish a data collection model for ethnic monitoring activity at magistrates' courts which could be applied across the country; to identify the data items and analyses required for effective ethnic monitoring at magistrates' courts and assess the suitability of existing data collection for that purpose; and to assist interested local parties to gain a better understanding of the ethnic profile of defendants dealt with at court, highlight areas for more detailed research and establish procedures for future routine monitoring.

1998 Publications

No. 1/98 Rationing and Cost-Containment in Legal Services

Robert Dingwall and Paul Fenn (review paper), 135 pages

Cost-containment and rationing are two separate issues. There is a system-wide interest in managing the total share of national resources that is spent on civil justice, although justice may be a luxury good: people have been choosing to spend more on it as the country has become richer. If this is the case, then efficiency rather than cost-capping may be a more realistic goal. The proper objective is to ensure that more justice is actually purchased rather than allowing the people who work in the system to make more money. Whatever the cost structure, there is also the distributional issue of who gets access for what. Even if we were to adopt an NHS-style solution of offering access to justice regardless of means and free at the point of use, we would still be operating within a budget fixed by the willingness of taxpayers to contribute funds to the national exchequer for this purpose. Just as the NHS has to rank order of claims, a National Legal Service would also have to decide an order of claims on the available resources.

No. 2/98 The Empirical Analysis of Litigation: a Survey of the Economics Literature - Neil Rickman (review paper), 43 pages

Economists have developed a number of theoretical models of litigation but only recently, with the growing availability of data, have they been able to test these models. The current paper surveys this empirical literature. In particular, it looks at the decision to file/drop/settle/try a case, the timing of settlements, and the role of competition in the market for legal services; principally in the area of personal injury litigation. It draws on studies that have used qualitative data, as well as those based on quantitative data, and draws attention to the relative superiority of existing American data for the analysis of litigation.

No. 3/98 Contracting for Legal Services under different Costs Rules

Paul Fenn, Gwyn Bevan, and Neil Rickman, 46 pages

This report explores the incentive effects of different arrangements for purchasing lawyers' services in litigation. In particular, it looks at the effects of using *inter partes* costs as part of the remuneration contract offered to solicitors. In five sections it:

- summarises economists' findings on the effects on litigation of (i) fee structures and (ii) cost allocation rules, including the balance between cost control and quality;
- describes the recent reform proposals (fixed cost scales under Woolf, legal aid reform, and conditional fees);
- analyses the incentives for quality and cost control created by these proposals and by hourly fees and compares three possible ways of combining *inter partes* costs with fixed-fee block contracts, and the effects they can have on quality and solicitors' incentives; and
- considers the results of that comparison in the context of the wider market for legal services.

No. 4/98 Costing Fast Track Procedures Through Hypothetical Studies

Tamara Goriely, Farah Butt and Avrom Sherr, 230 pages

Lord Woolf has proposed a new "fast track" procedure to deal with medium-sized civil claims on the basis of fixed costs. He recommended that before deciding costs levels, the Lord Chancellor's Department should conduct a "series of hypothetical studies" in which solicitors and judges work through scenarios based on real cases.

This study reports on six such hypothetical studies. It looks in detail at what work needs to be done under the new procedure, and how long it will take. It is the first systematic attempt to describe how the legal profession is likely to react to the fast track and cope with the considerable changes it entails.

No. 5/98 The Central London County Court Pilot Mediation Scheme

Hazel Genn, 164 pages

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.

No. 6/98 An Economic Analysis of a Proposal to Reform the Discretionary Approach to the Division of Marital Assets in England and Wales
Antony W Dnes, 42 pages

In this report, two specific suggestions for reforming the law on ancillary relief are examined. Both have been proposed to reduce judicial discretion. First, a mathematical formula, such as a rebuttable presumption to divide equally the whole pool of assets upon divorce - a form of community property - might be used in the absence of agreement between the parties dividing the assets. Secondly, legal enforceability could be accorded to pre-nuptial agreements relating to asset division upon divorce.

Examination of these proposals shows that they could be welfare improving but would need to be forward looking and applied to marriages, rather than divorces.

No. 7/98 A Study of the services provided under the Otton Project to Litigants In Person at the Citizens Advice Bureau at the Royal Courts of Justice

Joyce Plotnikoff and Richard Woolfson, 43 pages

This report is an evaluation of the services offered to litigants in person (LIPs) by a pilot project at the Citizens Advice Bureau located within the Royal Courts of Justice. The findings are based on the responses of 160 users of the service to a postal questionnaire. They provided information on:

- the proportion of clients seeking advice whose first language is not English;

- how the services on offer to LIPs came to their attention;
- their level of satisfaction with the advice received;
- whether they received advice on settlement of a dispute and, if so, whether they complied with such advice;
- others approached for advice before and after visiting the Citizens Advice Bureau at the Royal Courts of Justice.

The majority of clients expressed satisfaction with the advice they received. The report makes a number of recommendations for increasing awareness of the pilot project and improving the quality of the services offered.

