

Statistical News

Spring 1999/Issue 123/Office for National Statistics

**TRACKING PEOPLE: A GUIDE TO
LONGITUDINAL SOCIAL SOURCES**



- **Average earnings index reinstated**
- **Efficiency at ONS**
- **A labour force survey for China**



A publication of the Government Statistical Service

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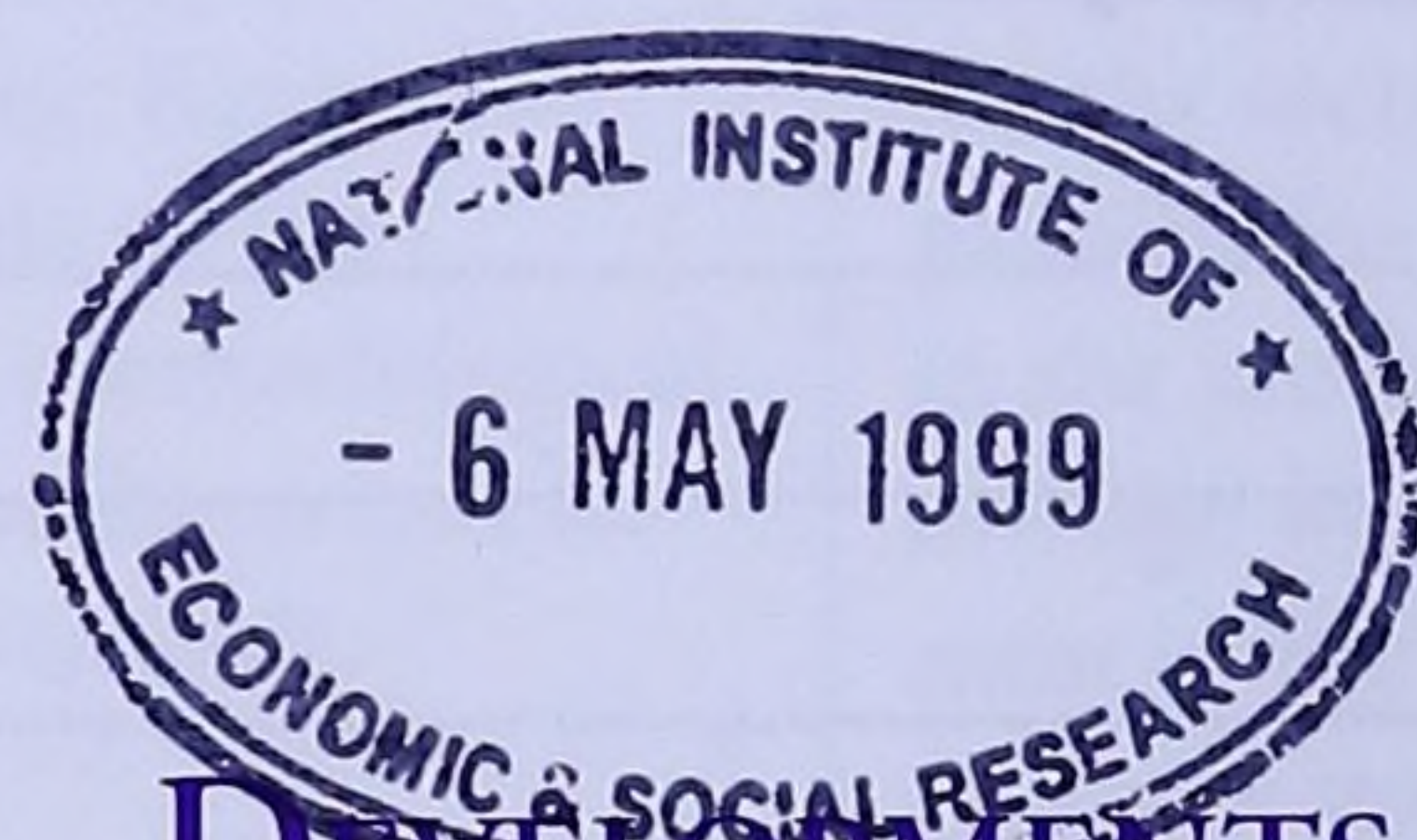
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STATISTICAL NEWS



DEVELOPMENTS IN BRITISH OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Spring 1999 - No. 123



THE GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL SERVICE MISSION

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

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AVERAGE EARNINGS INDEX REINSTATED

By Frances Pottier, Office for National Statistics

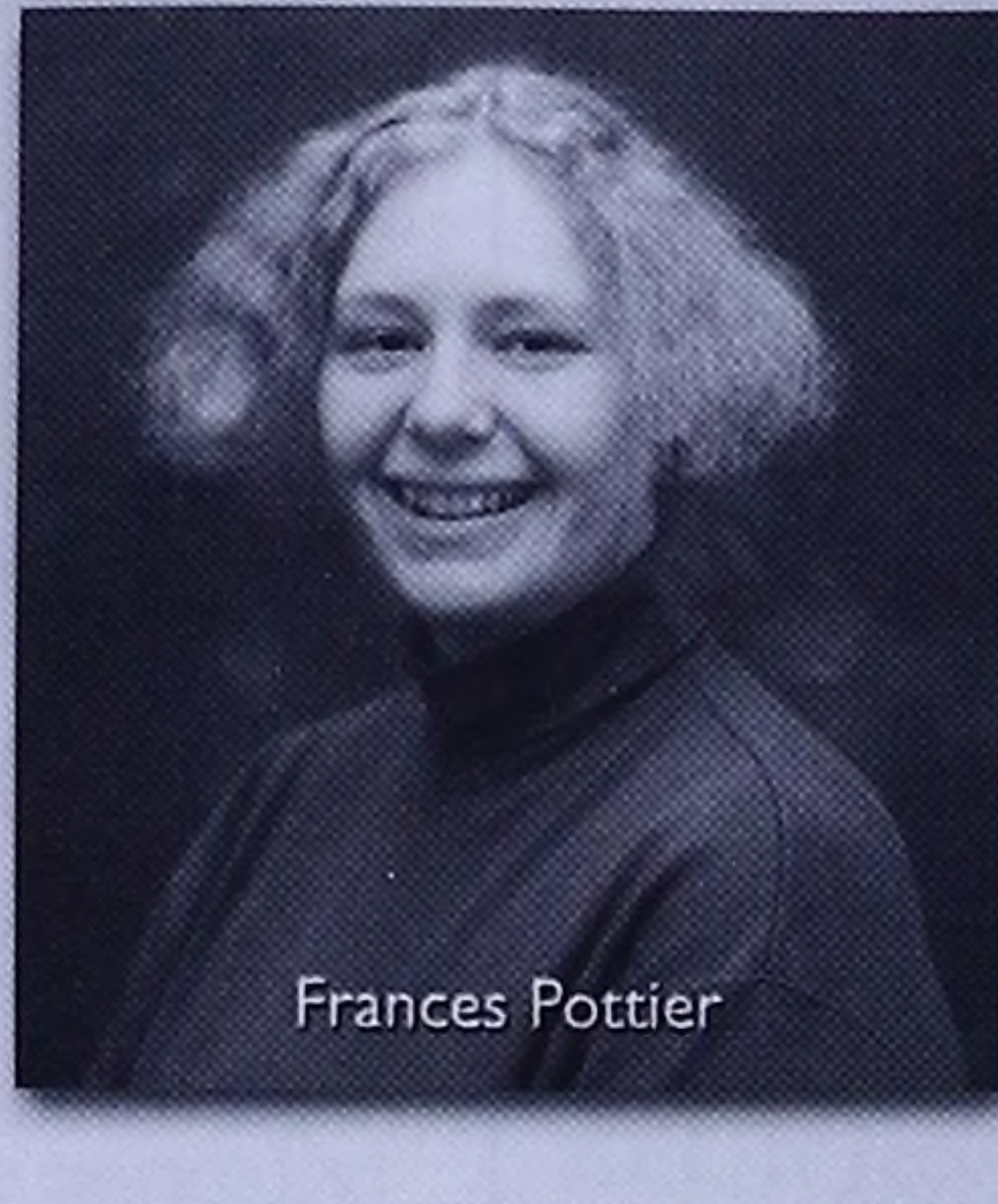
INTRODUCTION

Publication of the Average Earnings Index (AEI) was reinstated by ONS on 2nd March 1999. The index had been suspended on 2nd November 1998, following criticism that revisions to the series on 14th October had led to an unnecessary rise in interest rates by the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England. Changes have been made to the reinstated index to strengthen its methodological base and a programme of work has been put in train to introduce further improvements.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer initiated a review of the circumstances surrounding the AEI revisions and how they were handled which was overseen by Sir Andrew Turnbull, Permanent Secretary to HM Treasury, and Mervyn King, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England. The actual review was carried out by Martin Weale, Director of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, and Peter Sedgwick of HM Treasury. The ONS commissioned Professor Ray Chambers of Southampton University to quality assure the methodology. Both reports were published at the same time as the review was reinstated.

THE ORIGINAL INDEX (PRIOR TO 14TH OCTOBER)

The original index was based on a sample of businesses categorised by industrial sector and by number of employees. The sample was drawn initially in 1989, using information from the 1984 Census of Employment. It included 1 in 20 businesses with 25 - 99 employees,



1 in 4 of those with 100 - 499 employees, 1 in 2 of the 500 - 999 size band and, except in a few sectors, all of those with 1000 or more staff. Information received from businesses in a particular size band was multiplied by the appropriate "grossing factor" to adjust for the lack of full coverage.

After applying these grossing factors and converting the pay bill for those paid monthly to a weekly basis, total weekly earnings for the sector was calculated by summing the paybills for each respondent. Total employment in the sector was estimated in similar fashion and average weekly earnings per head calculated as the ratio of the two totals. The Whole Economy estimate was calculated as a weighted average of each sector's average earnings, the sector weights being based on the proportion of employees in each of the sectors in 1987.

The grossing factors and sector weights remained unchanged throughout the life of the original index. Although there was some replenishment of the sample in 1994 to take account of deaths of businesses, the sample also remained largely unchanged.

THE INDEX INTRODUCED ON 14TH OCTOBER

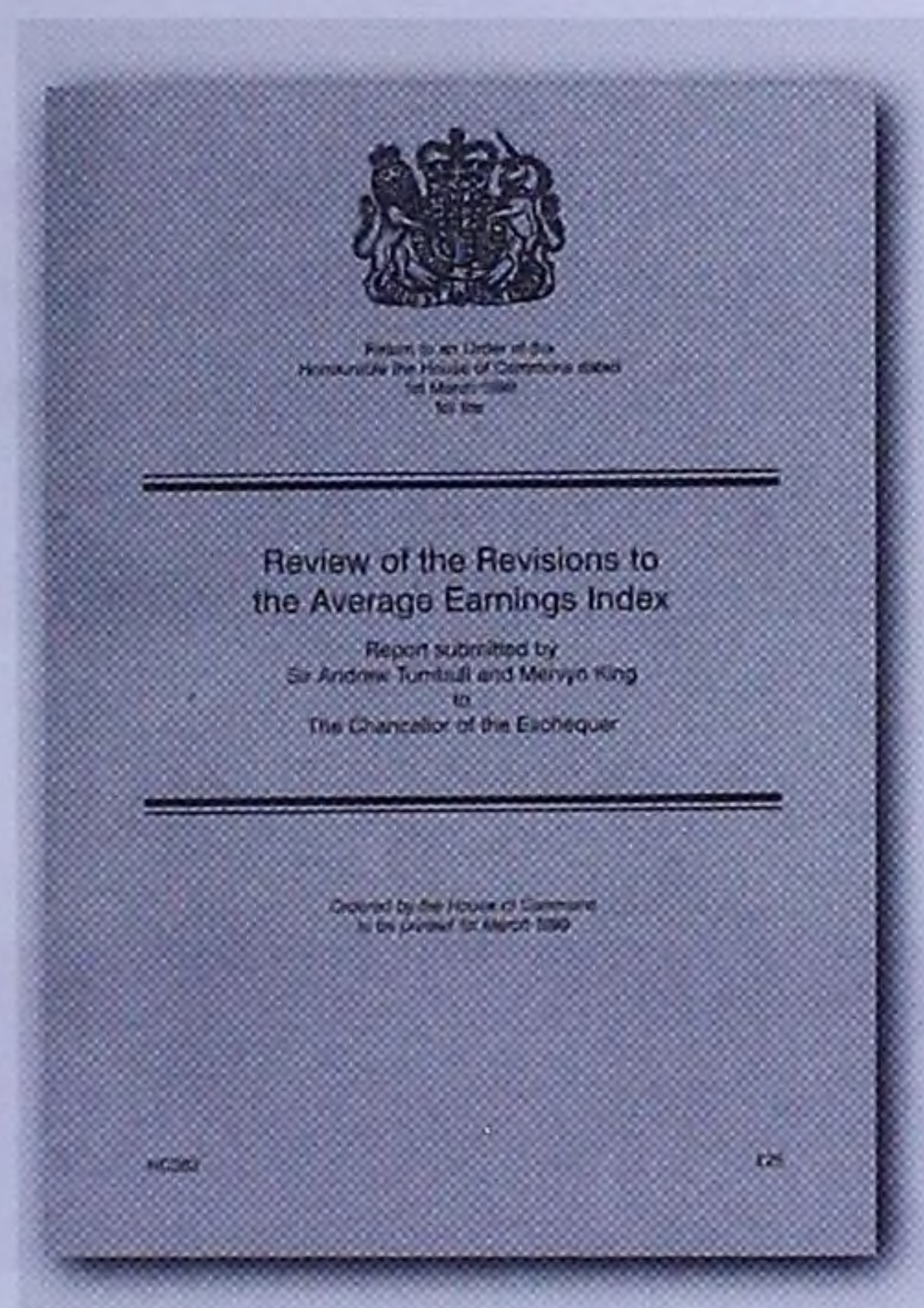
The revised methodology introduced on 14th October took account of:

- revised sector weights available from the 1991, 1993, 1995 and 1996 Annual Employment Surveys;

- revised grossing factors which more accurately reflected the balance of the economy between individual sectors and the number of businesses of different sizes within each sector;
- the legal status of individual businesses, which allowed them to be properly allocated to the public or private sectors of the economy; and
- businesses that had grown or shrunk, reassigning them to the size band (and hence grossing factor) appropriate to their revised size.

ONS had also embarked, from April 1998, on a programme to enhance the sample so that it would be more representative of business demography, and to minimise variation in estimates of growth in average earnings. The target date for completing full enhancement of the sample was December 2000.

THE TURNBULL/KING REPORT



The Turnbull/King report sets out 37 principal recommendations, covering:

- improvements to the way in which the ONS publishes, explains and makes available information on its statistics;

- accelerating plans to locate ONS staff working on the AEI at a single site, so far as this is consistent with the assurances that have been given to staff;
- agreement of a service level agreement between the ONS and the Bank of England to cover the Bank's data needs, including those for the earnings data. This mirrors existing agreements with the Treasury and some Departmental users of ONS statistics;
- strengthening of ONS project management of statistical change, including more systematic and regular use of non-ONS statistical experts and users of statistics;
- agreed procedures for the ONS to consult with and provide information to the Treasury and the Bank of England to deal with unexpected difficulties and developments;
- a number of technical changes to the AEI, including a programme of long term work on the index.

THE OUTCOME OF THE METHODOLOGICAL REVIEW

The review suggested that there were significant shortcomings in the structure of the original AEI. The ONS was aware of these and had attempted to address them in revisions which led to the index of 14th October. However, the 14th October changes increased the weight given to sectors with very small samples and also increased the impact of outliers. Both of these effects imparted a volatility to the AEI. For example, in the private health and social work sector of the economy, with some 800,000 employees, prior to April 1998 only five businesses were in the sample. Under the original methodology these were combined with returns from public sector health and social services organisations/ which

limited their influence. But in the 14th October index, the movements of average earnings in these five businesses, which were not representative of earnings more generally, were magnified by a large weight.

