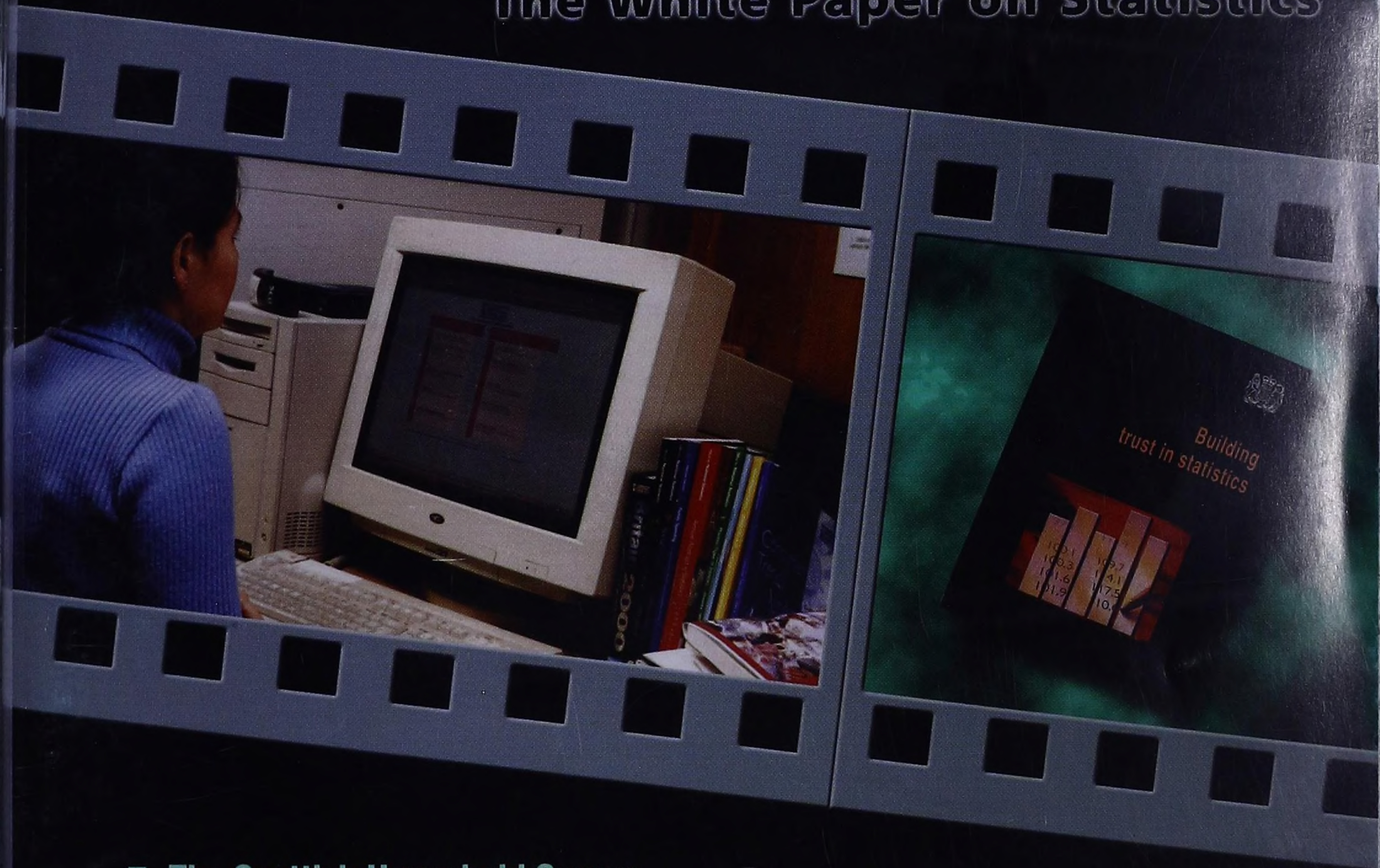


Statistical News

Autumn 1999/Issue 125/Office for National Statistics

The White Paper on Statistics



- The Scottish Household Survey
- The 1997 Census Test
- Statistics for International Financial Markets



A publication of the Government Statistical Service

It is hoped that Statistical News will be of service and interest not only to professional statisticians but to everybody who uses statistics. We welcome comments from readers on the adequacy of its scope, coverage or treatment of topics and their suggestions for improvement.