Orders for any of the publications above should be addressed to:

Lord Chancellor's Department
Research Secretariat
Rm 5:27, Selborne House
54/60 Victoria Street
London, SW1E 6QB
Tel: 0171 210 8520
Fax: 0171 210 0695
E-mail: enquiries.lcdhq@gtnet.gov.uk

NEW PUBLICATIONS

The Digest of Agricultural Census Statistics - UK 1997

The Stationery Office
Price £24, ISBN 0 11 243046 5

Compendium of statistics from the June 1997 Agricultural and Horticultural Census at UK, country, region and county level. Also available free of charge on the Internet at <http://www.maff.gov.uk>

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.

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.

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
Tel: 0171 270 8620

National Food Survey 1997

The Stationery Office
Price £28, ISBN 0 11 243044 9

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

The results of the 1997 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 1997 consumption results by quarter is provided. The usual breakdowns of NFS results by household composition, income group of head of household and age of the main diary keeper are also

included. Results by region are based on Government Office Regions in place of Standard Statistical Regions.

This year's special analysis looks at the effect of income on household expenditure, consumption and nutrient intakes. Net weekly family income per head is used as a measure of income. Results are averaged over the two periods 1995-97 and 1985-87. A multivariate analysis of the data shows the effect of income on the percentage of income spent on food and on intakes of nutrients after allowing for effects of other household characteristics.

A summary of annual data are also available on the Internet at <http://www.maff.gov.uk>. Other enquiries about this publication and the survey should be directed to:

Miss F Amos
Tel: 0171 270 8563
E-mail: f.amos@esg.maff.gov.uk

Monthly Crop Reports on Fruit and Vegetables

Provide up to date statistics on production and marketing of fruit and vegetables for the current crop year. These are available free of charge and are also on the Internet at <http://www.maff.gov.uk>

Basic Horticultural Statistics (Annual)

Annual area, yield, production and supplies statistics for all the main fruit and vegetables covering the last 10 years. This is available free of charge and is also on the Internet at <http://www.maff.gov.uk>

Enquiries for the above two titles to:

Christine Jeannette
Tel: 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.

Enquiries to:

Les Pearson/Jenny Higgins
Tel: 01904 455247 and 01904 455250

STATISTICAL NOTICES

Farm Surveys

The following Statistical Notices are available free of charge:

- Agricultural and Horticultural Census (*Annual*);
- Annual Survey of Tenanted Land (*Annual*);
- Cereal Production Survey (*Biannual*);
- Cereals Stocks Survey (*Quarterly*);
- December Survey of Agriculture (*Annual*);
- Dried Pea & Bean Survey (*Annual*);
- Earnings and Hours of Agricultural and Horticultural Workers Survey (*Monthly*);
- Farmed Deer Survey (*Irregular*);
- Glasshouse Crops Survey (*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
Tel: 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*);
- Autumn review of hill farms in the UK: Farm income forecasts for 1998/99;
- Bacon and ham production in GB;
- Quarterly supplies and total for domestic usage of meat in the UK;
- UK poultry and poultrymeat (*Monthly*);
- UK slaughter statistics;
- Utilisation of milk by dairies in England & Wales;
- Production of processed milk in the UK;
- 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 UK;
- 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 UK;
- 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 UK.

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
Tel: 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
Tel: 01904 455253 or GTN 5137 5253

Agricultural Land Prices - annual and quarterly Statistical Notices are available, priced at £35.00

per set, from the address below:

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Economics (Resource Use) Division
Room 524
Whitehall Place (West Block)
London, SW1A 2HH
Tel: 0171 270 8371/2

National Food Survey

Household food consumption and expenditure; nutritional value of household food - the latest Quarterly Statistical News Release is available on the MAFF web site. 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
Tel: 0171 270 8562/3 or GTN 270 8562/3
E-mail: f.amos@esg.maff.gov.uk

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 £40.00 in total.

The above are available on the MAFF web site 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
Tel: 01904 455332 or GTN: 5137 5332
Fax: 01904 455315 or GTN: 5137 5315

Additional chargeable data from the *June Agricultural and Horticultural Census* are available on an ad-hoc basis to suit individual requirements. Enquiries to the above address or tel: 01904 455312.

MAFF web site:
<http://www.maff.gov.uk>

NORTHERN IRELAND DEPARTMENTS

NORTHERN IRELAND STATISTICS AND RESEARCH AGENCY

New Publications

Annual Report of the Registrar General for Northern Ireland 1997

Price £25

The *Annual Report of the Registrar General for Northern Ireland 1997* provides details of vital statistics on births, deaths and marriages registered in Northern Ireland during the year ended 31 December 1997, and on adoptions and divorces which took place during the same period.

Available from:

General Register Office (Northern Ireland)
Oxford House
49-55 Chichester Street
Belfast, BT1 4HL
Tel: 01232 252032
Fax: 01232 252044

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Food Survey 1997 - Northern Ireland

The Northern Ireland Annual Report presents information on household consumption and expenditure on food brought into the home. Information on nutrient and energy content of food is also included. The 1997 annual report is the second report which covers Northern Ireland.