The Review examined how to deal with these problems, with the outcome that the following main changes (compared to the 14th October index) were agreed for the re-instated AEI:

- changes in size band (and hence grossing factors) for individual businesses should only be allowed at those times (in future annually) when new sector weights and grossing factors are introduced across the whole series. This means that each firm should remain in the cell in which it is placed at the time when the industrial weights are calculated;
- some sub-sectors should be combined to avoid instability in the index due to small samples. In particular, Other Business Services should be consolidated with other industry groups in the business services sector; the public sector should be consolidated instead of separately identifying central government, local government and public corporations; and agriculture, fisheries and forestry should be consolidated;
- the private health and social services sector should be excluded from the index before June 1998, because the sample size was too small, and the corresponding weights in the rest of the private sector should be increased to compensate;
- month on month estimates of growth should be based upon common samples in which only those businesses present in both months are involved in the calculations, with the implicit employment weights at sub-strata level fixed at the level of the current month. The growth rate derived in this manner is

applied to the previous level of the index to calculate the current level (monthly chain linking);

- there should be strict criteria for identifying outliers, with outliers controlled by applying a grossing factor of one (so that such firms are not taken to represent other firms in the sector and size band) unless returns suggest outliers conform to past patterns.

The Review recognised that sampling problems affect the reliability of component series in the AEI. It recommended against publication of data at SIC alphabetic level, although it suggested that these data might be published excluding bonuses. The latter series are less affected by sampling problems.

The Review has led to an agreed future programme and timetable for further improvement to the AEI. The majority of this work should be completed by September 1999. The programme is designed to enhance further the quality of the AEI.

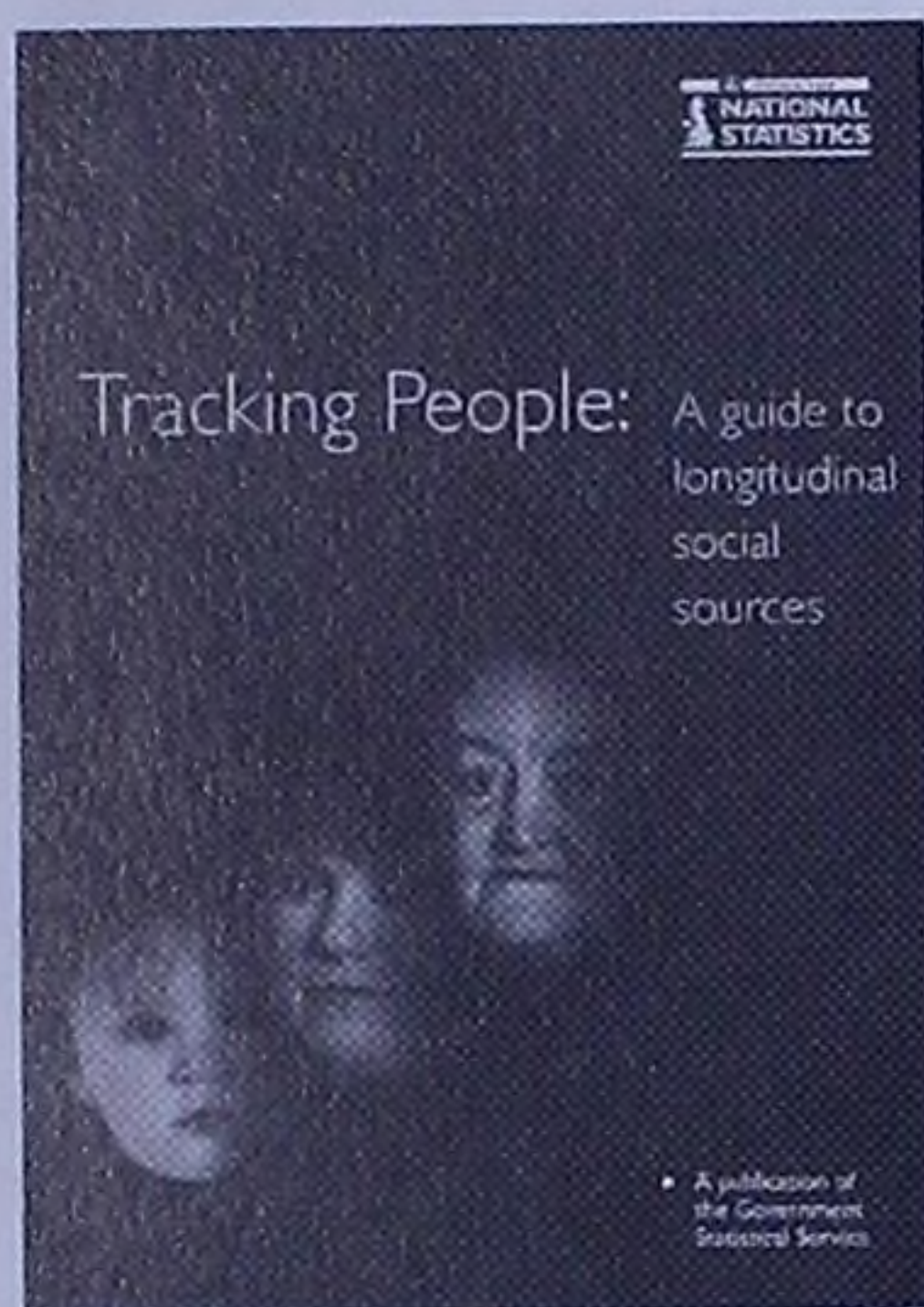
The full text of the Turnbull/King Report is available on the HM Treasury website, at www.hm-treasury.gov.uk or available from The Stationery Office (*Review of the Revisions to the Average Earnings Index*, price £25, ISBN 0 10 261699 X)

The full text of the Chambers Report is available on the ONS website, at www.ons.gov.uk

By Frances Pottier and Magdalen Williams (not pictured), Office for National Statistics

INTRODUCTION

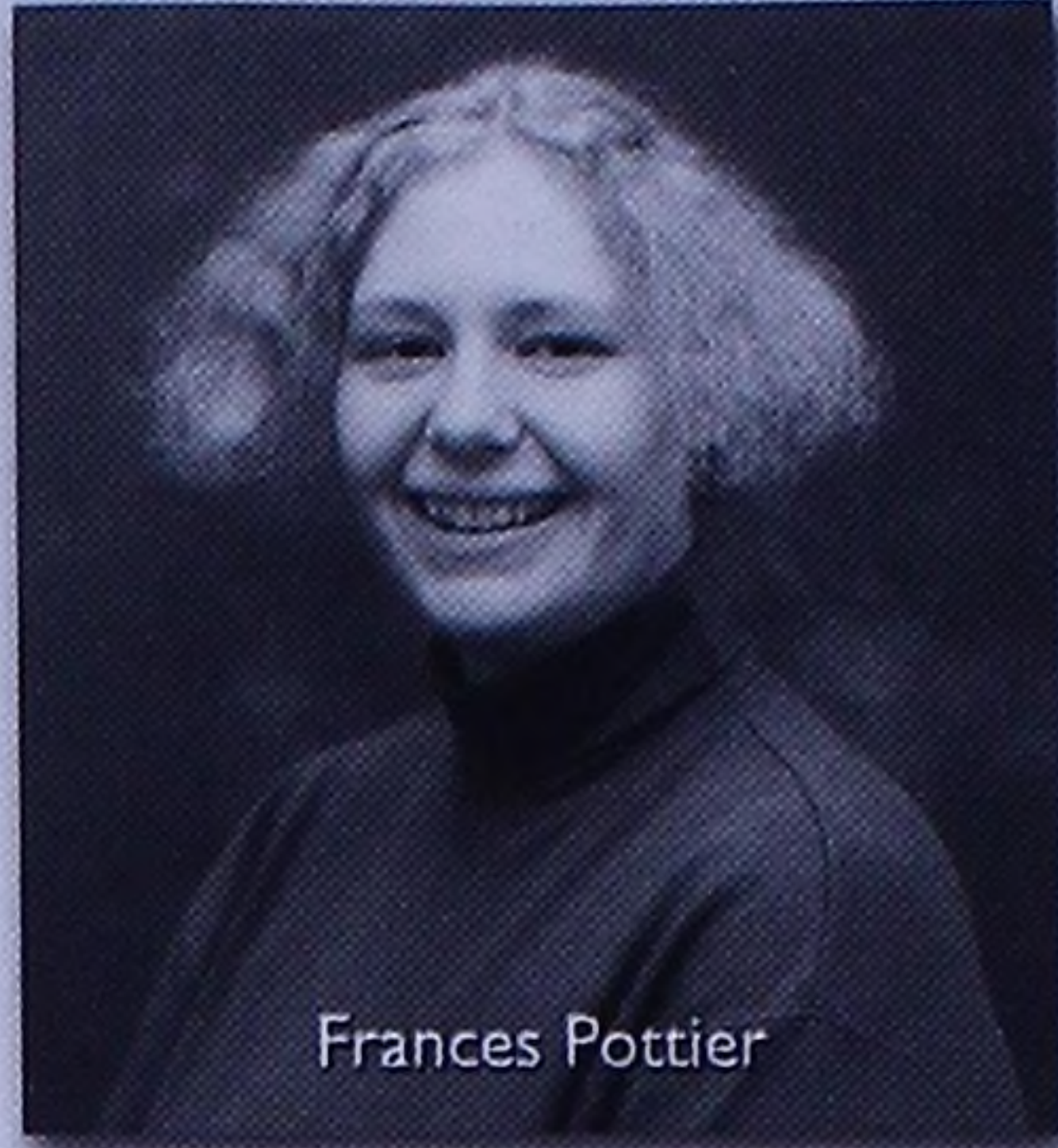
The GSS have recently published *Tracking People: A guide to longitudinal social sources*. This publication provides an up-to-date guide to the major longitudinal sources of data on persons and households within the United Kingdom. It describes the information collected, the date and method of collection and the publications which disseminate analyses of the data collected.



The guide aims to encourage further use of existing data sources, and to act as a signpost in order to inform potential users about what sources are available for analysis. It extends and updates an earlier guide produced in

1996¹, but presents more detail about each source and includes non-government sources. It is not intended to be an authoritative reference of information on all longitudinal sources. The structure is simple, with sources presented in alphabetical order. It includes an annex of surveys not covered fully in the guide, either because of practical constraints, a small sample size or lack of timeliness.

This article highlights some issues to be considered when choosing a dataset for analysis. It begins with a description of the types of source that collect information longitudinally, be they



administrative systems or surveys and outlines the advantages and disadvantages of each. The article ends with a discussion of the main sources by topic: population, households and families; education, training and qualifications; labour market; income; health and social care; transport and environment and lifestyles.

TYPES OF LONGITUDINAL SOURCES

Longitudinal information is generally collected in either of two ways - through a survey or as part of an administrative collection process.

Longitudinal surveys generally take two forms, prospective (collecting information as it unfolds) or retrospective (collecting information after the event, sometimes much later in time). Some surveys use both collection processes - e.g. the *British Household Panel Survey* (BHPS) collected retrospective information in the form of lifetime marital status history, employment status history, fertility and adoption history, cohabitation history and job history, at the same time as collecting most information prospectively through repeated interviewing of the same people.

Prospective cohort surveys can provide a wealth of information about the respondent, their life experiences and events. Information is collected from the same people at a number of different points in time. Prospective surveys are susceptible to attrition bias, resulting from a loss of respondents from one contact period to the next. This loss may be due to a change of

location, or name, or because the person is simply no longer interested in taking part in the survey. The death of a respondent is often not notified, so it is difficult to determine whether the person has dropped out for the reasons above or because they have died. Attrition bias can lead to the sample becoming unrepresentative in two ways. First, if too many of the original sample fail to continue in the study, then the sample will only represent the characteristics of the remaining members, and thus could influence the outcome under investigation. Secondly, if the original sample was selected to represent the national population, attrition bias may lead it to become unrepresentative of that national population. Attrition may also result in particular groups of interest being under-represented. Weighting procedures can be adopted to compensate, to some extent, for the losses of respondents due to attrition².

Retrospective surveys, such as the *Family and Working Lives Survey*, collect information at one collection point concerning events which happened in the past. Information gathered from this method is subject to 'recall' bias, where the respondent may confuse or forget past times and events, although this does depend on the subject matter³ and how long ago events happened. In general, life event data - employment, job history, marital history - are more accurately recorded than detailed health information. This type of information is less expensive to collect than prospective information and is not subject to the higher attrition rates of prospective surveys. As a result, the information obtained may be from a more truly 'representative' sample.

Administrative sources are cheaper to collect and maintain than cohort surveys. They may also have an advantage because they focus specifically on a target population, such as unemployed benefit claimants. However, administrative

sources are limited in their usefulness for longitudinal analysis because they collect only the information needed for the specific administrative purpose. The definitions used are administrative and may not be those required for analysis. The data collected, or the target population, may change with the introduction of new policies. The actual data collected may be limited and is generally at the individual level. It is often impossible to aggregate the data to household or family units, which is often the unit of interest for many social issues.

Matching events or linking information between sources may be subject to quality issues for administrative sources, although this process has been simplified with modern computing methods. Similarly, administrative rules may influence the data collection process. For example, a person may be claiming benefit before going abroad on holiday. But after they have returned, their claim is recorded as new. This may tend to exaggerate the number of unemployment spells experienced by an individual.

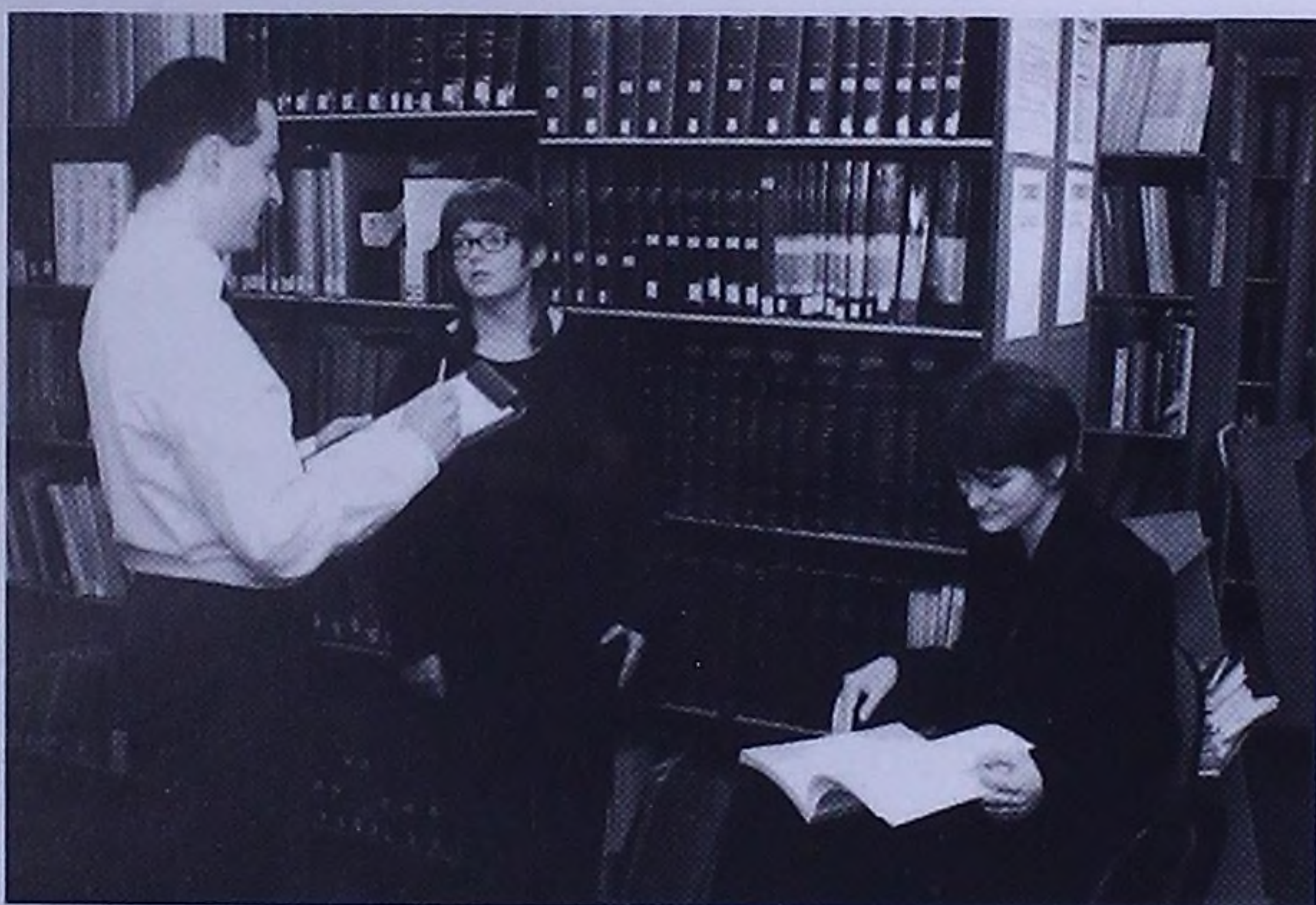
POPULATION, HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES



The large multi-purpose surveys provide most of the information relating to the whole population, households and families that is available

longitudinally. The *ONS Longitudinal Study* collects information from individual census returns, and their household members. Together with its large sample size and long collection period, it is a useful tool for assessing long term demographic change. More detail on particular demographic processes over long periods is available from the Birth Cohort Studies (the *1946 National Survey of Health and Development*, the *1958 National Child Development Study* and the *1970 British Cohort Study*), which collect information on individuals - from a variety of sources, parents, teachers, doctors and the individuals themselves. The *British Household Panel Survey* collects information at both the level of the individual and the household. Household panel surveys permit the study of micro-social change and stability and how this may be influenced by changes at the macro level. Other surveys covering this topic include the *Lone Parent Cohort*, *Retirement Survey* and the retrospective *Family and Working Lives Survey*.