Enquiries about individual items in this issue should be made to the appropriate sources where indicated; otherwise they should be addressed to:

Phil Lewin

Statistical News Co-ordinator
Office for National Statistics
Zone BI/12
1 Drummond Gate
London SW1V 2QQ

☎ 020 7533 5659 or Fax: 020 7533 5690

Enquiries about orders and subscriptions for Statistical News and other Office for National Statistics publications should be made to:

The Stationery Office, PO Box 276, London SW8 5DT

☎ 0870 600 5522 or Fax: 0870 600 5533

© Crown copyright 2000. Published with the permission of the Office for National Statistics on behalf of the Controller of HMSO.

ISBN 0 11 621154 7

ISSN 0017-3630

Proposals for reproduction of extracts from Statistical News should be addressed to:

Copyright Section
Zone BI/09
Office for National Statistics
1 Drummond Gate
London SW1V 2QQ

☎ 020 7533 5674



STATISTICAL NEWS

DEVELOPMENTS IN BRITISH OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Autumn 1999 - No. 125



THE GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL SERVICE MISSION

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

LIST OF CONTENTS

Page

■ Feature Articles

The White Paper on Statistics	3
The Scottish Household Survey	5
The 1997 Census Test	18
Statistics for International Financial Markets	26

■ News from around the GSS and beyond

Government Statistical Service	32
Office for National Statistics	32
HM Customs and Excise	39
Government Actuary's Department	41
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency	42
The Scottish Executive	44
Bank of England	45
International Conference on Establishment Surveys	48
Royal Statistical Society	49
University of Southampton	49

■ Supplement

New Surveys	54
Departmental Listings	55

THE WHITE PAPER ON STATISTICS

By Frances Pottier, formerly
of the Office for National Statistics

INTRODUCTION

The White Paper, *Building Trust in Statistics*, was published on 18th October 1999.

The White Paper presents the Government's plans for the accountability and governance of official statistics, following on from the publication of a Green Paper, or consultation document, in February 1998, and the three-month consultation period, which followed. The White Paper also draws on the report published earlier this year following the problems with the Average Earnings Index, the Treasury Parliamentary Select Committee inquiry into the Office for National Statistics, and the ONS Efficiency Review.

The Green Paper proposed the concept of National Statistics, that is, those statistical outputs intended for public use, including the work supporting their production. The White Paper continues to use this concept as the basis of two new key arrangements:

- the appointment of an independent, non-executive Statistics Commission to publicly advise Ministers on statistical integrity issues and to play a major role in quality assurance and priority setting for National Statistics;
- the appointment of a National Statistician with overall professional responsibility for the outputs comprising National Statistics. The National Statistician will also take over the



Frances Pottier

responsibilities of the Head of the GSS,
Director of ONS and Registrar
General.

THE STATISTICS COMMISSION

The Statistics Commission will consist of a Chair and six members, appointed in accordance with the Code of Practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. These appointments will be made on three-year renewable basis, although initially

terms of other lengths may be used to ensure continuity. The Commission will be supported by a small permanent staff.

The Commission will:

- consider and comment to Ministers on the programme for National Statistics, drawing on the views of users and suppliers, and advise on the scope of National Statistics;
- comment on the quality assurance processes of National Statistics, as well as being able to carry out spot checks on departmental or other audits of National Statistics and to carry out or commission its own audits;
- comment on the application of the code of practice for official statistics and other procedures designed to promote statistical integrity;
- prepare and lay before Parliament an annual report on National Statistics, incorporating its comments on the report by the National Statistician, and on how the Commission has discharged its functions.