Available from:

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

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION NORTHERN IRELAND

Statistical Press Releases

- Participation in full-time education by 16 and 17 year-olds in Northern Ireland 1997/98;
- First destinations of students gaining qualifications from higher education institutions: Northern Ireland 1996/97;
- Qualifications gained from higher education institutions: Northern Ireland 1996/97.

Research Briefings

- RB5/98; Practice in mainstream schools for children with Special Educational Needs.

All publications are free and are available from:

Statistics and Research Branch
Department of Education Northern Ireland
Rathgael House
Balloo Road
Bangor, BT19 7PR

or on the DENI web site:

www.deni.gov.uk

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland Housing and Construction Bulletin (1 April - 30 June 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 1997/98

Price £10, ISBN 1 899824 405

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 April - 30 June 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 deliveries of petroleum for use in Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland Transport Statistics 1997/98

Price £10, ISBN 1 899824 456

Comprehensive Northern Ireland Transport Statistics. Contains information on roads and road transport, road accidents, road safety, rail, air and waterborne transport.

Available from:

Central Statistics and Research Branch
Department of the Environment (NI)
Room 609, Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
Belfast, BT2 8GB
Tel: 01232 540801
Fax: 01232 540782
E-mail: csrb.doe@nics.gov.uk

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Quarterly cost analysis (September 1998)

Price: Free

Shows HPSS staff in post (with whole time equivalent and cost) by Trust and staff category (Source: Payroll).

Available from:

Miss Marion Donaldson
Project Support Analysis Branch
Room 1, Annexe 2
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast, BT4 3UD
Tel: 01232 522509
Fax: 01232 523288

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

A Commentary on Northern Ireland Crime Statistics 1997

Price £11.80

Criminal Justice in Northern Ireland Key Statistics 1996 (Crime Fact Card)

Price: Free

Available from:

Statistics and Research Branch
Northern Ireland Office
Massey House
Stoney Road
Belfast, BT4 3SX
Tel: 01232 527534
Fax: 01232 527507

SURVEYS NOTIFIED TO NORTHERN IRELAND SURVEY CONTROL UNIT JULY TO SEPTEMBER 1998

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

Title	Department	Those approached	Approximate number approached	Frequency
Surveys to Business				
Employer Telephone Survey Surveys to Households and Individuals	DED/T&EA	Employers in West Belfast	100	R
Beechmount Energy Audit	DoE	Householders	2,500	AH
N. Ireland Omnibus Survey - Road Safety Module	DoE	Adults	2,050	AH
N. Ireland Omnibus Survey - Appearance of Neighbourhoods	DoE	Adults	2,050	AH
N. Ireland Omnibus Survey - Attitudes to Policing	PANI	Adults	2,050	AH
Outcome for pupils who receive Irish Medium Education in N. Ireland	DENI	Those who received an Irish-Medium Education	240	AH

Abbreviations

Departments	DED	Department of Economic Development
	DENI	Department of Education for Northern Ireland
	DoE	Department of the Environment
	PANI	Police Authority for Northern Ireland
	T&EA	Training and Employment Agency

Frequency	AH	Ad Hoc
	R	Regular

Location All surveys were carried out in Northern Ireland.

**THE SCOTTISH OFFICE EDUCATION
AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT:
EDUCATION STATISTICS DIVISION**

New Statistical Bulletin.

**Further Education Statistics 1996-97: Edn/F7/
1998/10**

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

Further Education Statistics 1996-97 provides statistics on further education in Scotland in 1996-97. Key points include:

- 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. Students are counted once for each course they attend.

The other principal findings are:

- 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. Part-time student numbers increased by nearly 28 per cent over the same period. This may reflect more comprehensive recording of short part-time courses and the increased number of full-time students who are also enrolled on part-time courses.
- 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.
- In 1996-97, full-time students from outwith Scotland registered in the further education colleges, accounted for less than two per cent of the full-time student population (where permanent home location of the student was known).
- 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.
- From 1995-96 to 1996-97, health and safety and social work subjects showed strong growth in full-time HE student numbers. Over the same period, business and management and social work subjects showed strong growth in full-time FE student numbers.

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.

Further information on the bulletin can be obtained from:

John Gibb
Further Education Statistics
The Scottish Office Education and Industry
Department
Area 1-A, Victoria Quay
Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ
Tel: 0131 244 0327
Fax: 0131 244 0354
E-mail: john.gibb@SO013.scotoff.gov.uk

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT EAS7: HOUSING STATISTICS UNIT

New Statistical Bulletins:

Operation of the Homeless Persons Legislation in Scotland 1986-87 to 1996-97: Local Authority Analyses

The Stationery Office
Price £2, ISBN 0 7480 7670 0

Operation of the Homeless Persons Legislation in Scotland 1986-87 to 1996-97 presents statistics for each local authority on how they assessed and dealt with applicant households under the homeless persons legislation in Scotland in 1996-97 as recorded in the returns which authorities have submitted to The Scottish Office. The main points contained within this bulletin include the following:

- The four authorities (Glasgow City, Edinburgh City, Aberdeen City and Fife) with the largest number of applicants assessed as homeless or potentially homeless accounted for over half (55 per cent) of the Scottish total.