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS



Administrative sources provide much of the available information on the process of gaining education, training and qualifications. *Individualised Student Records* is a case in point, though this has been complemented by small scale surveys. There are also cohort studies of

students who have left university or secondary school and who are re-interviewed six months to two years after leaving their place of learning - *Youth Cohort Study*, *Scottish School Leavers Survey*/*Scottish Young People's Survey*, *First Destination of Higher Education Graduates*, and the *Database of Training Statistics*. Given the very mobile nature of their sample, these types of sources are subject to high attrition rates. Other sources of data allowing the interaction of educational attainment and other topics to be examined include the *1970 British Cohort Study*, the *1958 National Child Development Study*, the *ONS Longitudinal Study* and the *British Household Panel Survey*.

LABOUR MARKET



Longitudinal sources provide detailed information on labour market processes. In particular, they can be used to ascertain whether it is the same people who are unemployed over time, or whether people move into and out of unemployment. The *JUVOS Cohort* traces people over a long period who claim unemployment related benefits, as they move in and out of periods of claiming benefit. A broad picture of the labour market is available from the *Labour Force Survey - Great Britain* which combines a large cross-sectional sample with a rotating element tracking the same people over 5

successive quarters. Longer term, but less detailed, information on labour market activity can also be obtained from the *ONS Longitudinal Survey*, *British Household Panel Survey*, *1970 British Cohort Study*, the *1958 National Child Development Study*, the *1946 National Survey of Health and Development* and the *retrospective Family and Working Lives Survey*. Smaller scale studies include the *Workplace Employee Relations Survey*. Information on the medical workforce - doctors and dentists - can be obtained from the *Medical and Dental Workforce Census*.

INCOME



Information on income comes both from administrative sources and surveys. *The British Household Panel Survey* has several income questions set as core questions and asked each year. Derived net income variables for BHPS Waves 1-6 have recently been lodged at the Data Archive. *The National Child Development Study (1958)*, *British Cohort Study (1970)* and *British Household Panel Study* provide information on income at the household and individual level. Administrative sources providing information on income include the *New Earnings Survey Panel Dataset*, *Income Support Statistics - Quarterly*

Enquiry, *Jobseekers Allowance Statistics Quarterly Enquiry*, *Disability Working Allowance - Great Britain*, *Family Credit - Great Britain and War Pensions*.

One source of longitudinal information on income, not covered in the guide, is the Cross Benefit Database currently being developed by the Department of Social Security. This source will contain information on people of working age receiving at least one of seven key benefits. The information will be available for each quarter from May 1995 to May 1998, and will be added to each quarter in future. In addition, annual information going back to 1992 may also be added in future. A quarterly publication will be issued with information on claimants, partners and dependants. The quarterly series will commence early in 1999. The dataset will be available for use within the DSS Analytical Services Division who will be able to link the Cross Benefit Database to more detailed information held on the individual benefits. Ad hoc analyses required by external customers should also be available from early 1999.

For further information contact:

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HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Health and social care issues are dealt with in many of the data sources described in this guide, including the *ONS Longitudinal Study*, *British Household Panel Survey*, *1970 British Cohort Study*, the *National Child Development Study 1958* and the *National Survey of Health and Development 1946*. In particular, the Birth Cohort studies were developed to investigate the relationship between social and obstetric characteristics, neonatal morbidity and abnormality both during labour and the neonatal period. This makes them very valuable sources of early life health history and health outcomes in later life. Administrative sources covering health as a main issue include the *General Practice Research Database*, and the *National Health Service Central Register (for England and Wales and separately for Scotland)* can be used to trace deaths and cancer registrations for individuals for research purposes. Surveys that focus principally on medical and social issues are the *Health and Lifestyles Survey*, the *Scottish Heart Health Study*, the *Whitehall and Whitehall II Studies* and the *Medical Research Council's Health, Illness and Lifestyles in Adolescence, West of Scotland Twenty - 07 Study and Ethnicity, religion and health in youth study*.

The guide does not cover the specialist medical longitudinal surveys. The Medical Research Council are currently compiling their own guide to longitudinal data sources, focusing on studies relevant to ageing, particularly but not exclusively medically based.

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LIFESTYLES

Longitudinal sources provide information on a variety of activities, for example the leisure activities people undertake, their attitudes and beliefs, their viewing and reading habits. The Birth Cohort Studies and the *British Household Panel Survey* seek information on lifestyles, particularly attitudinal questions. The *ONS Longitudinal Survey* and the *British Household Panel Survey* both provide information on consumer durables. The most well known attitudinal survey is the *British Social Attitudes Survey*, of which a small longitudinal component was undertaken in the 1980s. The *British Election Panel Survey: First Series* aims to study the attitudes and behaviour of the British electorate via inter-election panel surveys.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The amount of information included in the guide about each source, although large, is incomplete. Further information about particular data sources can be obtained from the publications and contacts listed for that source. A majority of the non-government sources covered in the book are held and accessed from the Data Archive at Essex University. The Archive's holdings are catalogued and further described within their information system BIRON, available via the Web at <http://dawww.essex.ac.uk>.

The Centre for Applied Social Surveys (CASS) operates a question bank, which holds many of the major social survey, including longitudinal, questionnaires in electronic format. Information from the questionnaires can be searched either by subject or the questionnaire viewed in its 'original' format. This facility is available on the Web at <http://www.scpr.ac.uk/cass/>

The Government Statistical Service has launched StatBase. This is a new computer system available on the Internet, which provides more

information about, and better access to, national statistics. It offers a comprehensive on-line catalogue of all Government Statistical Service products and services, a range of metadata about each, a database of key statistics and contact details for each. It is available at

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk>. In future, this will become the main means of electronic dissemination for Government data sources.

Most Government Statistical Service publications are available through:

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Tracking People: a guide to longitudinal social sources

Office for National Statistics
Price £10, ISBN 1 85774 301 6

Available from:

ONS Direct
Tel: 01633 812078
Fax: 01633 812762
E-mail: sales.ons@gtnet.gov.uk

- 1 *Longitudinal Social Statistics: a Guide to Official Sources*, GSS(SPH)Secretariat, February 1996
- 2 Nathan, G. 1998 'Review of Sample Attrition and Representativeness for Longitudinal Surveys' (BHPS, BCS70 and NCDS)
- 3 Dex, S & McCulloch, A 1998 'Reliability of retrospective unemployment history' *Work Employment and Society* 12(3):497-509

EFFICIENCY AT ONS

By Guy Goodwin, Office for National Statistics

INTRODUCTION

A high level efficiency review of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has concluded there is room for significant efficiencies at ONS. It identifies the scope to achieve annual savings of £20 million within five years. The Government has made a commitment that such efficiency savings will be recycled to increase the range and quality of ONS's statistical outputs.



The Steering Group, in considering the KPMG proposals, concluded that ONS's cost base was indeed still too high, particularly given support costs accounted for almost half of its total expenditure. It considered there to be scope to achieve efficiency savings rising to around £20 million per year after five years. This could be achieved through a combination of further streamlining of activities undertaken within ONS, plus

working more closely with appropriate private sector organisations. In the short term, the greatest savings would come from support cost areas.

MAIN FINDINGS OF REVIEW

The efficiency review was conducted by the consultants KPMG and commissioned by an independent steering group reporting to the Economic Secretary to the Treasury. The Steering Group was chaired by Peter Ellwood of Lloyds TSB and included three Treasury Officials, one member from ONS and one from the NHS Executive.

ONS, since its creation from the merger of the Central Statistical Office and the Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys, has delivered efficiency gains of some 19 per cent. The Steering Group acknowledged this as a "significant achievement". ONS had built further efficiencies into its forward plans and had carried out efficiency reviews of a number of areas of its operations. But KPMG in reviewing these plans identified a number of ways of building on them.

The effect of the efficiency improvements would be to enable ONS to direct its professional resources and management attention to the production of key statistical outputs and the conduct of relationships with customers where ONS has the largest contribution to make. The practical effect of the proposals is expected to mean around 680 ONS posts transferring to the private sector under well-established transfer (TUPE) arrangements. Some other posts, probably around 350, would no longer be required.

The Steering Group stressed major efficiencies at ONS would position it well for the future. The Government had given a commitment that savings generated by the review would be available for recycling to increase the range and quality of ONS's statistical outputs. The Steering Group recommendations would ensure the

continued quality and integrity of ONS's outputs, and would enable ONS to respond to the challenges and opportunities afforded by the Government's proposals for National Statistics.

RESPONSE BY GOVERNMENT

Having considered the findings of the efficiency review and after having met with trade unions to discuss their reactions, the Economic Secretary announced that she had decided to accept the recommendations made by the Steering Group.

The achievement of such savings, which will be reinvested within ONS, would enable the Office to focus resources and management attention on improving the range and quality of the statistical information it produces. The Economic Secretary asked Dr Tim Holt, Director of ONS, to prepare and implement a programme of action designed to deliver these savings, in consultation with ONS staff and trade unions.

A copy of the full report was made available at the time of the Economic Secretary's announcement. The recommendations made by the Steering Group draw on many of the KPMG proposals but do not include them all. In particular, the potential savings identified as a result of the outsourcing of data collection and processing are not part of the package of efficiency savings which the Steering Group recommended.

MANAGEMENT CHANGES

The Steering Group warned that driving forward the package of changes on the scale outlined, together with the implementation of the Government's likely proposals for National

Statistics, would require major and sustained management effort. Senior management in ONS would have to be strengthened to reflect this. In particular, the Steering Group recognised that the current ONS management board arrangements may not facilitate the addressing of key cross-cutting issues within ONS.

KPMG's report discusses a number of options for the structure of ONS's senior management arrangements in the future and Dr Holt was asked to consider these. In announcing her decision, the Economic Secretary accepted proposals from Dr Holt which will involve the establishment of a restructured ONS Management Board comprising the Director of ONS and four other members: a Director of Economic Statistics, a Director of Social Statistics, a Director of Quality Assurance and Methodology, and a Director of Finance and Corporate Services. The latter post will be advertised externally, with business and commercial experience a key requirement.

These changes to the management structure of ONS reflected the importance the Government attaches to implementing this programme of work. The Economic Secretary stressed that "Ensuring the quality of ONS outputs is a key part of the Government's commitment to enhance the integrity of official statistics". The new Director of Quality Assurance and Methodology is expected to bring a sharper focus to quality issues in the organisation.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The key recommendations from the Steering Group in each area of support services are briefly summarised below:

Property and Facilities Management

- retain a small in-house contract management function;
- outsource facilities management of all ONS sites in a single contract to run from April 2000, streamlining the existing mix of external and internal provision;
- in the short term, consolidate the ONS presence in Titchfield onto the main site, and improve space utilisation so as to be able to sub-let part of the Drummond Gate premises. It may also be appropriate to conduct a further review of the position of the Runcorn site;
- in the longer term, review the case for more significant rationalisation of accommodation and reduction in the number of sites.

Human Resource Development and Personnel

- merge these functions progressively over the one to two years from April 1999, with a gradual reduction in total staff numbers;
- outsource the pensions and personnel systems;
- significantly reduce the proportion of training which is delivered in-house, by a combination of outsourcing and “partnering” arrangements.

Marketing and Press

- review the nature and scale of these functions, merging appropriate functions under one external relations manager;
- increase the use made of private sector suppliers in publications;
- buy in marketing expertise on an as-required basis rather than retain capacity in-house;
- rationalise library provision onto one site.

Finance and Administration

- enhance the finance function through the recruitment of a small team of expert analysts;
- bring together ONS’s financial, planning and administrative resources into a central corporate resource, retaining a much smaller level of local support within the business groups;
- outsource the accounts processing function while retaining the accounts production in-house.

Information Systems and Information Technology

- consolidate IS/IT resources (both people and assets) into one central function rather than spread them across the current Information Systems Directorate and three of the business groups, and create a homogeneous IT infrastructure with standard server architecture;
- retain a core IT function to carry out the functions of the intelligent customer;

- outsource IT infrastructure support (desktop, local area network, file server plus office automation) and server/database support;
- reduce numbers of IS development staff in line with external benchmarks and consider outsourcing this function also, subject to a review of the business risks and benefits.

OTHER EFFICIENCIES

The Steering Group also concluded there is scope for savings to be secured within ONS's data collection activity. ONS is proposing to conduct a methodological review of the whole process within Business Statistics Group, using business process re-engineering to improve the efficiency of the approach to data collection; support from the private sector will be used as appropriate. It is expected that this would require some initial investment, and that it would generate savings from year three. The Steering Group also believed efficiency improvements in data collection might be possible elsewhere in ONS but resisted proposals from KPMG to outsource the functions currently carried out by ONS's Social Survey Division.

A number of efficiencies have already been secured in ONS's registration functions. There is scope, dependent on amendments to primary legislation, for further streamlining and for involving the private sector in partnership arrangements, for example in the production of certificates of vital events.

It has been assumed that savings can be secured in the Census from the application of similar efficiency techniques to those which will be used in the other parts of ONS. These savings, however, will not be available for recycling to other areas since they will be offset against the special provision made for the Census.

NEXT STEPS

The outcomes of the efficiency review were announced to ONS staff in a series of meetings organised on each of the ONS sites and held by Group Directors. Each session included a question and answer session for staff. A programme will now be put together for taking forward the efficiency review proposals. The project manager will be Brian Meakings at ONS - Brian was involved most recently with the preparations for the launch of StatBase.

Copies of the detailed KPMG report can be found on the ONS Website www.ons.gov.uk.

A small number of printed copies are also available from **Alan Cliftlands at the ONS Library, tel: 0171 533 6257**, for those without access to the Internet.

A LABOUR FORCE SURVEY FOR CHINA

By Matthew Sudders, Office for National Statistics

BACKGROUND

Think of China. What was the first image which came to mind? The Great Wall? The Forbidden City? Or the sheer number of people?

Now think of Chinese Statistics.

What are your first thoughts? How about the practicalities of collecting statistics from over 1 billion people. In western Europe, we have some experience of big data collection operations. The last UK census, for example, involved over 100,000 enumerators. But that is something which occurs only once a decade. Imagine for a moment how you might conduct an operation many hundreds of times the size of a UK census but month in month out, collecting statistics on the full range of a nation's activity.

These are the kind of thoughts which were in the heads of the EU experts on the long flight to Beijing. They were to form part of a team of experts undertaking one of the largest ever co-operation projects in statistics.

In the Autumn of 1997 the ONS had put together a bid for the work. We were delighted when Statistics Finland agreed to be our partners. Together, after the usual long bidding process, we formed the successful group and work eventually began in December 1998.

Our work in China will concentrate on the area of labour market statistics. The aim is to work with the Chinese National Bureau of Statistics



(formerly State Statistical Bureau) to help them to acquire accurate labour market information. This will involve work looking at the strengths and weaknesses of existing sources of labour market information. However the main strand will be to work through the stages of a Labour Force Survey. This is not an easy task and will take at least three years before the first results come through. The work will need to

cover the whole range of questions, including:

- What can be used as a sampling frame?
- Which topics should be covered in the survey?
- What sort of basic assumptions are valid in China?
- What are the results intended to be used for?

and most importantly:

- What sort of results would one expect to see from such a survey?