THE NATIONAL STATISTICIAN

The National Statistician will be responsible for producing a coherent high-level work programme and an annual report for National Statistics, and will also have professional responsibility for the quality and integrity of National Statistics. In this he or she will be supported by the Heads of Profession for Statistics in departments. The GSS has already started work to develop planning and reporting procedures, a programme of quality reviews, and release practice guidelines.

WHAT DOES NATIONAL STATISTICS INCLUDE?

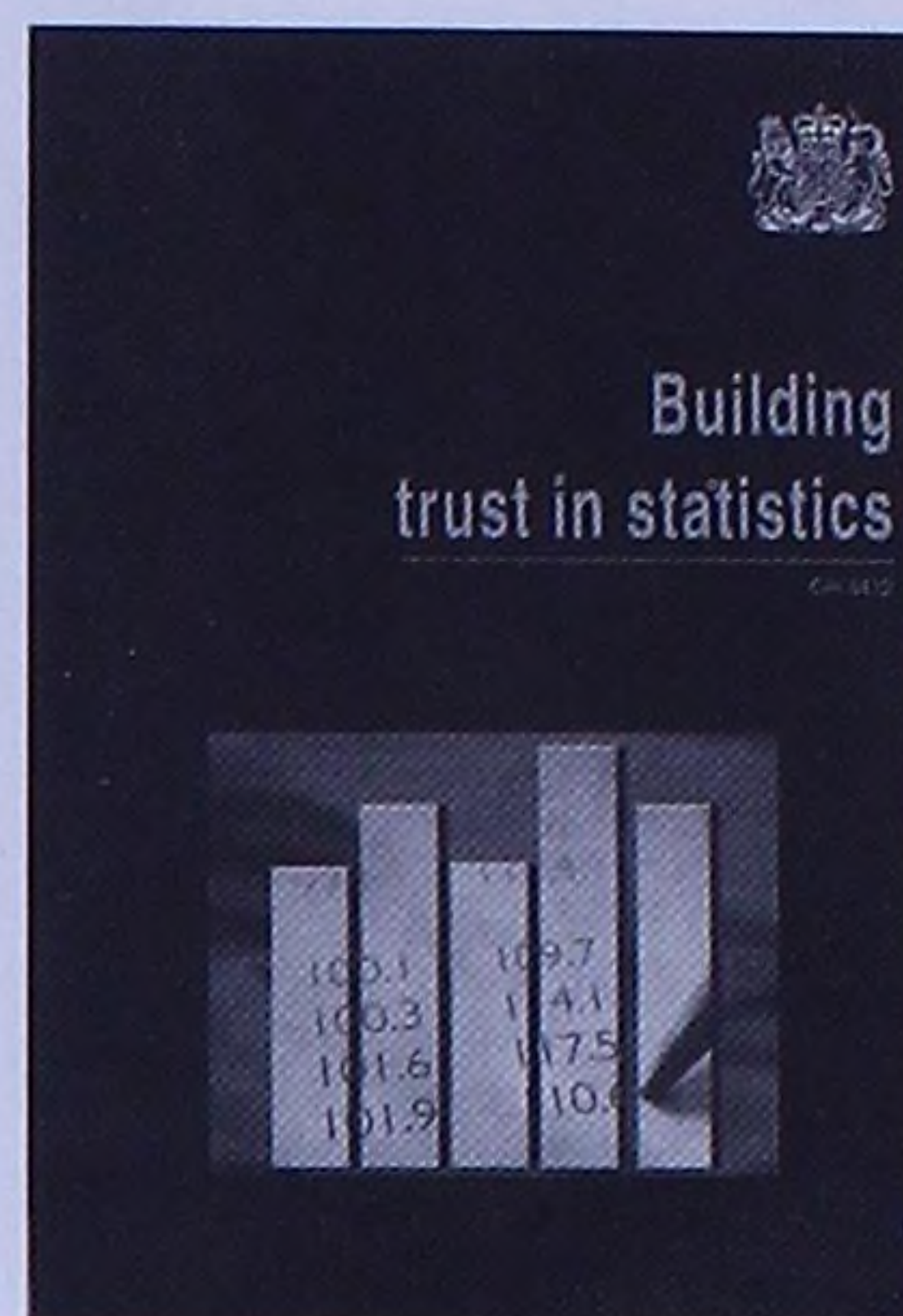
The White Paper describes the scope of National Statistics as all current ONS publications and public access databases, plus other statistics currently published by departments, as Ministers consider appropriate. Work is currently being done to identify which departmental statistics will be included, and details will be published alongside a National Statistics Framework Document and professional Code of Practice.