- Glasgow City, with 13 per cent of all households in Scotland, accounted for 34 per cent of applicants assessed as homeless or potentially homeless.
- The most common reason given, by applicant households, for homelessness is that friends or relatives are no longer able or willing to accommodate them. This reason accounts for 37 per cent of the Scottish total.
- Violent dispute with spouse or cohabitee accounted for another 12 per cent of the reasons given for homelessness. The highest figures were 21 per cent and 25 per cent in Renfrewshire and South Lanarkshire respectively.

Further information on the bulletin can be obtained from:

Steven Clark
EAS7: Housing Statistics Unit
The Scottish Office Development
Department
Area 1-G24
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ
Tel: 0131 244 7231
Fax: 0131 244 0446
E-mail: steven.clark@so060.scotoff.gov.uk

1996-based Household Projections for Scotland

The Stationery Office
Price £2, ISBN 0 7480 7672 7

1996-based Household Projections for Scotland contains tables showing the 1996-based household projections for Scotland by household type, age group of head of household and by local authority.

The main points contained within this bulletin include the following:-

- The total number of households in Scotland is projected to increase by 10 per cent (210,000) from 2,136,000 in 1996 to 2,346,000 in 2010.
- One person households accounted for an estimated 30 per cent of all households in 1996, and are projected to increase to 34 per cent by 2010.
- Lone adults with children account for only around 6 per cent of all households throughout the projected period.
- The private household population is projected to fall by around 71,000 from 5.02 million in 1996 to 4.95 million in 2010, in line with the projected fall in total population.

Further information on the bulletin can be obtained from:

Julie Bright
EAS7: Housing Statistics Unit
The Scottish Office Development
Department
Area 1-G24
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ
Tel: 0131 244 7234
Fax: 0131 244 0446
E-mail: julie.bright@so060.scotoff.gov.uk

Housing Trends in Scotland: Quarter Ended 31 December 1997

The Stationery Office
Price £2

Housing Trends in Scotland: Quarter Ended 31 December 1997 contains tables on topics such as Estimated stock of dwellings by tenure; New housebuilding and Sales of public authority dwellings.

The main points contained within this bulletin include the following:

- The provisional estimate of the total dwelling stock in Scotland as at 31 December 1997 is 2,267,000 (an increase of 19,000 compared with the 1996 estimate). Sixty per cent of these dwellings are estimated to be owner occupied, one per cent more than in 1996.
- The building of around 4,300 new dwellings was started during the final quarter of 1997, bringing the total number of housebuilding starts during 1997 to 21,200. The total number of dwellings which were completed during the final quarter of 1997 was around 5,000 bringing the total number of completions during 1997 to 21,500, which was 800 more than the number of completions in 1996.
- There were around 3,900 applications made by sitting tenants to buy public authority dwellings during the final quarter of 1997, bringing the total number of applications made during the year to 23,500 an increase of around 600 on the number of applications made in 1996. The total number of sales of public authority dwellings to sitting tenants which took place also increased in 1997 to 16,500, which was around 3,400 more sales than in 1996.

Further information on the bulletin can be obtained from:

Irene McDermaid
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The Scottish Office Development
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Area 1-G24
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irene.mcdermaid@so060.scotoff.gov.uk

**SCOTTISH OFFICE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT: ECONOMIC ADVICE AND
STATISTICS DIVISION**

Road Accidents Scotland 1997

The Stationery Office
Price £8, ISBN 0 7480 7106 7

Road Accidents Scotland 1997 contains a commentary which summarises the key statistics and identifies the most interesting and significant points. This is followed by groups of tables on Accidents, Accident costs, Vehicles involved, Car drivers, Drivers breath tested, Drink-drive accidents and casualties, and Casualties. There are notes on the definitions and sources of the statistics.

The main points contained within this publication include the following:

- The number of people fatally injured in road accidents in Scotland In 1997 was 377, the third lowest number recorded for at least 50 years.
- 4,046 people were seriously injured - the second lowest figure since records of the number of serious injuries began in 1950.
- there were 22,620 casualties in total - the fifth lowest figure in the past 40 years.
- car driver accident rates (per head of population) are higher for males than for females, but the long-term trend is for male rates to decline and female rates to rise.
- the numbers of drink-drive accidents and casualties are estimated to have almost halved between 1987 and 1996.
- While Scotland's rate of seven road deaths for every 100,000 people in 1996 was higher than

that of England and Wales, it was 40 per cent below the EC average and was the fourth lowest when compared with those of 25 other developed countries.

Further information on the publication can be obtained from:

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

**SCOTTISH OFFICE EDUCATION AND
INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT:
ECONOMICS ADVICE AND STATISTICS
BRANCH 3**

New Bulletin.