The answer to the final question will be crucial for establishing confidence in an emerging Labour Force Survey. The users of the information will need to be confident that the results reflect the true values which they see on the ground every day. An additional strand will cover how to integrate an emerging Labour Force Survey into the existing presentation of labour market statistics.

WHY ARE WE WORKING IN CHINA ?

This question should probably be answered on two levels. Why ONS and Statistics Finland? and Why China?

The first question is relatively simple to answer. ONS and Statistics Finland have some of the most respected labour force survey experts in the world. The bid which they submitted was judged on technical merit and was successful as a result.

The second question is somewhat more involved. Every government has an interest in gaining influence in the biggest nation in the world. Tony Blair talked in Autumn 1998 of tearing down the bamboo curtain which divided China from the west. Bill Clinton has referred to the need to have China as an ally. All of this can only be achieved through increased knowledge of each other's situations, understanding of the practices and cultures.

In addition, the political importance of the labour market in China has increased dramatically of late. The much publicised reform of central government essentially reduced the civil service by approximately 50 per cent, putting many straight into unemployment. The Chinese government need accurate measures of the impact of these key labour market issues. Western governments have an interest in ensuring that these issues are measured in a way which would allow international comparisons to be made and future investment decisions to be soundly based.

Our Labour Force Survey project is part of an even bigger EU project which will provide technical assistance in statistics covering four topics:

- Labour Market Statistics
- Statistical Classifications
- External Trade
- Measuring the informal sector.



l-r Pairei Keinannan, Matthew Sudders, Ian Knight, Barry Werner, and Marta Haworth.

Each topic will be covered by a small group of statisticians from at least 2 EU member states. Not all the organisations involved are National Statistical Institutes. However all will adopt the same standard of professionalism and conduct. This was one of the criteria upon which each bid was evaluated.

WHAT WE FOUND

The first mission for the Labour Force Survey project took place in December. The aim of the mission was to discuss the strategic issues involved in the collection of labour market statistics within China and to open up a dialogue between the EU and the Chinese regarding the future shape of the project.

It is perhaps important at this point to note what we found out about the organisation of statistics within China. The Chinese statistical office has offices in many layers of organisation. These range from offices for the provinces (the largest sub-national grouping, equivalent to a small EU country) down through many layers to county level and below. Many statistics are collected and fed back through the layers, known as the



reporting system. One example in this project are the enterprise (Government and collective only) based employment levels. The system has one crucial advantage in a nation of this size. It allows for an army of data collectors to be rapidly deployed. Additionally, results are aggregated at each level of the organisation as they are fed back up, enabling national totals to be calculated within days of the original collection deadline. An additional advantage is that by having offices at the lowest levels, there is the possibility of employing people with local knowledge to collect the statistics.

There is also a potential risk for such an organisation. The involvement of many officials at many levels in each statistic could build in the potential for human error at each level at which the data is handled. In addition, there is the potential problem of ensuring standards and clarity of communication between the Head Office in Beijing and the staff on the ground.

The entire government is organised in the way described above. Clearly the Chinese authorities have found ways to make the system work and to ensure that the policies and wishes of the central government are carried out at every level.

The organisation of the Chinese economy is also a crucial issue when looking at how one might collect labour market information. It was certainly my expectation that the state authorities would be the sole providers of education,

healthcare, welfare and housing. However in fact the opposite is true. The government actually provides little or none of these things. They are mostly provided through the employer.

It is true that most of the employers are still state sector. However consider the effect that each employer being effectively self-sufficient in these areas has. It means that you live in the same housing blocks as your colleagues. You use the same doctor, your children would attend the same school and you would be able to have subsidised shopping provided by your employer.

Now consider what the effect of unemployment would be in such a situation. You could potentially lose your access to education, healthcare, even your home. To avoid such a situation many employees are laid off, rather than made redundant in the leaner times. In such a situation, the employees retain their links with the employer and the benefits which they bring. Technically these may be called upon to return to work in the event of an upturn at the employers. However the proportions of employees called upon to do so is not known. Some of the laid off employees may have informal jobs to provide a small additional income. Again the true levels are unknown.

Also take into account the situation in the rural areas. Many individuals have a nominal attachment to a farm or smallholding. Obviously each farm requires work on a year round basis.

But suppose that a farm is able to automate some of the work by employing machines to do the work of many individuals. The original owners of the farm will still have an attachment to the land, which still requires some work. However it may not fully employ all those who retain the nominal attachment to the land. Some underemployment could result.

These two brief issues alone highlight how a Labour Force Survey could be of enormous potential use for evaluating the true state of the economy. By asking people how much work they did and for which employers, it would be possible to get a much richer picture than from the employers alone. However the data from employers will always have its benefits in providing timely figures through the reporting system.

These issues and many more were flagged up in the first mission in December 1998. Perhaps the most striking thing which we found is the enthusiasm and knowledge of the staff involved. Their desire to accurately reflect the true state of China in the figures which they supply the governing bodies was obvious to us all. We can only hope that through sharing our respective experiences we will be able to help this happen.

The December mission was not the end, but the beginning of what we hope will be a long and fruitful relationship between the UK and Finland and the largest nation on the planet.

As I write this article two experts are discussing survey and questionnaire design with their Chinese colleagues. Preparations are well

underway to work on possible sampling frames for a Labour Force Survey.

Summer 1999 will see the beginning of a programme of interview training, with 40 Chinese interviewing managers being welcomed to the Office for National Statistics. Additionally work will begin on evaluating the respective strengths of the other sources of labour market statistics within China. The year 2000 will see the programme of work on presenting and exploiting labour market information begin.

By 2001, we hope to have built up a lasting relationship with the Chinese authorities through this work. Look out for updates on this work and other international work undertaken by GSS statisticians in future editions of *Statistical News*.

For further information, contact:

.....
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: Tel: 0171 533 6205
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:

OFFICE FOR NATIONAL STATISTICS

PLANS FOR 2001 CENSUS PUBLISHED

On 4th March, the Government announced its plans for the 2001 Census.

The White Paper sets out the principles for the Census, explains the need for it and deals with matters of public concern such as confidentiality. It presents each topic proposed for inclusion and states what the information will be used for and summarises the procedures for collecting and processing the information.

Significant changes from 1991 in the questions proposed are:

- New individual questions on general health;
- Provision of unpaid care;
- Time since last paid employment;
- Size of employer's organisation;
- Religion in England and Wales (subject to a change in legislation being made).

There are also proposed revisions to the questions on relationship within household and ethnic group and qualifications. A question on ethnic group will be asked in Northern Ireland for the first time.

The Government proposes to include a question on income in the Census Rehearsal in April 1999, but a decision on whether or not to include it in the 2001 Census itself will be deferred, until research has been completed on possible means of securing relevant information from alternative sources.

The three UK Census Offices are the Office for National Statistics (England and Wales), the General Register Office for Scotland and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

The 2001 Census of Population (Cm 4253)

The Stationery Office
Price £7.55, ISBN 0 10 142532 5

Available from:

The Stationery Office Publications Centre
Tel: 0171 873 9090
Fax: 0171 873 8200

Or on the ONS web site at:

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

RESEARCHING THE RETAIL PRICES INDEX

On 10th February, the ONS outlined its three year programme to look at the make-up of the Retail Prices Index (RPI) and potential ways to improve its relevance to the UK economy.

The programme is part of a continuous evaluation of RPI methodology by the ONS and begun last year after the 1996 Boskin Report highlighted the possibility of bias in the US Consumer Prices Index. The programme will consider potential bias, among other issues and includes a look at the formula used to calculate the index. External consultants employed by the ONS will add their expertise and provide an independent audit of the work. An article published in the February 1999 edition of

Economic Trends (The Stationery Office, ISBN 0 11 621124 5, price £23.50) gives full details of the programme, which is expected to finish in mid-2001.

The work programme includes the following:

- **Choice of items** – this looks at the goods which make up the index to determine whether earlier inclusion of certain goods or services would have made an impact on the index.
- **Quality adjustment** – do current methods reflect the actual change in the quality of goods and services?
- **Formula effects/geometric means** – this investigates the formulae that could be used to calculate the index. The use of different formulae currently accounts for about half of the much-publicised difference between the RPIX (RPI excluding mortgage interest payments) and the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices.
- **Outlet bias** – this investigates any bias due to consumers switching from outlets where prices are rising to those where they are not and vice versa.
- **Commodity substitution** – this looks at consumers switching from products with rapidly increasing prices to those where prices are either increasing slowly or falling.
- **Sampling of locations** – this looks at the different locations sampled, including issues such as what impact the delayed introduction of out-of-town shopping centres may have had.
- **Treatment of discounts and temporary size changes** – this investigates various forms of discounting offered by retailers and whether temporary size changes of goods have a significant effect on the index. The experiences of other countries will be investigated.

An RPI technical board has been set up to oversee the programme. It consists of those people most involved with the compilation of RPI, together with other ONS staff who have relevant experience to offer. It usually meets monthly. In addition, external consultants including academics are being brought in as required, to offer advice on particular aspects of the work programme.

The ONS is keen to receive customer feedback. Any comments on the programme should be sent to the following:

Michael Baxter
Office for National Statistics
Zone D2/18
1 Drummond Gate
London, SW1V 2QQ
Tel: 0171 533 5837
E-mail: michael.baxter@ons.gov.uk

or

Dawn Camus
Office for National Statistics
Zone D2/15
1 Drummond Gate
London, SW1V 2QQ
Tel: 0171 533 5879
E-mail: dawn.camus@ons.gov.uk

Economic Trends article available (price £5) from:

ONS Library and Information Services
Tel: 01633 812973

NEW REGIONAL ACCOUNTS PRODUCED

Provisional estimates of Gross Domestic Product by region have been produced by ONS for 1997. The estimates of GDP of UK regions show that

London and the South East accounted for about 15 and 16 per cent respectively of UK GDP in 1997. Between 1996 and 1997, GDP per head, relative to the UK average, rose in the South West, the North West and North East and fell in London, Yorkshire & the Humber and Scotland, with little change in other regions.

The estimates are the first regional figures to be produced under the European System of Accounts 1995 (ESA95), the new national and regional accounts system now applied in the UK. Full details are given in the March 1999 edition of *Economic Trends* (The Stationery Office, ISBN 0 11 621125 3, price £23.50).

For further information contact:

Shaun Flanagan
Regional Accounts Branch
Office for National Statistics
Zone B5/03
1 Drummond Gate
London, SW1V 2QQ
Tel: 0171 533 5791

NEW UK TRADE IN SERVICES PUBLICATION

As part of ONS's programme to improve and expand the range of service sector statistics, the quality and detail of trade in services statistics have been improved since 1996. ONS is now able to provide estimates by type of service (e.g. accountancy, management consultancy) as well as a much more detailed analysis of our trade with various countries and major trading partners.

Whilst summary information is released each year in the summer in *UK Balance of Payments* (the ONS *Pink Book*) and headline balance of

payments figures are released quarterly, there has been no vehicle to present the new details in the public domain. This has contrasted starkly to the position on trade in goods, where much detail is made available in monthly and quarterly publications. The ONS, having consulted with users, has prepared a new annual publication, *UKA1: UK Trade in Services*, the first of which appeared on 11th February 1999. The publication contains a wide range of underlying detail for trade in services and has been warmly welcomed by DTI, HMT and various users outside government.

For further information contact:

Martin Brand 01633 812408
or Stuart Brown 0171 533 6060

UKA1: UK Trade in Services available from:

ONS Direct
Tel: 01633 812078
Fax: 01633 812762
E-mail: sales.ons@gt.net.uk

NEW CATALOGUE PUBLISHED

The 1999 edition of the ONS publications catalogue *The Source* was published in March. It includes information about a large number of official statistical publications and electronic media from across the Government Statistical Service, split into thirteen subject-related pillars for ease of reference.

Copies are available, free of charge, from:

ONS Library and Information Services
Tel: 01633 812973
Fax: 01633 812599

INTERNET SITE

What statistical publications are the Department of Health releasing this month?

Who do I contact to obtain information on waiting lists?

What developments are taking place in statistical collections?

Do you ever wonder what the answers are to these questions? If so, you need look no further than the *Statistics and Surveys* pages on the Department of Health's Internet site. The Department of Health is committed to developing and increasing the amount of information available on its site. For example:

- for the first time *Health and Personal Social Service Statistics for England* was made available on this site. This provides summary tables and charts on the nation's health, health care, Personal Social Services, workforce and expenditure.
- statistics on children and young people on child protection registers in England. The statistics were derived from the statistical returns submitted to the Department of Health by local authorities and include data for individual local authorities and England estimates.

The answers to all your unanswered questions can be found at:

<http://www.doh.gov.uk/public/stats1.htm>.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT
FRAMEWORK AND HIGH LEVEL
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The White Paper *The New NHS Modern and Dependable*, set out the Government's objectives of an NHS which would deliver fairer provision of services, higher quality, improved value for money, greater responsiveness and better health.

A consultation document, *A National Framework for Assessing Performance*, came out in January 1998, shortly after the White Paper. This consultation document outlined a new approach in assessing NHS performance. The new performance framework has six areas, health improvement, fair access, effective delivery of appropriate healthcare, efficiency, patient/carer experience and health outcomes of NHS care. These areas are designed to provide a rounded assessment of whether the NHS is performing in line with the expectations set in the White Paper.

An initial set of High Level Performance Indicators (HLPs) were developed to populate the six areas of the framework. To avoid additional burdens on the health service, the initial set of indicators made use of information already routinely available at health authority level. Some of the indicators used process measures as a proxy for information that is not yet available on outcomes, effectiveness and quality. The indicators were consulted upon in the early part of 1998 followed by a "roadtesting" of the indicators within the health service in the summer of that year. The comments from the consultation exercise and feedback from the roadtest have been taken into consideration in the development of a revised set of indicators which are due out in the Spring of 1999. This high level set will be further developed over time as better, more outcomes focussed data becomes available.

For further information contact:

Mark Svenson
Tel: 0113 254 6425

WELSH OFFICE

WELSH STATISTICAL LIAISON COMMITTEE

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

The last meeting of the Committee was held on 30th March in Builth Wells. Among the matters on the agenda were statistics under the Assembly, arrangements for national statistics, population estimates and sub-national projections and the 2001 Census.

The 2001 Census Users Network Group (of local authority and Welsh Office representatives) - a sub-group of WSLC - also met on 30th March prior to the main meeting. Discussions centred around the Census Roadshows being conducted by the Office for National Statistics and the 1999 Census Dress Rehearsal, which is to include areas around Aberystwyth and Bangor.

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

David Blair
Statistical Directorate
Welsh Office
Cathays Park
Cardiff, CF1 3NQ
Tel: 01222 825085 (GTN 1208 5085)
E-mail: David.Blair@Wales.gov.uk

WELSH STATISTICAL LIAISON COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP ON POPULATION AND HOUSEHOLD PROJECTIONS

The most recent meeting of the working group was on 21st January. Local authority representatives were presented with the draft results of the population projections for the 22 individual local authorities in Wales based on disaggregating the Government Actuary's Department national projections (published in December 1997), using a methodology and sources of data previously agreed with the authorities. It was concluded that they were implausible, largely due, it was felt, to the underlying age distribution and migration patterns - particularly for the student element - in the base. Further options are now being considered.

For further information contact the Secretary:

Brett Davis
Statistical Directorate
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Cathays Park
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Tel: 01222 825058 (GTN 1208 5058)
E-mail: Brett.Davis@Wales.gov.uk

THE CHANGING MAP OF WALES: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

The advent of the National Assembly for Wales in May 1999 and local government reorganisation in April 1996 have had, and will have, further consequences for geographical analyses in statistical series. In particular, the Assembly is going to add a further, sometimes

complicating dimension, to it all. Central government departments should take note of what data for Wales is likely to be needed in future. The following identifies the key geographies as they currently stand and offers some brief guidance on their make-up:

- there are **40 Assembly constituencies**, identical to the Parliamentary constituencies as defined in the Parliamentary Constituencies (Wales) Order 1995. The schedule to the Order defines the constituencies in terms of the former, pre-local government reorganisation, local authority districts and their component wards;
- there are also **five Assembly electoral regions**; they correspond to the five European Parliament constituencies in the 1994 elections and are groupings of Assembly/Parliamentary constituencies.