PRESS COVERAGE

Most of the press coverage of the White Paper was fairly neutral. However the RSS issued a press release which said that the White Paper had two gaping holes: the fact that other Government Departments' statistical outputs were not included in the scope of National Statistics; and the lack of legislative backing for the White Paper. They felt that because of these gaps the White Paper might not deliver real independence for official statistics. This point was reiterated by the President of the RSS, Professor Denise Lievesley, when she appeared on the television

programme *Tonight with Trevor MacDonald* shortly after the White Paper was published.

FURTHER INFORMATION



Building Trust in Statistics (Cm 4412)

The Stationery Office

Price £5.75, ISBN 0 10 144122 3

Copies are available on the Internet at www.ons.gov.uk or from:

The Stationery Office

P.O. Box 276

LONDON, SW8 5DT

Tel: 0870 600 5522

Fax: 0870 600 5533

Internet: www.tso-online.co.uk

For further information about the White Paper and National Statistics generally, please contact:

Jon McGinty

Office for National Statistics

Tel: 020 7533 6210

GTN: 3042 6210

E-mail: jon.mcginty@ons.gov.uk

THE SCOTTISH HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

*By Frank Dixon,
Transport Statistician,
Scottish Executive
Development Department*

INTRODUCTION

The Scottish Household Survey (SHS) started in February 1999. It is funded by the Scottish Executive (SE) and involves interviews with 15,500 households per year across Scotland. It collects information about the composition, characteristics, attitudes and behaviour of Scottish households and people. The SHS covers a wide range of topics, to allow exploration of the relationships between different sets of variables, such as poverty and victimisation, housing and ill-health. It focuses, in particular, on Transport, Local Government and Social Inclusion issues such as personal finances, housing and health. SHS results will inform the Scottish Parliament about the effects on households and individuals of some of the services and policies for which it is responsible.

This article explains why the SHS was needed, and describes how it was developed. The topics covered by the survey are referred to briefly, and listed more fully in the Annex. Subsequent sections describe how the sample is drawn, how the interviews are conducted, the response rates and the reweighting of the sample. The article then covers possible follow-up and "booster" surveys, the publication of the results and the release of anonymised copies of the data. Some of the SHS's first transport-related results are reported, and the article concludes by describing



Frank Dixon

where further information about the survey can be found, and where enquiries should be directed.

BACKGROUND

Many policy areas within the SE Development Department (DD), particularly Transport, Local Government and Social Inclusion, needed better statistics on the composition, characteristics, attitudes and behaviour of households and individuals for the evaluation of policy and the development of policy advice. Unfortunately, the existing surveys that cover such topics are often too infrequent, insufficiently detailed, or based on too small samples to provide reliable information for Scotland (or areas within Scotland). For example, the National Travel Survey's sample includes only about 300 Scottish households per year, so it cannot provide any information about year to year changes in travel patterns, nor can it show how they vary between different parts of Scotland. It was expected that the needs for such information would increase once responsibility for a number of policy areas had been devolved. Therefore, in April 1998, Scottish Ministers agreed that DD should commission the SHS, and that the survey should initially be funded for four years: 1999 to 2002 inclusive.