Scottish Economic Bulletin (SEB)

Price £13, ISSN 0 11 49502 1

The SEB (which is published six-monthly) provides a wide range of data relating to the Scottish Economy, plus detailed articles on specific topics.

The latest SEB, was published on 30th September 1998. It contains tables on topics such as employment, unemployment, production, output, investment, construction, the business sector, oil and gas, personal and household income and consumers' expenditure.

Further information on the bulletin can be obtained from:

Mrs J Love
Economics Advice and Statistics
Scottish Office Education and Industry
Department
Third Floor
Meridian Court
Glasgow, G2 6AT
Tel: 0141 242 5446
Fax: 0141 242 5455
E-mail: janice.love@so049.scot.off.gov.uk

THE SCOTTISH OFFICE HOME DEPARTMENT: CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION

New Statistical Bulletin.

Firearm Certificates Statistics, Scotland, 1997

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

Firearm Certificates Statistics, Scotland, 1997 contains tables on topics such as firearm certificates (number on issue, renewals, cancellations, etc.), shot gun certificates, firearm dealers and European Firearm Passes. The main points contained within this bulletin include the following:

- There were 31,094 firearm certificates on issue at the end of 1997, 959 fewer than the previous year. As at December 1997, there were 63,215 shot gun certificates on issue, compared with 66,185 in 1996.
- The total number of applications for a new firearm certificate was 1,304 in 1997 compared with 1,622 in 1996. There were 2,069 cancellations (up from 1,711 in 1996)

and 80 revocations of firearm certificates in 1997. The increase in the number of cancellations is largely due to the hand-in of large calibre handguns between 1 July and 30 September 1997.

- There were 313 registered firearm dealers in Scotland in 1997, 6 fewer than the 1996 figure of 319.
- The number of European Firearm Passes on issue at the end of 1997 was 379.

Note: The figures contained in this bulletin cover the period in which changes to the firearms legislation were made prohibiting the possession of large calibre handguns. In addition, there was a hand-in period between 1 July and 30 September 1997 for the surrender of large calibre handguns.

Further information on the bulletin can be obtained from:

Gary Hunter
Civil and Criminal Justice Statistics Unit -
Branch 2
The Scottish Office Home Department
W1(C) Spur
Saughton House
Broomhouse Drive
Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
Tel: 0131 244 2228
Fax: 0131 244 2286
E-mail: gary.hunter@scotland.gov.uk

Recorded Crimes and Offences involving Firearms, Scotland, 1997

The Stationery Office
Price £2, ISBN 0 7480 7732 4

Recorded Crimes and Offences involving Firearms, Scotland, 1997 contains tables on topics such as

crimes and offences recorded in which a firearm was alleged to have been used by crime type, how the weapon was used, by police force area and by age and sex of main victim. In addition, there are tables on crimes and offences in which a firearm was stolen. The main points contained within this bulletin include the following:

- In 1997 the Scottish police recorded 1,185 offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been used, a decrease of 28 per cent from the 1,649 recorded in 1996.
- Of the 813 offences in which a firearm was actually fired, 707 (87 per cent) involved the use of an airweapon. Of those offences involving an airweapon, 235 resulted in injury to a person and 392 resulted in damage to property.
- The use of firearms in criminal activity constituted only a small proportion of all offences recorded by the police in 1997; six per cent of recorded homicides (6 offences), 3 per cent of recorded attempted murders (22 offences) and three per cent of recorded robberies (139 offences).
- In 1997 the police recorded 37 offences in which a firearm other than an airweapon had been stolen, the lowest number recorded since this information was first collected in 1978.

Note: The figures contained in this bulletin cover the period in which changes to the firearms legislation were made prohibiting the possession of large calibre handguns. In addition, there was a hand-in period between 1 July and 30 September 1997 for the surrender of large calibre handguns. The decrease in the number of offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been used in 1997 may be partly attributable to the legislative changes made but also to the measures taken by all Scottish police forces to discourage criminal activity involving firearms in an attempt to improve public safety.

Further information on the bulletin can be obtained from:

Gary Hunter
Civil and Criminal Justice Statistics Unit -
Branch 2
The Scottish Office Home Department
W1(C) Spur
Saughton House
Broomhouse Drive
Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
Tel: 0131 244 2228
Fax: 0131 244 2286
E-mail: gary.hunter@scotland.gov.uk

Motor Vehicle Offences in Scotland, 1995-1996

The Stationery Office

Price £2, ISBN 0 7480 7724 3

Motor Vehicle Offences in Scotland, 1995-1996 contains tables on topics such as motor vehicle offences dealt with by type of police action; police conditional offers for moving vehicle offences by type of offence; amount of fine imposed by type of offence; disqualification by type of offence and length of disqualification; and police fixed penalty notice by outcome and police force area. The main points contained within this bulletin include the following:

- The number of motor vehicle offences recorded by the police in 1996 was 305,900, a decrease of 4 per cent compared with 1995.
- In 1996 the police made 123,900 conditional offers of a fixed penalty, 14,000 more than in 1995.
- Offences dealt with by the vehicle defect rectification scheme increased by 35 per cent in 1995 to total 30,500 (the highest figure recorded since the scheme began) before falling by 19 per cent to 24,600 in 1996.