Local government reorganisation in Wales (on 1st April 1996) brought with it a largely new geography:

- the two tiers of local government (of eight counties and 37 districts) that had existed since 1974 were replaced by a single tier of **22 unitary authorities**;
- this also saw the end of the (district electoral) wards previously used for local government elections and in the 1991 Census of Population which formed the basis of the revised Parliamentary constituencies (in the 1995 Order and adopted for the 1997 general election) on which the Assembly constituencies are now based. The 908 wards which had made up the districts and counties were replaced by **865 electoral divisions** for the unitary authority elections held in May 1995. The electoral divisions in 14 of the

authorities have since been reviewed with changes being made and implemented for the May 1999 local government elections. The *net* effect has been to increase the number to 870. Changes to electoral divisions in the remaining 8 authorities are expected to be made within the next twelve months.

Four new **economic regions** have also been established in Wales, to replace the former (different) TEC and Welsh Development Agency regions. These will also be the National Assembly **regional committee** areas. They are coterminous with unitary authorities, except that Gwynedd will be split according to pre-1996 reorganisation boundaries.

Most recently new **NUTS areas** have been agreed by Eurostat (the Statistical Office of the European Union). The NUTS1 is the whole of Wales; NUTS2 divides the country in two; for NUTS3 the 22 local, i.e. unitary, authorities form 12 areas (four being single authority areas); NUTS4 are the 22 individual authorities and NUTS5 areas are the (around 900) individual wards/electoral divisions.

Further details of the changes can be found in Appendix 1 and maps in each of the two following recent publications:

Statistics for Assembly Constituency Area, 1998

(October 1998)

Price incl. postage £15, ISBN 0 7504 2303 X

Digest of Welsh Local Area Statistics

(March 1999)

Price incl. postage £20, ISBN 0 7504 2317 X

Appendix 1 of the latter also gives the composition of the five health authority, four

police force and three fire authority areas in Wales, in terms of the 22 unitary authorities with which they are fully coterminous.

These can be obtained from:

Statistical Publications Unit
Statistical Directorate
Welsh Office
Cathays Park
Cardiff, CF1 3NQ
E-mail: sarah.jones@wales.gov.uk

or Agent booksellers throughout Wales (telephone 01222 825054 for details).

If you want more information about geographies in Wales, please contact:

Clive Lewis
Statistical Directorate
Welsh Office
Cathays Park
Cardiff, CF1 3NQ
Tel: 01222 823220
E-mail: clive.lewis@wales.gov.uk

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

ASSOCIATION FOR SURVEY COMPUTING

THIRD INTERNATIONAL THREE DAY CONFERENCE

The Association of Survey Computing is hosting its Third International Conference on Survey and Statistical Computing. There will be twelve themes covering a wide range of topics incorporating all aspects of survey and statistical computing. There are also six invited speakers and nearly fifty papers.

The invited speakers at the plenary sessions are:

- **Professor David Hand:** Department of Statistics, the Open University, speaking on data mining;
- **Dr. Mick Couper:** Survey Research Center, University of Michigan, speaking on usability evaluation of computer-assisted survey instruments;
- **Rory Morgan:** Research and Development Director at Research International, speaking on understanding consumer behaviour;
- **Andy Teague:** Office for National Statistics, speaking on innovation and change in population census taking;
- **Ian Durrell:** Executive Vice-President of SPSS MR, speaking on software for the new millennium;
- **Wouter Keller:** Central Bureau of Statistics, the Netherlands, speaking on trends in survey data processing.

Speakers have been chosen for the depth of their knowledge on the chosen subject matter. They reflect the broad spectrum of organisations working in the area of surveys and statistical computing, both in public and private sectors, at home and abroad.

The conference takes place at the University of Edinburgh from 22nd to 24th September 1999. Fees are £570 (ASC members) or £595 (non-members) including accommodation.

For further information contact:

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New Surveys &
Departmental
Listings

Supplement

NEW SURVEYS NOTIFIED TO SURVEY CONTROL UNIT

OCTOBER 1998 TO DECEMBER 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, Newport, Gwent NP9 1XG. Tel: 01633 813271.

New Surveys Assessed

SCU No.	Title	Dept.	Ass. dept.	Activity of respondents	Number of respondents	Location	Freq.
11200044	VAT/EICS Business Advice - Customer Satisfaction Survey	C&E		Customer	1,500	E	AH
11200045	Complaints Handling in Customs and Excise	C&E		Admin.	3,500	UK	A
12000012	Investor in People Creative Development Research	COI		Employer	48	E	AH
12500131	Purchases Inquiry, Distribution and Service Sector (Pilot)	ONS		Research	1,000	GB	AH
13400125	Use of Electro-Convulsive Therapy (ECT) in NHS Trusts & Private Hosps.	DH		Health	125	E	AH
13400126	Registration and Inspection Survey	DH		Business serv.	150	E	A
13400130	Outcome Indicators for Looked After Children at 30 September 2000	DH		Admin.	150	E	A
13900383	National Waste Production Survey	DETR		Business serv.	48,000	EW	Y3
13900387	Local Government Research Programme: Survey of Research Users	DETR		Research	200	E	Y5
14400203	*Customer Survey of Management Best Practice Publications	DTI		Business	250	E	AH
14400204	Benchmarking Development of the Information Age	DTI		Computing	1,600	UK	A
14400206	Survey on Notice Periods	DTI		Admin.	1,000	GB	AH
14400209	Business Link Advertising Pre and Post Survey	DTI		Admin.	2,250	E	AH
14500315	Local Authority Survey of Cycle Helmet Wearing (III)	DETR		Transport	180	EW	Y3
15100051	Employer Satisfaction Survey, Swindon Jobcentre	ES		Employer	200	SW	A
16800087	Manual Handling in the Brick Production Industry	HSE		Business serv.	266	E	AH
16800089	Effects of New Ways of Working on Employees Stress Level	HSE		Employer	820	GB	AH
16800091	Evaluation of Good Health is Good Business Campaign	HSE		Employer	4,075	GB	AH
16800094	Chemical Users: Characteristics and Health & Safety Information M'gmt.	HSE		Admin.	2,000	GB	AH
16800095	Effective Safety Data Sheets	HSE		Admin.	250	GB	AH
16800096	Interactive Multi-Media Safety Data Sheets	HSE		Admin.	184	NK	AH
17100076	Accounts Office Cumbernauld - Survey Of Complaints Handling	IR		Admin.	100	UK	AH
17900229	Horticultural Development Council Poll	MAFF		Horticulture	2,900	GB	AH
17900231	Special Study of Lowland Sheep: 1999 Lamb Crop	MAFF		Farming	1,360	EW	AH
17900232	User and Customer Satisfaction Survey	MAFF		Farming	N/K	EW	A
17900236	Surrey Farming Survey	MAFF		Farming	1,671	SE	AH

SCU No.	Title	Dept.	Ass. dept.	Activity of respondents	Number of respondents	Location	Freq.
17900237	Postal S'vy. of Sheep Farmers on the Incidence of Scrapie in G. Btn.	MAFF		Farming	11,554	GB	AH
17900240	Economic Evaluation of Sheep Annual Premium Scheme	MAFF		Admin.	2,250	UK	AH
17900241	Hedgerow Management - A Study of Farmers' and Contractors' Attitudes	MAFF		Admin.	2,457	E	AH
17900243	Survey of Lice in Sheep	MAFF		Admin.	350	E	AH
20400022	Database Update Form and Annual Return AR7	NGOV		Soc. services	16,000	EW	AH
20400024	Investors in People Annual Tracking Study	NGOV		Admin.	1,000	UK	A
20400025	Satisfaction at Work Survey 1998	NGOV		Research	600	UK	AH
22500003	Scottish Innovation Activity	SE		Manufacture	3,050	S	AH
22500005	(Provisional) ICT Benchmarking Study for Scotland	SE		Research	300	S	A
23300034	Farmland Rent Survey	SOAF		Farming	1,100	S	A
23800079	Financial Assistance to the Fish Catching Sector	SOID		Business serv.	75	S	AH
24800005	Welsh Development Agency North Division Image Study	WDA		Admin.	6,000	N	A
26000183	Career Development Loans: Training Provider Survey	DFEE		Finance	730	UK	Y4

Household and Individual Surveys

13400122	Research and Development in the NHS - Consumer Involvement in the Ident.	DH		Health	1,600	N	AH
13400123	Prescription Fraud: Point of Dispensing Checks Creative Development Res.	DH		Health	106	E	AH
13900382	Potential for Transfers of Short Trips to Non-Car Modes	DETR		Transport	2,500	E	AH
14400205	*Survey of Users and Non-Users of the Internet as part of the Review	DTI		Computing	6,000	GB	AH
14500311	Evaluation of Computer Simulations in Child Pedestrian Training	DETR		Child	360	S	AH
14500312	Local Authority Roadside Emissions Test: Stopped Vehicle Survey	DETR		Vehicles	500	ES	AH
14500313	Local Authority Roadside Emissions Test: Public Survey	DETR		Vehicles	7,000	ES	AH
14500314	Road Safety Campaign Tracking	DETR		Admin.	2,400	UK	M
26000182	Higher Level Basic Skills Pilots: Follow-Up Survey	DFEE		Adult	300	E	AH

Amendments to Surveys Assessed in July to September 1998

14400196	Illegal Activity on the Internet	DTI		Computing		UK	AH
17900224	*Evaluation of the MAFF-funded Research Prog. on Crop Molecular Genetic	MAFF		Farming	60	EA	AH

Abbreviation

C&E - Customs and Excise
 COI - Central Office of Information
 ONS - Office for National Statistics
 DETR - Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions
 DFEE - Department for Education and Employment
 DH- Department of Health
 DTI - Department of Trade and Industry
 ES- Employment Service
 HSE - Health and Safety Executive
 IR- Inland Revenue
 MAFF - Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries And Food
 NGOV - Non-Government
 SE- Scottish Enterprise
 SOAF - Scottish Office Agriculture and Forestry Department
 SOID - Scottish Office Industry Department
 WDA - Welsh Development Agency

Fr - Frequency

A - Annual
 AH - Ad Hoc
 C - Continuous
 Q - Quarterly
 Y2 - Every 2 Years
 HY - Half Yearly

Loc - Location

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

* Assessed by Survey Control Liaison Officer

SURVEY CONTROL UNIT

In accordance with survey control procedures, most regular surveys of business or local authorities are subject to thorough review at least every five years. Surveys conducted more frequently than annually are reviewed every three years. Information required on these reviews can be obtained from the contact below.

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 Survival Trends in England and Wales 1971-1995

Price £130, ISBN 0 11 621031 1

Trends over twenty years for almost sixty different cancers among adults and children in the eight English NHS regions and Wales.

Focus on London 1999

Price £45, ISBN 0 11 621159 8

Statistical analysis of London's economy and society, produced jointly with the London Research Centre and the Government Office for London. Includes free CD-ROM.

International Migration 1997, MN no. 24

Price £30, ISBN 0 11 621166 0

Estimates of the flows of international migrants to and from the United Kingdom during the last ten years.

Key Population and Vital Statistics 1997, VS no. 24/PPI no. 20

Price £30, ISBN 0 11 621167 9

Key statistics for local and health authorities in England and Wales about population, births, deaths and migration. *(To be published in May.)*

Mid-1996 National Population Projections, PP2 no. 21

Price £30, ISBN 0 11 621160 1

Detailed population projections for the United Kingdom and constituent counties, based on the estimated population in mid-1996, produced in conjunction with the Government Actuary's Department. *(To be published in May.)*

Mortality Statistics: childhood, infant and perinatal 1997, DH3 no. 30

Price £35, ISBN 0 11 621165 2

Annual statistics on stillbirths, childhood and infant deaths in England and Wales in 1997.

Population Trends No. 95 – Spring 1999

Price £20, ISBN 0 11 621115 6

Includes articles on:

- New estimates and projections of the population co-habiting in England and Wales;
- Divorce and remarriage in England and Wales;
- 1996-based population projections by legal marital status for England and Wales;
- Changes in fertility and family sizes in Europe;
- The health and socio-economic circumstances of British lone mothers over the last two decades.

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**

Contraception and Sexual Health 1997

Price £10, ISBN 1 85774 312 1

Research on contraception use and awareness produced as part of the ONS Omnibus Survey.

The ESRC review of government social classifications

Price £20, ISBN 1 85774 291 5

Description and explanation of the new government social classification designed to

replace Social Class based on Occupational and Socio-economic Groups in 2001.

The National Congenital Anomaly System

Free, ISBN 1 85774 308 3

A handbook introducing the National Congenital Anomaly System, guidance about reporting congenital anomalies for data suppliers and information about surveillance for health authorities.

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

STATISTICAL BULLETINS

All free, annual and relating to England only, unless otherwise stated.

Public Health

- Sun Exposure: Adults' Behaviour and Knowledge 1998/3
- Statistics from the Regional Drugs Misuse Databases for the six months ending 31 March 1998 (formerly Drugs Misuse Statistics) (*six monthly*) 1999/7
- Statistics on smoking (*occasional*) 1998/25

Health Care

- Statistics of prescriptions dispensed in the community 1998/24
- General pharmaceutical services 1998/30
- Community pharmacies, England and Wales (*six monthly*) 1998/23, 1999/1
- Ophthalmic statistics for England 1998/32
- Cervical screening programme 1999/2
- Breast screening programme 1998/10
- NHS Immunisation statistics 1998/38
- NHS Maternity statistics, England 1997/28
- NHS Contraceptive services 1999/5
- NHS hospital activity statistics: England 1987-88 to 1997-98 1998/31
- Elective admissions and patients waiting: England at 31 March 1998 1998/20
- Waiting times for first outpatient appointments in England (quarterly) 1998/36, 1999/4
- Ambulance services, England 1998/26
- Private hospitals, homes and clinics registered under the Registered Homes Act 1984, England, 1997 1998/14
- Inpatients formally detained in hospital under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation, England: 1992-93 to 1997-98 1998/34

Social Care

- Community care statistics: day and domiciliary personal social services for adults 1998/13
- Community care statistics: residential personal social services for adults 1998/37
- Children looked after in England 1998/33
- Supervision orders year ending 31 March 1998 1999/3
- Children accommodated in secure units year ending 31 March 1998 1999/6

Workforce

- Statistics for general medical practitioners in England 1987-97 1998/16
- Hospital, public health medicine and community health services medical and dental staff 1987-97 1998/35
- NHS hospital and community health services non-medical staff 1987-97 1998/15
- Personal social services staff of Social Services Departments at 30 September 1998: England 1999/8

Expenditure

- Personal social services: current and capital expenditure in England: 1996-1997 1998/22

Copies of the above are available from:

Department of Health
PO Box 410
Wetherby, LS23 7LN
Tel: 0541 555455

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

All annual and relating to England unless otherwise stated.