The aims of the survey are to:

- provide household and individual information not currently available in Scotland, particularly to support the work of DD's

Transport, Local Government and Social Inclusion policy areas and the work of the Scottish Parliament;

- permit disaggregation of such information both geographically and in terms of population sub-groups (such as families with children or the elderly);
- allow the relationships between social variables within households to be examined. This will support cross-departmental and inter-departmental policies such as those on social inclusion and welfare-to-work;
- allow early detection of national trends;
- allow detailed follow-up surveys of sub-samples from the main survey sample, if required.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SURVEY

The SHS was developed very rapidly. Following Ministerial approval, invitations to tender were issued in May 1998, several proposals were received and assessed, and the bid submitted jointly by System Three and MORI Scotland was accepted in July. Consultation about the content of the survey took place over the summer of 1998. Interested parties from a range of policy areas, academia, the voluntary sector, local government and other bodies proposed topics and questions for inclusion in the SHS. These greatly exceeded the “space” available in the questionnaire. An assessment of each proposal was made by the relevant member(s) of the Network Group (*please see the “Management of the Survey” box for information about the Network, Technical and Advisory Groups*), and used by the Technical Group in its consideration of possible

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE SURVEY

An *Advisory Group* is responsible for ensuring that the SHS effectively addresses the identified information needs. This group is chaired by the Secretary of DD. It includes the heads of the relevant DD policy groups (i.e. senior customers), some senior SE statistical and research staff, representatives of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), Scottish Homes and the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations, and an academic survey expert.

A *Technical Group*, comprising SE and COSLA research and statistics staff manages the development and implementation of the survey.

Due to the wide-ranging nature of the SHS, it covers topics with which Technical Group members may be unfamiliar. Therefore, a much larger *Network Group* was established. Its members advise on matters related to particular topic areas. This group includes SE administrators, researchers and statisticians who deal with the topics covered by the survey, and representatives of COSLA, Scottish Homes and the General Register Office for Scotland.

The contract for the survey was awarded following a competitive tender. The survey is conducted jointly by two firms: System Three and MORI Scotland. They are represented at meetings of the Advisory Group and the Technical Group, and liaise on day-to-day matters with the survey’s *Project Manager* (who is a Senior Research Officer in the SE Central Research Unit) and, if appropriate, other SE staff.

questions. An important criterion used by the Technical Group when recommending topics for inclusion was their relevance to the SHS's three main policy areas (Transport, Local Government and Social Inclusion). The Advisory Group took the final decisions on the content of the survey.

A questionnaire was then developed, and piloted in October 1998. A number of problems were found, and some potential improvements were identified. The questionnaire was revised accordingly, and a second pilot survey was conducted in December. In the light of this, a few more changes were made, and then the final questionnaire was issued. Interviews began on 5th February 1999.

THE COVERAGE OF THE SHS, AND THE SAMPLING ARRANGEMENTS

The principal purpose of the SHS is to collect information in its three main areas of Transport, Local Government and Social Inclusion. However, other topics are covered, such as household composition, housing and amenities, overcrowding and sharing in housing, employment or unemployment, income, assets and savings, credit and debt, health, disabilities and care. The survey provides the first representative Scottish data on many subjects, such as access to the Internet, daily travel patterns, etc. The Annex lists the topics which were included when the SHS started.

Where appropriate, the SHS uses the harmonised concepts and questions for government social surveys, which have been developed by the Government Statistical Service. It also takes account, where possible, of some of the definitions and questions which were expected to be used in the 2001 Census of Population. This will facilitate comparison with the results of other government surveys. However, differences in

sampling and survey methods mean that SHS results will differ from those of other surveys. It must also be remembered that the SHS is *not* designed to produce statistics on (e.g.) unemployment or income. It collects such information *only* for selecting the data for particular groups of people (such as the unemployed or the low-paid) for further analysis, or for use as "background" variables when analysing other topics (such as the means of travel or the frequency of driving).