- Over one third of all speeding offences in 1996 which were subject to a police conditional offer were automatically detected.
- The number of motor vehicle offences proceeded against in court in 1996 fell by 7 per cent to 98,500.
- For 88 per cent of offences proceeded against in court in 1996, the charge was proved or accepted. Of these, a fine was imposed in 81 per cent of cases. In addition to the main penalty imposed, 27 per cent of convictions resulted in disqualification from driving and a further 39 per cent in an endorsement of the offender's licence.
- A total of 439,700 fixed penalty notices were issued for stationary vehicle offences in 1996, 71 per cent of which were for illegal parking.

Further information on the bulletin can be obtained from:

Fred Thorne
 Civil and Criminal Justice Statistics Unit -
 Branch 1
 The Scottish Office Home Department
 W1(C) Spur
 Saughton House
 Broomhouse Drive
 Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
 Tel: 0131 244 2227
 Fax: 0131 244 2286
 E-mail: fred.thorne@scotland.gov.uk

Copies of each of the above bulletins may be purchased from:

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

The bulletins can also be found on the Scottish Office Web site:

www.scotland.gov.uk

WELSH OFFICE

NEW PUBLICATIONS

A Statistical Focus on Wales: Women

A Statistical Focus on Wales: Women, a new statistical volume summarising a wide range of statistics about women in Wales was published in October 1998. The topics covered in the publication include population, the home, the family, education and training, employment, careers, finance, health, lifestyle and leisure, crime and transport. Comparisons are given with men and the position ten years ago, where possible. Some figures relating to the United Kingdom or Great Britain are also given for comparison purposes.

1997 Road Accidents: Wales

The latest, bilingual edition of this annual publication was published in December 1998. It contains road accident statistics for the calendar year 1997 and comparative, historical data where possible. The topics covered include accidents and casualties analysed according to the following variables; age, sex and severity of casualty (e.g. pedestrian, pedal cyclist, car driver, motorist), unitary authority where accident occurred, time of day, day of week and month, speed limit, weather conditions and information on breath tests. Comparisons with the casualty reduction targets relating to 1981 - 1985, set in 1987, are also made.

Welsh Transport Statistics 1998

The latest, bilingual edition of this annual publication was published in November 1998. It contains the latest available information on transport in Wales over a range of years. Some figures relating to the United Kingdom or Great Britain are given for comparison purposes. Subjects covered include road lengths, vehicles registered and licensed, driving tests, road freight, road accidents, motor vehicle offences, journeys by length and purpose (from the National Travel Survey), traffic volume, bus and coach statistics, sea and air transport statistics, finance and the economy (covering expenditure on roads and other transport services, as well as indicators of transport in the broader economy).

Copies of all of the above publications can be obtained from:

Statistical Publications Section (SD5)
Welsh Office
Cathays Park
Cardiff, CF1 3NQ
Tel: 01222 825044
Fax: 01222 825350
E-mail: statswales@gtnet.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.

QUARTERLY BULLETIN

Articles:

The UK personal and corporate sectors during the 1980s and 1990s: a comparison of key financial indicators (by Glenn Hoggarth of the Bank's Financial Intermediaries Division and Alec Chrystal of the Bank's Monetary Assessment and Strategy Division).

This article draws together some key indicators of financial conditions in the personal and corporate sectors, which may provide interesting insights into aspects of the behaviour of the UK economy during the course of the two most recent business cycles. Although the main focus is retrospective, this analysis could also help to assess the likely future course of important components of aggregate demand.

Are prices and wages sticky downwards? (by Anthony Yates of the Bank's Structural Economic Analysis Division).

In this article, Anthony Yates examines the theoretical and empirical evidence for prices

being sticky downwards - in other words, for the existence of downward nominal rigidities. This evidence has most commonly been cited in the context of wages - if downward nominal rigidities exist and prevent wages from adjusting fully to a shock to demand or supply, then such a shock may affect levels of employment. He concludes that the theoretical and empirical cases are both at best unproven.

Why has the female unemployment rate in Britain fallen? (by Phil Evans of the Bank's Structural Economic Analysis Division).

In this article, Phil Evans examines recent trends in male and female unemployment, and finds that the fall in aggregate unemployment between 1984 and 1993 is wholly accounted for by a decrease in female unemployment. This lower female unemployment rate is almost fully explained by a fall in the rate at which women become unemployed; this fall is uniform across skill groups and is particularly significant among women with young children. He suggests that increased workplace assistance to women with young children has reduced the frictions in the female labour market, and may have lowered the natural rate of female unemployment.

Testing value-at-risk approaches to capital adequacy (by Patricia Jackson and William Perraudin of the Bank's Regulatory Policy Division and David Maude of the Bank's Monetary Assessment and Strategy Division).