Compendium Publication

Health and Personal Social Service Statistics for England: 1998 edition

The Stationery Office
Price £16.95, ISBN 0 11 322261 0

Public Health

The NHS Performance Guide

Indicators Of The Nation's Health

Health Survey for England 1991

The Stationery Office
Price £27.50, ISBN 0 11 691532 3

Health Survey for England 1992

The Stationery Office
Price £27.50, ISBN 0 11 691569 2

Health Survey for England 1993

The Stationery Office
Price £38, ISBN 0 11 691614

Health Survey for England 1994

The Stationery Office
Price £40, ISBN 0 11 321895

Health Survey for England 1995

The Stationery Office
Price £60, ISBN 0 11 322021 9

Health Survey for England 1996

The Stationery Office
Price £60, ISBN 0 11 322091

Health Survey for England 1997: The Health of Young People

The Stationery Office
Price £70 (two volumes), ISBN 0 11 322266 1

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

Morbidity

Asthma

The Stationery Office
Price £11, ISBN 0 11 321667

Coronary Heart Disease

The Stationery Office
Price £11, ISBN 0 11 321667

Stroke

The Stationery Office
Price £11, ISBN 0 11 321668

Health of Elderly People

The Stationery Office
Price £10.30, ISBN 0 11 321485

Elderly people companion papers

The Stationery Office
Price £6, ISBN 0 11 321486 3

Health Related Behaviour: an epidemiological overview

The Stationery Office
Price £13.99, ISBN 0 11 321976 8

Primary and Community Care

- Sight tests volume and workforce survey 1996-97 (*annual report*)
- NHS Spectacle Voucher Scheme - results of 1997 survey
- Prescription Cost Analysis - prescription items dispensed in England and listed alphabetically within therapeutic class
- Maternity services - midwife clinics and domiciliary visits
- District nurses activity
- Psychiatric nurses activity
- Learning disability nurses activity (*formerly mental handicap nurses activity*)
- Specialist care nurses activity
- Chiropody services
- Clinical psychology services
- Occupational therapy services
- Physiotherapy services
- Speech and language therapy services
- Professional Advice and Support Programmes (*formerly health visitor activity*)

Hospitals

- NHS Quarterly Review - insert to the NHS magazine
- Hospital Episode statistics:
 - Vol 1: Finished Consultant episodes by diagnosis and operative procedure; injury/poisoning by external causes;
 - Vol 2: Finished Consultant episodes: administrative tables;
 - Vol 3: Finished Consultant episodes: waiting times;
 - CD-ROM: Hospital episode statistics, England.
- Hospital Waiting List statistics: England (*quarterly, price £10, ISBN 1 84182 003 2*)
- Hospital Waiting List statistics: England (*Resident based*) (*quarterly, price £8, ISBN 1 84182 004 0*)
- Ordinary and day case admissions, England: 1997-98 (*price £7, ISBN 1 85839 958 0*)
- Bed availability and occupancy, England 1997-1998 (*price £9, ISBN 1 85839 956 4*)
- Imaging and radio diagnostics, 1997-1998 (*ISBN 1 85839 966 1*)
- Waiting times for first outpatient appointments in England: Detailed statistics (*quarterly, price £11, ISBN 1 84182 000 8*)
- Outpatients and ward attenders 1997-98 (*price £9*)
- NHS day care facilities 1997-1998 (*ISBN 1 85839 957 2*)
- Handling complaints: monitoring the NHS complaints procedures, 1997-1998 (*price £6, ISBN 85839 976 9*)
- Inpatients formally detained in hospitals under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation: NHS trusts, high security hospitals and private facilities: 1997-1998 (*ISBN 1 85839 995 5*)

Social Care

- Key indicators of Local Authority Social Services – graphical presentation package on CD-Rom only (*updated at least twice a year*) (*price £20*)

- Key statistics of Personal Social Services for year ending March 1998 and budgets for 1998-99
- Children looked after by Local Authorities
- Children and Young People on Child Protection Registers (*price £8, ISBN 1 85839 967 X*)
- Children's homes (*Triennial*)
- 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.) (*price £6.80, ISBN 0 10 128782 8*)
- Community care statistics: residential personal social services for adults; detailed statistics on residential and nursing care homes and Local Authority supported residents
- Community care statistics: day and domiciliary personal social services for adults; detailed statistics
- Registered blind and partially sighted people (*Triennial*)
- People registered as deaf or hard of hearing (*Triennial*)
- Guardianship under the Mental Health Act 1983, England 1998
- 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 (*The Stationery Office*)
- Annual statement under section 17(2) of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970: Separation of younger patients from older patients in hospitals (*The Stationery Office*)
- 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 (*The Stationery Office*)

Workforce

- NHS hospital and community health services non-medical workforce census, England: September 1997 (*price £15, ISBN 1 85839 926 2*)
- NHS hospital, public health medicine and community health services medical and dental workforce census, England: 30 September 1997 (*price £15, ISBN 1 85839 993 9*)
- Statistics for General Medical Services in England and Wales: 1 October 1997 (*price £15*)

Expenditure

- Personal Social Services: A Historical Profile of Reported Current and Capital expenditure 1983-1984 to 1993-1994

Most of the above publications are available from:

Department of Health
PO Box 410
Wetherby
North Yorkshire, LS23 7LN
Tel: 0541 555455
Fax: 0990 210266

The Stationery Office publications are available from:

The Stationery Office Publications Centre
PO Box 276
London, SW8 5DT
Tel: 0171 873 9090
Fax: 0171 873 8200
www.official-documents.co.uk

**OFFICE OF MANPOWER ECONOMICS
REPORTS**

**Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists'
Remuneration, Twenty-Eighth Report 1999**

(Cm 4243)

The Stationery Office, price £14.30

The twenty-eighth report by the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration (Chairman, C. B. Gough) was published in February 1999. The Report recommends on remuneration for the year beginning 1st April 1999 for doctors and dentists in the National Health Service.

Details of the recommendations for 1999-2000 are in Appendix A of the report. The Review Body's main recommendations on remuneration were an increase of 3.5 per cent for hospital and public health doctors, salaried dentists, general medical practitioners (GMPs) and general dental practitioners (GDPs), although the baseline from which GDPs' gross fees were increased excluded the additional 0.9 per cent recommended by the Review Body last year. In addition the Review Body recommended an additional £500 on the maximum of consultants' pay scales and an additional £50 million to be annually available to recognise the increased workload, contribution to the NHS and intensity of work of individual consultants. This sum should begin to be available from 2000-01 onwards and followed studies commissioned from management consultants KPMG and the research organisation MORI.

**Review Body on Armed Forces Pay, Twenty-
Eighth Report, 1999**

(Cm 4242)

The Stationery Office, price £7.30

The twenty-eighth report by the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body (Chairman, Sir Gordon Hourston) was published in February 1999. It shows recommended pay rates, together with recommended accommodation and food charges for Service ranks up to and including Brigadier (and equivalent), to apply from 1st April 1999. The Review Body recommended that with effect from 1st April 1999, the basic daily military salary for main ranks should be increased by 3.5 per cent, with the exception of Privates and Lance Corporals (and equivalents) who should receive 3.6 per cent, Lieutenants and Captains (and equivalents) who should receive 3.7 per cent, and Brigadiers (and equivalents) who should receive 3.3 per cent.

The recommended rates of Military Salary (using Army Ranks) are in Chapter 3 with pay scales for certain special groups in Appendix 3. Additional pay and allowances are covered in Chapter 3 and Appendix 4. Accommodation and food charges are given in Chapter 4.

A supplement to the main report, covering the pay of Service Medical and Dental Officers, will be published later in 1999.

**Review Body on Senior Salaries, Report No.
41, Twenty-First Report on Senior Salaries**

(Cm 4245)

The Stationery Office, price £7.30

The twenty-first report by the Review Body on Senior Salaries (chaired by Sir Michael Perry) was published in February 1999. This makes recommendations on the salaries of around 4,800 senior public servants, in the civil service, the senior ranks of the armed forces and the judiciary.

The Senior Civil Service

The Review Body continued to monitor the overall operation of the pay system, which has now been in place for three years, to ensure the aims of the system were met, in that it is, and is seen to be, fair and transparent; the remuneration of individuals is consistent with the Government's equal opportunities policy; and that there is adequate cohesion between departments. In particular, it looked at salary progression in relation to performance, and correlation between salaries and job weight. The Review Body recommended an increase of 2.8 per cent to the minima and maxima of the nine pay bands from 1st April 1999, although the actual increases for individuals would be based on performance and be determined by departments.

The Armed Forces

In 1997 and 1998 the Review Body recommended changes to the pay system for senior officers with a view to achieving, over time, a closer link between job weight, pay and performance. This year it was recommended that individual pay awards for the majority of officers be uprated by 3.3 per cent from 1st April 1999.

The Judiciary

The Review Body recommended that judicial salaries be uprated by 3.5 per cent as from 1st April 1999. This year, at the request of the Lord Chancellor, a one-off review of the fee structure for part-time judicial and tribunal posts was undertaken, and this is also included in the report.

Review Body for Nursing Staff, Midwives, Health Visitors and Professions Allied to Medicine, Sixteenth Report on Professions Allied to Medicine 1999

(Cm 4241)

The Stationery Office, price £11.20

The sixteenth report on Professions Allied to Medicine by the Review Body for Nursing Staff, Midwives, Health Visitors and Professions Allied to Medicine (Chairman, Professor Clive Booth) was published in February 1999. The Review Body recommended an increase of 4.7 per cent over the 1998-99 national salary scales (the new rates are shown in Appendix A together with equivalent levels for 1st April 1998). In addition, it recommended raising the current national flat rate elements of London allowances by 15.4 per cent over the 1995 rates and national on-call and standby payments by 18.9 per cent over the 1994 rates (Appendix B sets out these new levels of payment).

This year, particular attention was given to starting salaries where there seemed to be the most significant recruitment and retention problems. The minimum starting salary for Basic Grade PAMs with three years' training will rise by 8.7 per cent as a result of the Review Body's recommendations. For PAMs in the Basic Grade with four years' training the minimum starting salary will rise by 8.6 per cent. The Review Body was also concerned about retention problems higher up the PAMs grading structure, and they therefore recommended an additional increment for staff at the top of the Basic Grade and Senior I and Chief/Head/Superintendent I grade.

Appendix C shows the number of staff and outline details of the paybill are shown in Appendix D. Appendix E contains results from a workforce survey of PAM staff employed in the NHS, carried out by the OME. Details are given of leavers and joiners in Great Britain, together with a comparison with the results of the previous year's survey. Results are given by occupation and by area of work, in total and within country, region and London weighting zone. Appendix F summarises the case studies

looking at recruitment and retention issues within 25 NHS Trusts which were carried out by Industrial Relations Services Research on behalf of the Review Body.

Review Body for Nursing Staff, Midwives, Health Visitors and Professions Allied to Medicine, Sixteenth Report on Nursing Staff, Midwives and Health Visitors 1999

(Cm 4240)

The Stationery Office, price £12.15

The sixteenth report on Nursing Staff, Midwives and Health Visitors by the Review Body for Nursing Staff, Midwives, Health Visitors and Professions Allied to Medicine (Chairman, Professor Clive Booth) was published in February 1999. The Review Body recommended an increase of 4.7 per cent over the 1998-99 national salary scales (the new rates are shown in Appendix A together with equivalent levels for 1st April 1998). In addition, it recommended raising the current national flat rate elements of London allowances by 15.4 per cent over the 1995 rates and national on-call and standby payments by 18.9 per cent over the 1994 rates (Appendix B sets out these new levels of payment).

This year, particular attention was given to starting salaries where there seemed to be the most significant recruitment and retention problems. The minimum starting salary for Grade D nursing staff will rise by 12 per cent as a result of the Review Body's recommendations, with an extra increment at the top of the Grade D pay scale.

Appendix C shows the number of staff and outline details of the paybill are shown in Appendix D. Appendix E contains results from a workforce survey of nursing staff employed in the NHS, carried out by the OME. Details are given

of leavers and joiners in Great Britain, together with a comparison with the results of the previous year's survey. Results are given by occupation and by area of work, in total and within country, region and London weighting zone. Appendix F summarises the case studies looking at recruitment and retention issues within 25 NHS Trusts which were carried out by Industrial Relations Services Research on behalf of the Review Body.

School Teachers' Review Body, Eighth Report, 1999

(Cm 4244)

The Stationery Office, price £13

The eighth report by the School Teachers' Review Body (Chairman, Tony Vineall) was published in February 1999. The Review Body recommended that the value of the pay spines for teachers in maintained schools in England and Wales should be increased by 3.5 per cent from 1st April 1999. The current and recommended pay levels for teachers are set out in Appendix C of the report.

Following a review of the pay arrangement for heads and deputies, the Review Body also recommended that head teachers pay should be restructured with effect from the 1 September 1999. The new recommended pay spine is shown in Appendix C and the impact of the proposed restructuring in mainstream schools is set out in Appendix D.

Appendix E collates statistics about teachers from a range of sources, including key results from a sample survey carried out by the Review Body. The survey collected information from 1,700 schools on the distribution of teachers on the pay spines, the use made of the pay flexibilities and discretions in the pay structure and the operation of pay review procedures for heads and deputies.

The report also contains information from another sample survey, carried out by the Review Body for the first time this year, which collected information on the number and nature of vacancies in schools and the number of applications received for posts that were advertised.

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

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

NEW PUBLICATION

Agriculture In The United Kingdom: 1998

The Stationery Office
Price £15, ISBN 0 11 243049 X

Agriculture in the United Kingdom 1998 is the eleventh 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 1999/2000.

Also available free of charge on the MAFF web site.

REGULAR REPORTS

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 MAFF web site.

Basic Horticultural Statistics (Annual)

Annual area, yield, production and supplies statistics for all the main fruit and vegetables covering the last 10 years. These are available free of charge and are also on the MAFF web site.

Enquiries 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

The following Statistical Notices are available free of charge on the MAFF web site at www.maff.gov.uk. Where a telephone number is shown this Statistical Notice is available through Faxback. Other Statistical Notices will be put on

Faxback at the time of the next release. To obtain a faxback copy, dial the number next to the required item (calls charged at 50p/minute).

The time taken to transmit the information will depend on your fax machine, but four pages of information should take about two minutes. If you have problems using this service you can call the Helpline on 0870 440100 (standard rate).

Details of what is currently available and a list of publication dates for the coming year are available on the MAFF web site and via Faxback on 0870 444 0200 for commodity statistics and 0870 444 0201 for farming statistics (calls charged at standard rate). If you do not have access to the web site or a fax machine, contact the address listed under the relevant heading.

Farm Surveys

Statistical Notice	Faxback Number
● June Census - England (<i>Annual</i>) – Complete Statistical News Release	0906 711 0300
● June Census - England – Summary 1 - Land use and Crops	0906 711 0301
● June Census - England – Summary 2 - Livestock	0906 711 0302
● June Census - England – Summary 3 - Horticulture and Glasshouse	0906 711 0303
● June Census - UK (<i>Annual</i>) – Complete Statistical News Release	0906 711 0305
● June Census - England – Summary 1 - Land use and Crops	0906 711 0306
● June Census - England – Summary 2 - Livestock	0906 711 0307
● June Census - England – Summary 3 - Horticulture and Glasshouse	0906 711 0308
● Cereals Production Survey (<i>Biannual</i>)	0906 711 0311
● December Survey of Agriculture - England (<i>Annual</i>)	0906 711 0313
● December Survey of Agriculture - UK (<i>Annual</i>)	
● December Survey of Agriculture - UK Pigs (Provisional) (<i>Annual</i>)	0906 711 0315
● Cereals Stocks Survey (<i>Quarterly</i>)	0906 711 0318
● Dried Pea and Bean Survey (<i>Annual</i>)	
● Earnings and Hours Survey (<i>Annual</i>)	0906 711 0310
● Farmed Deer Survey (<i>Irregular</i>)	
● Glasshouse Crops Survey (<i>Annual</i>)	
● Grain Fed to Livestock Survey (<i>Monthly</i>)	0906 711 0320
● Irrigation of Outdoor Crops (<i>Irregular</i>)	
● Minor Crops Survey (<i>Annual</i>)	0906 711 0325
● Oilseed Rape Production Survey (<i>Biannual</i>)	0906 711 0327
● Orchard Fruit Survey (<i>Annual</i>)	
● Tenanted Land Survey (<i>Annual</i>)	
● Vegetables and Flowers Survey (<i>Annual</i>)	

For further information contact:

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

Statistical Notice

Faxback Number

- Provisional estimates of UK farm incomes and output in 1998 0906 711 0397
- Forecast of total income from farming (*end of November*)
- Autumn review of hill farms in the UK: Farm income forecasts for 1998/99
- Summary of returns made by bacon factories in Great Britain 0906 711 0351
- Quarterly supplies and total for domestic usage of meat in the UK
- UK poultry and poultrymeat (*monthly*) 0906 711 0357
- UK slaughter statistics 0906 711 0360
- Utilisation of milk by dairies in England and Wales 0906 711 0366
- Production of processed milk in the UK
- Summary of UK milk prices 0906 711 0364
- UK egg market (*monthly*) 0906 711 0370
- Wheat milled and flour production - UK 0906 711 0374
- Wheat milled and flour production - Regional summary 0906 711 0375
- Stocks of cereals held at ports and by agricultural co-operatives 0906 711 0376
- Brewers, distillers and maltsters usage and stocks - UK 0906 711 0377
- 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 0906 711 0380
- 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
- Animal Feedingstuffs 0906 711 0384
- Animal Feedingstuffs - summary statistics 0906 711 0385
- Stocks of selected products, in public cold stores 0906 711 0393
- National Food Survey News Release 0906 711 0395

For further information contact:

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. Also available free of charge on the MAFF web site.