The SHS is a continuous cross-sectional survey: interviewing takes place all year round. As well as keeping down the cost of the survey and making the volume of fieldwork more manageable, this will, in time, enable national trends to be detected sooner than would periodical surveys. And, it will allow one to examine seasonal patterns within years, as well as changes between years.

The continuous nature of the survey and its modular design provide flexibility, and the questionnaire will evolve over time, depending on changing policy priorities. However, the SHS's "core" questions, such as those collecting standard information about the composition and key characteristics of households, are unlikely to change greatly.

Each year, about 15,500 households across Scotland will be interviewed. The SHS is designed so that the interviews from each quarter will provide results which are representative of Scotland as a whole. In addition, the survey design is such that results will be available for each of the larger local authorities annually, and for all 32 Scottish local authorities, regardless of size, over two years. The SHS design therefore involves drawing a sample which will produce about 31,000 household interviews, which are spread over two years. The requirement to produce results for every local authority,

regardless of size, after two years, means that higher sampling fractions are used for Council areas with small populations, in order to ensure a minimum number of household interviews in each area over the two years. A reweighting process (described later) ensures that the variation in sampling fractions does not make the results unrepresentative of Scotland as a whole. The minimum number of household interviews over the two years is 550 (an "average" Council would have just over 1,000 household interviews over the two years), and annual results will be available for those Councils for which there are a sufficient number of interviews per year. Of course, the smaller the sample upon which the results for a Council are based, the more carefully they will have to be used, and there might be cases where they do not appear sufficiently reliable to be used.

The SHS is intended to be a survey of private households. For the purposes of the survey, a household is defined as one person or a group of people living in accommodation as their only or main residence and *either* sharing at least one meal a day *or* sharing the living accommodation. A student's term-time address is taken as his/her "main residence", in order that he/she is counted where he/she lives for most of the year.

The sample was drawn from the Small User file of the Postcode Address File (PAF). This is a listing of all active address points, which is maintained by the Post Office. Therefore, households in certain types of accommodation (such as nurses homes, student halls of residence, hostels for the homeless, other communal establishments, mobile homes, and sites for travelling people) may be included in the SHS, *if* the accommodation is listed on the Small User file of the PAF and *if* it represents the sole or main residence of the people concerned. So, the SHS's target population includes some - but *not*

all - students, for example. People living in bed and breakfast accommodation are likewise included, *if* it is their sole or main residence. Prisons, hospitals and military bases are excluded.

The PAF may have a single address entry for, say, a block of flats which contains several dwellings. The method of drawing the sample therefore used the PAF's Multiple Occupancy Indicator (MOI) to "weight" the PAF entry for that address to give each of its dwellings the same chance of selection as dwellings elsewhere. The interviewers have procedures to follow if they find that the MOI is incorrect, or that a dwelling contains more than one household.

In order that the sample would be representative of each Council's area, the ten main summary groups of the Scottish MOSAIC geo-demographic indicator were used to define strata within each Council area, and a sample of an appropriate size was then drawn within each stratum within each Council area.

In the areas of the ten Councils which have the highest population densities, the sample of addresses was drawn at random (within each geo-demographic stratum within each Council) at the start of the two-year period. The resulting addresses were then grouped into batches for allocation as interviewer assignments. In these Council areas, the SHS's sample excludes housing which will be built during the two years, if it was not listed in the PAF when the sample was drawn.

For cost-effectiveness, the design of the sample clustered the interviews in the remaining 22 Councils. Enumeration Districts (EDs) were used as the Primary Sampling Unit. An ED contains, on average, about 150 households. At the start of the two-year period, EDs were selected at random (within each geo-demographic stratum within each Council) with probabilities

proportional to their numbers of addresses (taking account of the MOI values and the required variation in sampling fractions between Councils). Then, nearer the time that the interviews in an ED are due to take place, addresses within that ED are selected at random, using the current PAF. Special procedures are followed in cases where (e.g.) an ED is found to contain very few addresses.