This article looks at the nature of whole-book value-at-risk models, and describes how the Bank of England set out in 1995 to assess their performance in accurately predicting risk and in providing a basis for reliable trading-book capital calculations.

The cyclical nature of mark-ups and profit margins: some evidence for manufacturing and services (by Ian Small of the Bank's Structural Economic Analysis Division).

This article reviews how price-cost mark-ups and firm profit margins in UK manufacturing and services behave over the business cycle, to see whether they move pro-cyclically. Movements in mark-ups and margins are important because of their effect on prices: pro-cyclical changes might suggest that price pressures increase during recovery periods and decrease during recessions. The article presents some empirical evidence that suggests that mark-ups and profit margins do both move pro-cyclically.

For more information contact:

Bank of England Publications Group

Tel: 0171 601 4030

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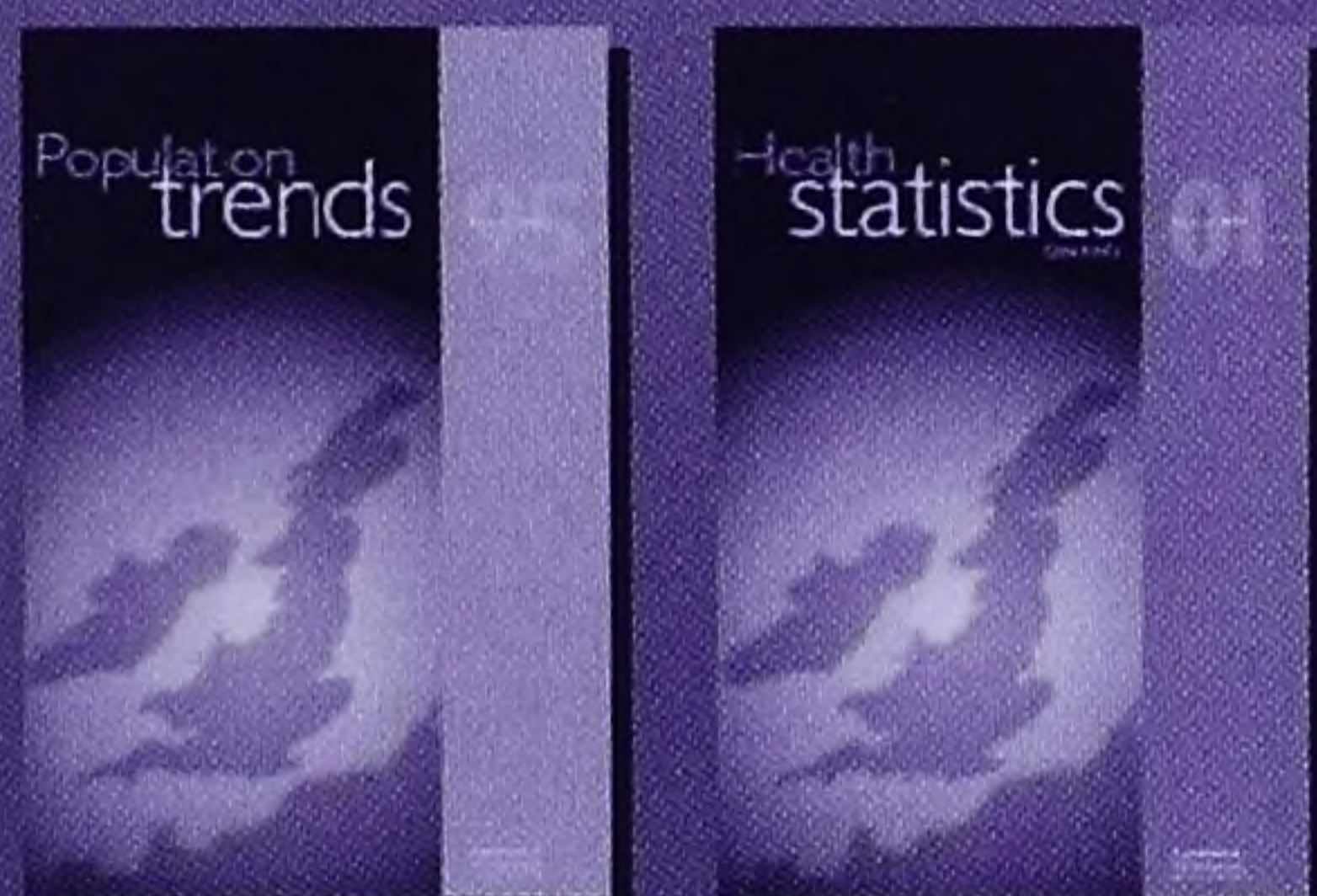
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look!