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. Also available free of charge on the MAFF web site.

Small Area Statistics: Results of the June 1997 Agricultural and Horticultural Census 1988 to 1997, by Parish Groups, Agricultural Districts and Local Government Districts. Charges will be made for Small Area Statistics where the order exceeds £40 in total.

Additional data from the *June Agricultural and Horticultural Census* are available on an ad-hoc basis to suit individual requirements. There will be a charge for this service based on staff time. Enquiries to the address below or tel: 01904 455312.

The above are available 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

MAFF web site: www.maff.gov.uk

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

New Publications

Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture 1998

Price £14, ISBN 1 85527 395 0

A wide range of economic and physical data which present a comprehensive picture of Northern Ireland agriculture in 1998 - contains statistics on the quantities and prices of outputs and inputs, on aggregate gross margins, payments of subsidies and grants, quotas and subsidy ceilings and capital investment, land use, crop areas, livestock numbers, the size and types of farms, employment on farms and in the food processing and input supply sectors, and incomes at farm level.

Farm Incomes in Northern Ireland, 1997/98

Price, £14, ISBN 1 85527 394 2

Financial information for the main types of farm business in 1996/97 and 1997/98 - contains information on costs, returns, incomes, subsidies, borrowings and investments, enterprise gross margins and fixed costs for farms in the Farm Business Survey.

Available from:

Economics and Statistics Division
Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland
Room 817, Dundonald House
Belfast, BT4 3SB.
Tel: 01232 524594
Fax: 01232 524676
E-mail blinnia.cunningham@dani.gov.uk

Alternatively, an electronic order form is available on the DANI website:

www.nics.gov.uk/danihome.htm

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION NORTHERN IRELAND

Press Releases

- Students gaining Higher Education qualifications: Northern Ireland 1997/98

Available free of charge 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

New Bulletins

Northern Ireland Housing and Construction Bulletin (1 July - 30 September 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 Road and Rail Transport
Statistics Bulletin (1 July - 30 September
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.

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 540800/1
Fax: 01232 540782
E-mail: csrb.doe@nics.gov.uk

**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

New Publication

Women in Northern Ireland

Price: Free

The booklet contains key facts and figures about women in Northern Ireland. It covers the areas of employment, unemployment, economic inactivity, education, childcare provision and representation in public life. Comparative data for Great Britain is also provided, together with trends over time.

Available from:

Department of Economic Development
Statistics Research Branch
Netherleigh
Massey Avenue
Belfast, BT4 2JP
E-mail: paul.brush@dedni.gov.uk

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL
SERVICES**

New Publications

**Hospital Statistics: 1 April 1997 to 31 March
1998**

Price: Free

**Community Statistics: 1 April 1997 to 31
March 1998**

Price: Free

Available from:

Regional Information Branch
Annexe 2
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast, BT4 3UD
Tel: 01232 522800
Fax: 01232 523288

NORTHERN IRELAND

SURVEY CONTROL UNIT JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 1999

*For further information about the surveys listed, 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
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Surveys to Business

Action 2000 – State of the Nations Wave 4 Enhanced Northern Ireland Regions	DED	Manufacturing Businesses	200	AH
Millennium Review of Scientific Services	DED	Northern Ireland Industry	700	AH
Evaluation of the Complete Programme	DED	Companies who received support under COMPETE	420	AH
Customer Satisfaction Survey	NISRA	External Users of NISRA's Services	80	R

Surveys to Households and Individuals

NIHE Telephone Surveys of Grants Offices (three year)	DoE/NIHE	Grant Applicants	200	AH
Year 12 Pupil Attitudes	DENI	Year 12 Pupils	3,650	AH
Participation in the Criminal Justice System	NIO	Adults	2,050	AH

Abbreviations

Departments	DED	Department of Economic Development
	DENI	Department of Education for Northern Ireland
	DoE	Department of the Environment
	NIHE	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
	NIO	Northern Ireland Office
	NISRA	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Frequency	AH	Ad Hoc
	R	Regular

Location All surveys were carried out in Northern Ireland.

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE FOR SCOTLAND

Forthcoming publications

Mid – 1998 Population Estimates Scotland – Summary

Will be published in April.

1999 Electoral Statistics Scotland

Will be published in April.

Mid – 1998 Population Estimates Scotland – Booklet

Will be published in May.

For further information contact:

Carole Welch
Customer Services
Population Statistics Branch
Room 1/2/9
Ladywell House
Ladywell Road
Edinburgh, EH12 7TF
Tel: 0131 314 4243
Fax: 0131 314 4344

THE SCOTTISH OFFICE EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT EDUCATION STATISTICS DIVISION

News Release

Incidents of Violence Against School Staff

Following concerns in recent years relating to discipline in schools, suggestions were made by

teachers' representatives and others that procedures for reporting, recording and monitoring incidents of violence against school staff should be introduced across Scotland. The Scottish Office shared these views, and in 1997 released guidance to education authorities on how this might be achieved.

In Summer 1998, Education Statistics (Schools) consulted with policy colleagues, data providers and partners within the education system to consider information needs and data availability. The first survey of summary information was conducted in Autumn 1998, for the academic year 1997-98, with provisional results published for Scotland in February 1999.

In the first year, a full response was not achieved for various reasons, but the information on incidents represented 80 per cent of all pupils in Scotland. No estimates were inputted for non-response, because of the absence of historical data. The information collected was based on individual incidents, rather than information on the number of individual members of staff involved in at least one incident. The principal findings were:

- During 1997-98, the total number of violent incidents reported against Education Authority school staff was 743, of which almost half occurred within the primary sector. Around 15 per cent of all such incidents were notified to the police.
- Almost all of the incidents of violence reported in secondary schools involved violence against teaching staff.
- The total number of violent incidents recorded per 100,000 pupils was 121.
- Around 70 per cent of those incidents were recorded as occurring in school hours, with three-fifths taking place in classrooms.

- Those incidents reported against schools staff were roughly split between verbal abuse or physical violence, with only a small number involving damage to personal property.
- In approximately four-fifths of all incidents reported, the perpetrator was a current pupil of the school. In around 12 per cent of incidents, the perpetrator was recorded as a parent.
- In total, 62 working days were lost by school staff as a direct result of the 743 incidents of violence that were reported in 1997-98.

The release of this information obtained wide coverage within the media, particularly television news in Scotland and was welcomed from all corners of the education system.

Similar information is currently being recorded for 1998-99. However, the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department is currently reviewing its needs and will continue to consult with partners regarding their own needs and availability of data. It has been proposed that more information will be available via the National Management Information Systems Project, which is currently considering the electronic interchange of information between partners within the Scottish Education System.

Further information and copies of the bulletin can be obtained from:

Brenda McClelland
 Education Statistics Division
 The Scottish Office
 1-A Victoria Quay
 Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ
 Tel: 0131 244 0315
 Fax: 0131 244 0354
 E-mail: Brenda.McClelland@scotland.gov.uk

The full news release is available on the Scottish Office Web site.

Statistical Bulletin

Participation in Education by 16-21 Year Olds in Scotland: 1986-87 to 1996-97

The Stationery Office, December 1998
 Price £2, ISBN 0 7480 7231 4

Participation in Education by 16-21 Year Olds in Scotland: 1986-87 to 1996-97 provides information about the number of 16-21 year olds in Scotland in the academic sessions 1986-87 and 1992-93 to 1996-97, who participated in some form of formal education after reaching the minimum school leaving age. It is the second in a series and updates bulletin *Edn/C3/1997/10*, published in November 1997, which reported statistics up to 1995-96. It is planned that the third bulletin in the series will be published in the summer of 1999.

The main points contained within this bulletin include the following:

- In 1996-97, 48.3 per cent of 16-21 year olds were participating in some form of full-time education compared with 26.4 per cent in 1986-87.
- The proportion of 16-18 year olds at school increased from 24.7 per cent in 1986-87 to 37.2 per cent in 1996-97, and the proportion in full-time further education increased from 5.7 per cent to 9.3 per cent.
- The proportion of 18-21 year olds in full-time higher education increased from 14.8 per cent in 1986-87 to 34.2 per cent in 1996-97.
- The proportion of 16 year olds in full-time education increased from 56.5 per cent in 1986-87 to 77.0 per cent in 1996-97, with most of this increase accounted for by the

FE sector. The total proportion in part-time education was 11.2 per cent in 1996-97, this is below the 1986-87 figure of 15.2 per cent.

Further information and copies of the bulletin can be obtained from:

John Taylor
Education Statistics Division
The Scottish Office
1-A Victoria Quay
Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ
Tel: 0131 244 0304
Fax: 0131 244 0354
E-mail: John.Taylor@scotland.gov.uk

The bulletin can be found on the Scottish Office Web site or may be purchased from The Stationery Office.

Scottish Statistics 1998

The Scottish Statistics 1998 leaflet was published on 8th March 1999, and is available free of charge from the address shown below or from the Scottish Office Web site. It contains tables, organised by the GSS pillars, on topics including Population and Migration, Education and Training, the Economy, Environment and many others.

Further information can be obtained from:

David Burman
Central Statistics Unit
The Scottish Office Education and Industry
Department
1B, West
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ
Tel: 0131 244 0442
Fax: 0131 244 0354
E-mail: David.Burman@scotland.gov.uk

The Scottish Statistics 1998 leaflet can be found on the Scottish Office Web site in the section titled Statistics under Scotland in Figures.

THE SCOTTISH OFFICE HOME DEPARTMENT CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION

New Publications

Criminal Proceeding in Scottish Courts, 1997

The Stationery Office, January 1999
Price £2, ISBN 0 7480 7762 6

Criminal Proceeding in Scottish Courts, 1997 contains statistics on topics such as: Persons proceeded against; Outcome of court proceedings; Types of court; Age and sex of persons with a charge proved; Sentencing; Appeals against conviction; Characteristics of individual offenders and Offending while on bail.

The main points contained within this bulletin include the following:

- In 1997, the total number of persons proceeded against in court decreased by two per cent to 172,600, continuing the gradual decline from the total of 200,900 recorded in 1991.
- There were increases of 19 per cent and three per cent respectively in the number of persons proceeded against for crimes of indecency and motor vehicle offences. Little change was recorded in the number prosecuted for miscellaneous offences while decreases were recorded in the other four crime and offence groups.
- In 1997, the number of persons proceeded against for drugs offences increased by 10

per cent to 8,200, almost three times the figure recorded in 1987.

- In 1997, 88 per cent of persons called to court had at least one charge proved against them or a plea of guilty accepted.
- The number of custodial sentences imposed in 1997 was 16,200 (down four per cent). The average length of determinate custodial sentences was 227 days, slightly below the 1996 figure of 229 days but 24 per cent higher than the 1987 average of 183 days.
- In 1997, the number of community service orders imposed was 5,700 (no change from 1996); and the number of persons given a probation order was 6,800 (up six per cent).
- In 1997, 69 per cent of all persons with a charge proved received a fine as their main penalty, compared with 79 per cent in 1987. The average fine imposed rose four per cent to £170.
- The peak age for conviction in 1997 remained at 18. Ten per cent of eighteen year old males in the Scottish population had a charge proved against them for a crime, simple assault or breach of the peace on at least one occasion during 1997, compared to one per cent of females of the same age.
- In 1997, a total of 3,300 appeals were decided. Of these, two per cent resulted in a conviction being quashed and 15 per cent in a sentence reduction.

Further information on this publication 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 the above may be purchased from The Stationery Office or can be found on the Scottish Office Web site.

THE SCOTTISH OFFICE EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT ECONOMICS ADVICE AND STATISTICS

New Statistical Bulletins

The Manufacturing Sector in Scotland 1996

The Stationery Office, February 1999
Price £2, ISSN 1456-220X

The Manufacturing Sector in Scotland 1996 contains tables on topics such as Output and Costs by Industry Group 1996; Employment and Labour Costs by Industry Group 1996; Ownership by Industry Group 1996; Scotland by Unitary Authority 1996; Scotland by Local Enterprise Company Area 1996; Scotland vs the United Kingdom 1996. The main points contained within this bulletin include the following:

- The largest sector in terms of gross output and gross value added within the manufacturing industries in Scotland in 1996 was the Electrical and Optical Engineering sector. In 1996 this industry

accounted for 30 per cent of total manufacturing gross output and 23 per cent of total gross value added.

- The highest investing industries, in terms of net capital expenditure as a percentage of gross value added, in Scotland in 1996 were the Electrical and Optical Engineering sector and the Other Mineral Products, Coke, Petroleum and Nuclear sector, both with a ratio of 18.5 per cent in 1996.
- Productivity in Scottish manufacturing, in terms of gross value added per employee, was approximately 11 per cent higher than for the UK as a whole in 1996.
- At a local authority level, South Ayrshire and Falkirk had the highest paid workforces in manufacturing, with gross wages and salaries per employee 17 per cent above the Scottish average.
- Overall, productivity was approximately 80 per cent higher in overseas-owned companies than in UK-owned companies.
- The highest proportion of manufacturing employment in overseas-owned companies was in the Electrical and Optical Engineering industry, with over 49 per cent in 1996.

Further information on the bulletin can be obtained from:

Susan Duncanson
Economics Advice and Statistics
The Scottish Office Education and Industry
Department
3rd Floor
Meridian Court
5 Cadogan Street
Glasgow, G2 6AT

Tel: 0141 242 5604

Fax: 0141 242 5455

E-mail: Susan.Duncanson@scotland.gov.uk

The Electronics Industry in Scotland

The Stationery Office, March 1999

Price £2, ISSN 1456-220X

The Electronics Industry in Scotland contains tables on topics such as Indices of Electronics and Manufacturing Output 1993-97; Employment by Electronics Groups and Total Manufacturing 1992-1996; Shares of Employment in the Scottish Electronics Industry by Country of Ownership 1992-96; Gross Value Added per Employee by Electronics Groups and Total Manufacturing 1992-96; Net Capital Expenditure by Electronics Groups and Total Manufacturing 1992-96.

The main points contained within this bulletin include the following:

- Output (at 1995 constant prices) for the Scottish electronics industry rose by 16 per cent in 1997, compared to a growth of five per cent in total manufacturing.
- The estimated number of employees (adjusted for part time workers), in Scotland, in plants classified to the electronics industry in 1996, was approximately 39,800. The share of total manufacturing employment attributable to the electronics industry fell to just under 12 per cent in 1996.
- Between 1995 and 1996, there was a fall from 48 to 42 per cent of all employment in the Scottish electronics industry which was within UK-owned plants.

- In 1996, Gross Value Added (GVA) per employee, at current prices, in the electronics industry fell by 4 per cent, compared to 1995.
- In 1996, investment, in terms of net capital expenditure by the electronics industry, accounted for 26 per cent of all investment by Scottish manufacturing industries. The industry's investment figure decreased by 31 per cent between 1995 and 1996.

Further information on the bulletin can be obtained from:

Susan Duncanson
Economics Advice and Statistics
The Scottish Office Education and Industry
Department
3rd Floor
Meridian Court
5 Cadogan Street
Glasgow, G2 6AT
Tel: 0141 242 5604
Fax: 0141 242 5455
E-mail: Susan.Duncanson@scotland.gov.uk

Copies of the bulletins may be purchased from The Stationery Office or found on the Scottish Office Web site.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT ECONOMIC ADVICE AND STATISTICS 5

New Statistical Bulletin

Joint Staffing Watch – September 1998 Report

The Joint Staffing Watch (September 1998) Report was published on 9th February 1999, and is available free from either the Scottish Office Web site or by contacting the person below.

It contains tables on topics such as the total number of staff employed in Scottish local authorities, broken down by gender, full-time/part-time status, and local authority service. It also provides detailed information on the number of FTE staff, broken down by salary band, local authority service, and local authority area. The survey is conducted on a quarterly basis (March, June, September, and December).

- The main points contained within this bulletin include the following:
- There were 234,727 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) staff employed in Scottish local authorities in September 1998.
- This was a decrease of 1,815 FTEs compared with September 1997.
- This was also 962 FTEs less than in June 1998. This quarterly change includes seasonal effects.
- The new Joint Staffing Watch survey is released jointly by The Scottish Office and the Convention Of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), and began in 1996.