Finally, it was necessary to ensure that the quarterly results for Scotland would be representative, and that the sample for each Council for each year would be as representative as it could be of that Council's MOSAIC distribution (given the number of interview batches and EDs that were available to be allocated). A modified version of a procedure, which had been devised by the Office for National Statistics for the Family Expenditure Survey, was therefore used to spread the batches evenly across the 24 months. Within each Council, the selected interview batches or EDs were listed in order of MOSAIC area type, numbered sequentially, and split between the two years, and between the months of each year. This uses a special permutation process which is designed to spread them evenly, by preventing "bunching" of interviews for batches or EDs which had been close together on the list. Finally, the contractors examined the distribution of the resulting sample by MOSAIC type and quarter within Council, to check that it had been split in as balanced a way as seemed possible, given the number of interview batches and EDs that were available to be allocated.

INTERVIEWING, RESPONSE RATES AND REWEIGHTING

Letters are sent in advance to the chosen addresses, to tell the occupants about the survey, and that an interviewer will call on them within a

few days. A multi-lingual leaflet giving more information about the SHS is left after the interview. Interviewers must make several calls (both during the week and at weekends, and both during the day and in the evening), and leave "contact cards", before they can record that they could not contact anyone in an apparently inhabited dwelling. Such "non-contacted" addresses are later re-issued to other interviewers.

Interviews are carried out in respondents' homes, using Computer Aided Personal Interviewing (CAPI). This has a number of advantages over 'pen and paper' interviewing techniques. These include faster interviews, automatic routing through certain parts of the questionnaire on the basis of answers given earlier, automatic checks of the answers recorded by interviewers and of their consistency with other responses, and a quicker transfer of information to the survey database.

The interview has two parts. The first part of the interview is carried out with the Highest Income Householder (the household reference person - see the Annex) or his/her spouse or partner. This collects mainly factual information about the composition and characteristics of the household. Some questions are asked in respect of each household member. The second part is with a randomly-chosen adult (aged 16+) member of the household. This focuses more on individual attitudes and behaviours. Often, both parts of the interview are with the same person - this is always the case in a single adult household. At present, the two parts of the interview together total about 41 minutes on average. The use of the two-part approach means that, after reweighting (and assuming that there are no non-response biases), the results from the first part interviews should be representative of Scottish households, and the results from the second part interviews should be representative of Scottish adults.

The response rate for the first part, after taking account of 'deadwood' in the sample of addresses (such as small shops and offices, and properties which have been demolished or are unoccupied), was 72 per cent for the first two quarters taken together. Among households which participated, the response rate for the "random adult" part of the interview was 94 per cent. The response rate for the re-issued "non-contacted" addresses is about 25-30 per cent.

The data are then reweighted to take account of the unequal probabilities of selection inherent in the sample design. These are the over-sampling (relative to their numbers of households) of the Councils with smaller populations, in order to obtain a minimum number of interviews in each Council; and the under-sampling (relative to their share of the adult population) of adults living in multi-adult households, because only one "random adult" is interviewed in each household. If necessary, further adjustments to the weights may be made to take account of the variation in response rates between different Councils and/or between different MOSAIC area types within Councils. Comparisons with other sources, such as 1991 Census data and the 1996 Scottish House Condition Survey, suggest that the reweighted data are broadly representative of the Scottish household population.

POSSIBLE FOLLOW-UP AND "BOOSTER" SURVEYS, AND AUGMENTATION OF THE SHS DATABASE

The survey also provides a base from which SE can commission more detailed, follow-up surveys of sub-samples of the households in the SHS. At the end of the interview, respondents are asked if they can be re-contacted and invited to take part in other surveys. The SHS can therefore be used to sample otherwise difficult-to-identify sections of the population: a follow-up survey may be

addressed directly to people who are known to be in its target population on the basis of their answers to the SHS questions. One could identify in the SHS and survey directly, for example, people who commute more than a specified distance, or adults who live in a rural area and cannot drive.