New Population Trends and Health Statistics Quarterly

From 1999, the present format of *Population Trends* will change and be re-launched and a new journal – *Health Statistics Quarterly* – will be introduced

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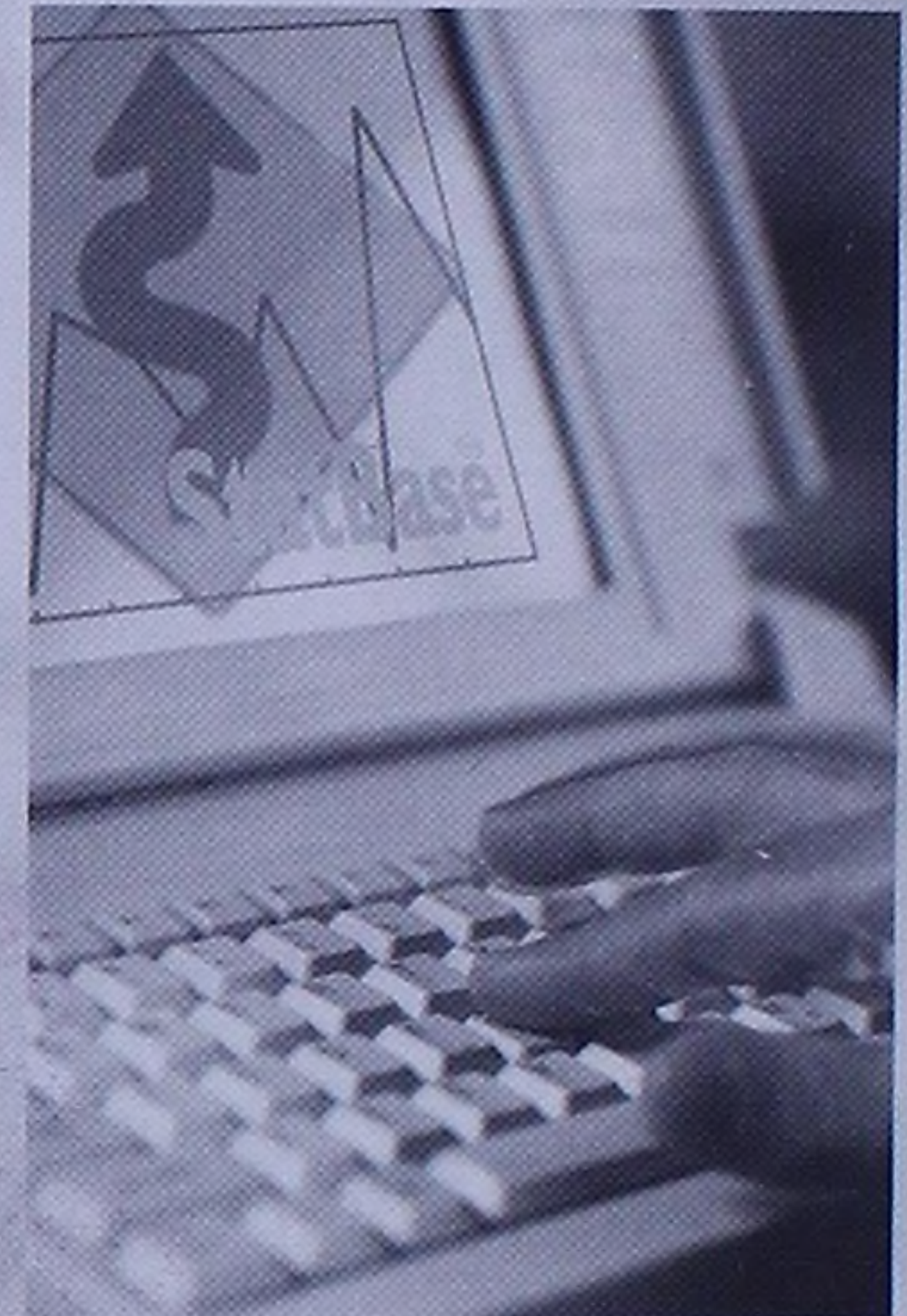
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Statisticians face new challenges

Brian Meakings/Jenny Church
Frances Pottier
Dr Stephen Hickey

No 114 Winter 1996/97

Statistics in the Department of National Heritage
Competitiveness of UK Industries: Statistical Measurement
Service Sector Statistics and the President's Task Force
(Originally prepared as a contribution to the Voorburg Group of Service Statistics)
Charities' Contribution to Gross Domestic Product
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Paul Allin
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Bill Cave

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Michael Janes

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Jacqui Hansbro/Siobhan Carey/Sampson Low
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John Pullinger
Peter Atkinson
Frances Pottier/Matthew Sudders

No 118 Winter 1997/1998

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30 Years of Statistical News
4th Electronic Dissemination Conference: London, 30 October 1997

John Pullinger
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No 119 Spring 1998

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Magdalen Williams
Sue Kelly and Julia Bunting
John Craig (formerly OPCS)

No 120 Summer 1998

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

Stephen Hall
Adrian Read
Dr Gillian Ferry
Andrew Colquhoun/Jonathon Bailey

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

The Library, Room 1.001, Office for National Statistics, Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, South Wales NP9 1XG

The cost is £5 a copy, inclusive of postage and handling, for the articles listed, and for articles from earlier issues.

The appropriate remittance should accompany each order. Cheques, etc., should be made payable to 'Office for National Statistics'.

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