Further information and copies of the report can be obtained from:

Gary Sutton
Economic Advice and Statistics 5
Development Department
Room 1-G10
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ
Tel: 0131 244 0439 (GTN 7188 40439)
Fax: 0131 244 0446 (GTN 7188 40446)
E-mail: Gary.Sutton@scotland.gov.uk

SO DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT EAS 2: TRANSPORT STATISTICS

New Statistical Bulletins

Bus and Coach Statistics: 1997-98

The Stationery Office, March 1999
Price £2, ISBN 0 7480 8085 6

Bus and Coach Statistics: 1997-98 contains tables on topics such as the distance travelled by vehicles, the number of passenger journeys, fare indices, passenger receipts, public transport support, operating costs, vehicle stock and staffing, together with some comments on points shown in the tables and some notes on the definitions and sources of the statistics, which were provided by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions.

The main points contained within this bulletin include the following:

- The distance travelled by local bus services in Scotland increased by 12 per cent between 1987-88 and 1997-98.
- The total number of passenger journeys on local bus services in Scotland fell by 32 per cent in ten years.
- In real terms, fares on local bus services in Scotland rose by 16 per cent over ten years.

Travel by Scottish residents: some National Travel Survey results

The Stationery Office, March 1999
Price £2, ISBN 0 7480 8102 X

Travel by Scottish residents: some National Travel Survey results contains tables on topics such as the average number of journeys and average distance

travelled per person per year, and the average length of journey, by mode of travel and by the purpose of the journey. It also provides information about travel patterns by age-group, by sex, by socio-economic group, by working status, by household income quintile and by whether or not the household has a car. The Bulletin provides information from the National Travel Survey (NTS) about travel within Great Britain by Scottish residents. The NTS covers a sample of households across Great Britain, and is conducted by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on behalf of the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR).

The main points contained within this bulletin include the following:

- In 1995/97, an average Scottish resident travelled around 6,700 miles per year (or about 18 miles per day) within Great Britain. This is much more than ten or twenty years earlier: since 1985/86, this average has risen by almost 2,100 miles (44 per cent); and there has been an increase of over 2,500 miles (60 per cent) since 1975/76.
- In 1995/97, cars accounted for over three quarters (78 per cent: 5,200 miles) of the total distance travelled per person. No other mode of travel accounted for more than 10 per cent: "local bus" had the next highest share (6 per cent: 400 miles).
- Shopping was the most frequent purpose of travel in 1995/97, accounting for 22 per cent of the average of over 1,000 journeys per person per year. Commuting or business purposes accounted for 20 per cent of journeys.

- Men made 6 per cent more journeys each, on average, than women. "Car driver" was the main mode of travel for men, accounting for 68 per cent of the distance they covered in 1995/97, whereas only 36 per cent of the distance travelled by women was as a car driver.

Further information on these bulletins can be obtained from:

Martin Bolt
 EAS2: Transport Statistics
 Development Department
 Area 3-F82
 Victoria Quay
 Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ
 Tel: 0131 244 7255
 Fax: 0131 244 0888
 E-mail: transtat@scotland.gov.uk

Copies of all of the above Scottish Office publications may be purchased from:

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

Or found on the Scottish Office Web site:

www.scotland.gov.uk

WELSH OFFICE

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Digest of Welsh Local Area Statistics 1999

Price £20, ISBN 0 7504 2317 X

The latest edition of this annual publication was published on 3rd March 1999. It compliments the annual *Digest of Welsh Statistics* by providing the latest available statistical information for areas within Wales.

Tables on population, vital statistics, health, education, personal social services, local government, transport and the environment give figures for the 22 unitary authority areas. Other tables on training, forestry, protective services and agriculture provide data for TEC areas, forestry districts, police force, fire brigade and agriculture statistics areas respectively.

There is also a statistical profile, as well as an infrastructure map, for each of the unitary authorities summarising key data from the tables and providing a comparison with Wales as a whole.

Digest of Welsh Statistics 1998

Price £15, ISBN 0 7504 2318 8

The latest edition of this annual publication was published on 16th December 1998. It brings together a wide range of statistical information on all aspects of life in the Principality and generally provides figures for a run of years.

Sections are included on population, vital statistics, social conditions, education, labour, production and distribution, transport and communication, finance, incomes and expenditure, and the environment and tourism. A further section provides comparative indicators for Wales, England and Scotland and another shows a more limited set of comparative data for Wales and European Union countries and regions. There are also some maps displaying different features of Wales.

Both of the above publications are available from:

Publication Unit
Statistical Directorate 5
Welsh Office
Cathays Park
Cardiff, CF1 3NQ
Tel: 01222 825044
Fax: 01222 825350
E-mail: statswales@gtnet.gov.uk

Prices include postage and packing within the UK.

Welsh Transport Statistics 1998

The latest, bilingual edition of this annual publication was published in December. 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).

1997 Road Accidents: Wales

The latest, bilingual edition of this annual publication was published in February. 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, type of casualty (e.g. pedestrian, pedal cyclist, car driver, motorcyclist), 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 set in 1987, based on 1981-85, are also made.

For further information on both of the above contact:

Brett Davis
Statistical Directorate
Welsh Office
Cathays Park
Cardiff CF1 3NQ
Tel: 01222 825058 (GTN 1208 5058)
E-mail: Brett.Davis@Wales.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 in relation to the inflation target. The *Report* starts with a short overview section; the second section investigates money and financial markets, and the following three sections examine demand and output, the labour market and pricing behaviour respectively. The concluding sections present a summary of monetary policy since the November *Report*, an assessment of medium-term inflation prospects and risks, and information about non-Bank forecasts.

QUARTERLY BULLETIN

Articles

The impact of inflation news on financial markets (by Michael Joyce of the Bank's Structural Economic Analysis Division and Vicky Read of the Bank's Foreign Exchange Division). This article examines the same-day reaction of UK asset prices to monthly RPI inflation announcements in a sample period from the early 1980s until April 1997. It is found that markets are efficient, in the sense that asset prices do not respond to the expected component of RPI announcements. Generally, only government bond prices appear sensitive to inflation news – particularly after late 1992, when the United Kingdom adopted an explicit inflation target. The responsiveness of implied medium and long-term forward inflation rates after 1992 is consistent with the 'expected inflation hypothesis', a finding that suggests that the pre-independence inflation-targeting

framework was not seen as fully credible by the financial markets. But the declining responsiveness of bond yields and implied forward inflation rates to inflation news over the period of operation of the framework suggests that its credibility improved over time.

Monetary policy rules and inflation forecasts

(by Nicoletta Batini of the Bank's Monetary Assessment and Strategy Division and Andrew Haldane of the Bank's International Finance Division). This article compares the use of simple backward-looking interest rate rules for monetary policy with policy rules that respond to forecasts of future inflation, in line with monetary policy behaviour in the real world. It appears that these forecast-based rules can better control both current and future inflation by accounting for the lags in the monetary transmission mechanism, and can ensure a suitable degree of output-smoothing. In addition, they ensure that policy is responsive to most available information. Their superior performance provides support for the practice of basing monetary policy on forecasts of inflation and output, as in the United Kingdom.

The yen/dollar exchange rate in 1998: views from options markets (by Neil Cooper and James Talbot of the Bank's Monetary Instruments and Markets Division). 1998 was a period of unprecedented volatility for the yen/dollar exchange rate. To help to assess market participants' views on exchange rate developments, the Bank of England uses a range of techniques that employ information from the over-the-counter (OTC) currency options markets. This article describes these techniques and shows how they can be used to assist our understanding of market perceptions of the yen/dollar exchange rate over this period.

Risk, cost and liquidity in alternative payment systems (by Maxwell Fry of the Bank's Centre for Central Banking Studies). In this article, Maxwell Fry, director of the CCBS, summarises one aspect of the research conducted at the CCBS as part of its first academic workshop and project. This started with a one-week academic workshop on payment and settlement issues in January 1998, attended by participants from 22 central banks as well as international experts in the subject. After the workshop, six participants - three foreign central bankers and three Bank of England staff - assembled to plan a research programme for the ensuing ten weeks. The research built on the ideas presented at the academic workshop, as well as the specific

interests of the team members. The results of the project research were first presented at a conference in March, which was co-hosted by the CCBS and ESRC-supported Money, Macro and Finance Research Group. The project output also formed the basis for a report prepared for the Bank's 1998 Central Bank Governors' Symposium in June. Routledge will publish the final project output in April 1999.

For more information contact:

Bank of England Publications Group

Tel: 0171 601 4030

Fax: 0171 601 5196

E-mail: mapublications@bankofengland.co.uk

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- Rational Choice Models
- Structural Equation Models
- Network Analysis
- Interviewing Techniques
- Discourse Analysis
- Comparative Research
- European Data Resources
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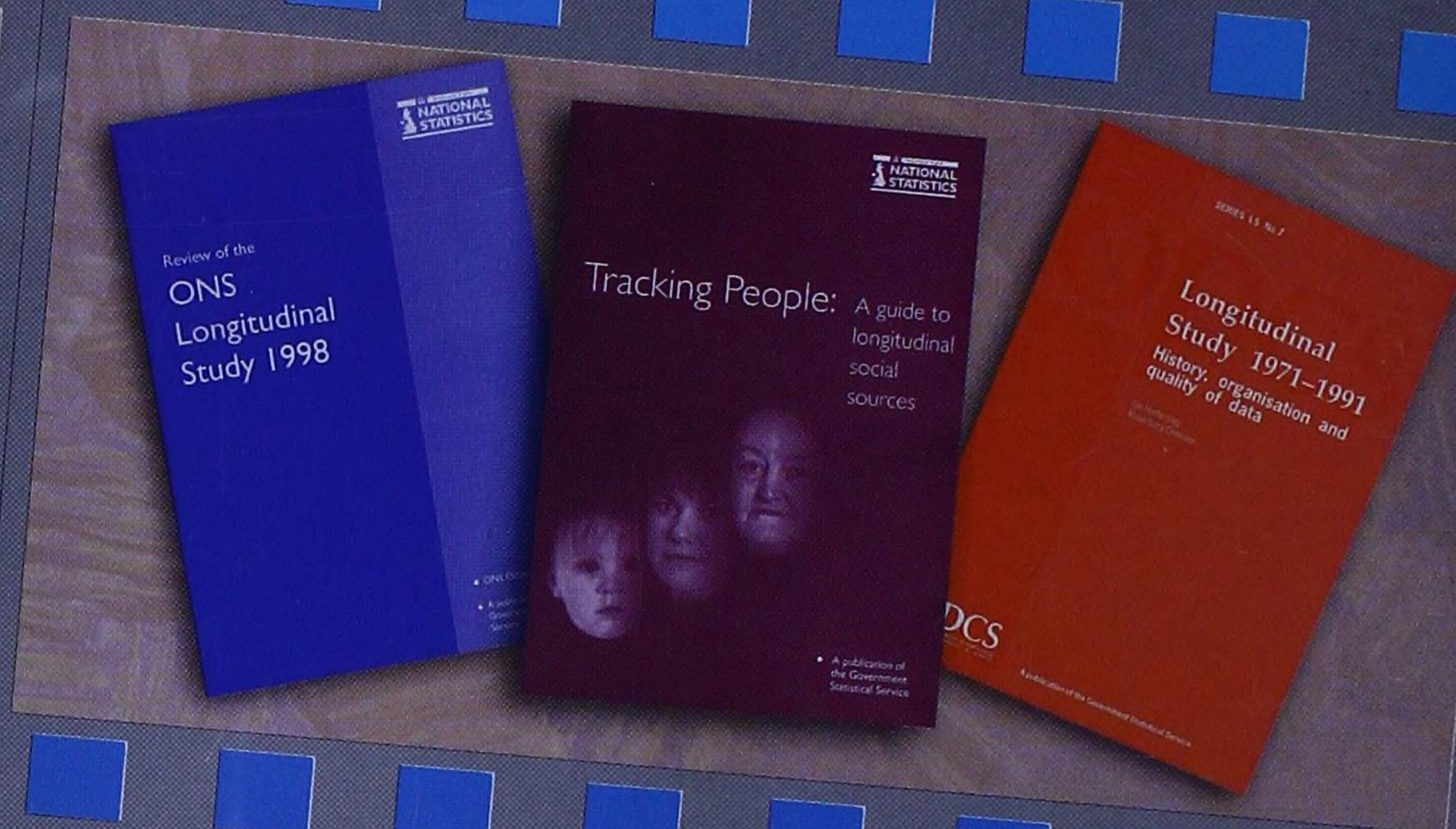
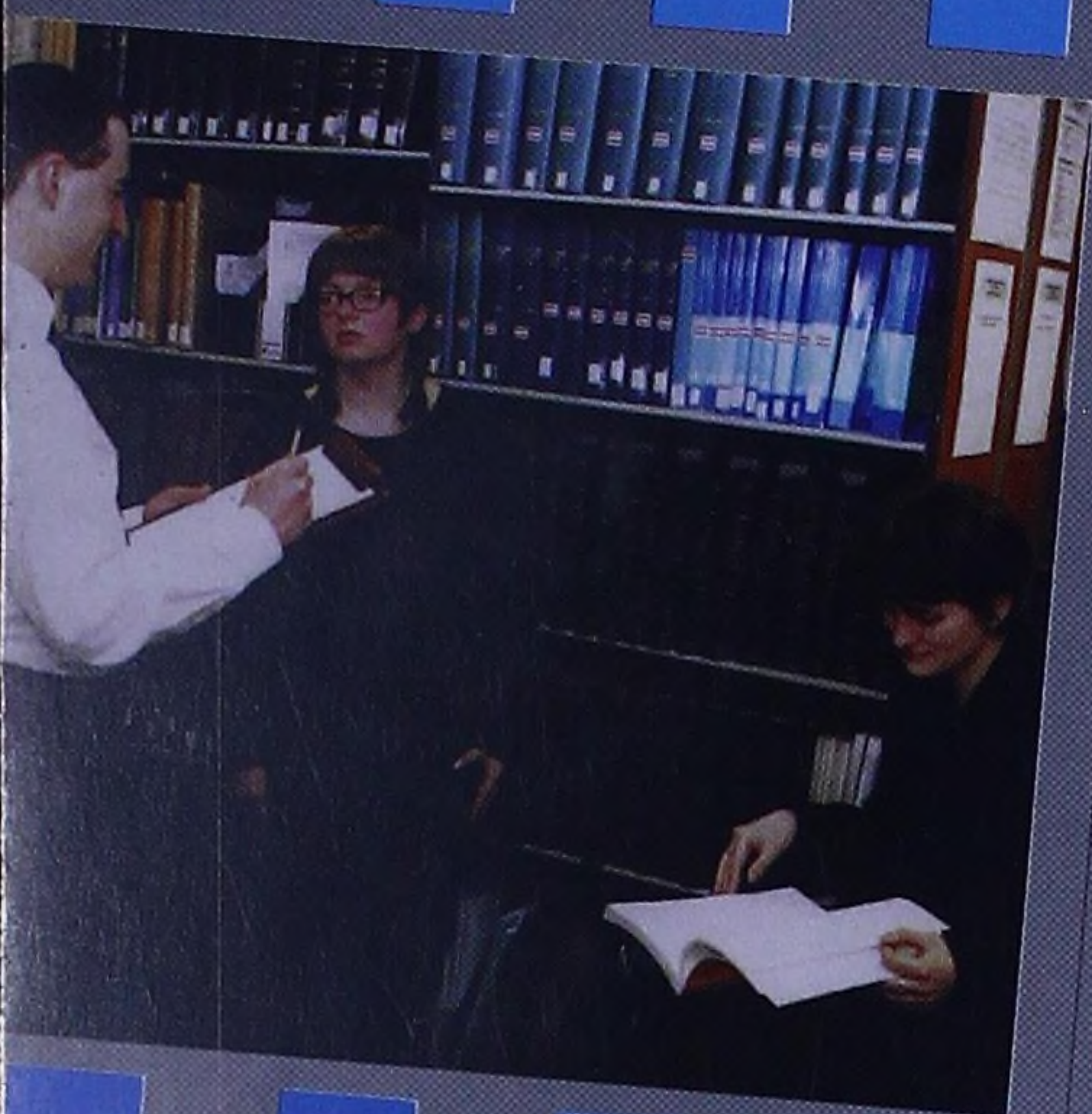
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