Councils, Health Boards and Local Enterprise Companies which require a larger sample in their areas may commission the contractors, System Three and MORI Scotland, to "boost" the SHS sample, by carrying out additional interviews in their areas for an agreed period (at an additional cost).

In the longer term, it is hoped to augment the SHS database, by adding information from other sources. Examples of what *might* be added include information about the area in which the dwelling is situated (such as its type - e.g. urban/rural etc - and its overall socio-economic composition), information about the dwelling itself (such as the Council Tax band), information about the school attended by a child (if there is one) in the household, and information about the distance to, and frequency of services at, the nearest railway station.

PUBLICATION OF THE RESULTS, AND RELEASE OF ANONYMISED DATA

As noted earlier, results from the survey will be available on a quarterly basis for Scotland as a whole. The quarterly "*Scottish Household Survey Bulletin*" is available (price £5 per copy) from The Stationery Office (ISSN 1467-7393), and also on the SHS website (*see the final section*). The first issue, which was published in August, provides an overview of the types of information collected by the survey, and outlines some key findings in each of the main topic areas. The second bulletin, which was published in

November, focuses on the characteristics of households in different social circumstances, and looks at key aspects that can be related to social exclusion, such as income, housing and family composition.

Forthcoming publications of SHS results will include further quarterly bulletins, each of which will have a different main theme as well as some standard tables. In due course, SHS results will show seasonal variation and year-to-year changes for Scotland, and provide annual sub-Scotland analyses.

There will be a detailed annual report, which will include many tables of SHS results.

Documentation of the survey procedures, such as the sample design and the method of reweighting, will be included in a separate technical report.

SHS results will also appear in other SE publications, such as "*Scottish Transport Statistics 2000*" and the Transport series of statistical bulletins.

The survey's data will become a potentially valuable resource for policy-makers, researchers and other interested parties outside SE.

Anonymised copies of each year's data will be placed in the public domain, by being deposited at the ESRC Data Archive (accompanied by detailed documentation) and so will be available for analysis by many people. It is expected that the data for 1999 will be deposited in late Summer 2000.

SOME OF THE SHS'S FIRST TRANSPORT-RELATED RESULTS

The notes below describe some findings on the frequency of driving and on travel to work, based on the first two months' data from the survey, which were the only data available at the time that this article was written (the second quarter's

results are now available). The 'driving' questions were answered on behalf of each person in the household by either the Highest Income Householder or his/her spouse/partner, and the 'travel to work' question was answered by one randomly-chosen adult per household. The results are weighted to take account of differences in selection probabilities. It must be remembered that, as with all such surveys, factors such as sampling variability and non-response bias may affect the results.

FREQUENCY OF DRIVING

The SHS collects information on the number of people holding full driving licences, and how often they drive. The first row of **Table 1** shows that, of the 4,764 people aged 17 and over in the sampled households, 43 per cent held a full driving licence and drove every day, 8 per cent drove at least three times per week, 4 per cent once or twice per week, a total of about 3 per cent drove less than once a week, 4 per cent held a licence and never drove, and 37 per cent did not hold a full driving licence.

The second and third rows of the table show the frequency of driving for each sex: for example, 54 per cent of men drove every day compared with 33 per cent of women; 76 per cent of men hold a full driving licence which contrasts with the 51 per cent of women who do.

The frequency of driving varies markedly with age: about 60 per cent of people aged between 31 and 50 drove every day, compared to 32 per cent of 17 to 30 year olds, and 22 per cent of those over 60. Around half of those aged 17-30 do not hold a driving licence, compared with under a quarter of those aged 31-50, 31 per cent of those aged 51-60, and 53 per cent of those aged 60 and over.

There is a clear relationship between annual net household income¹ and whether a full driving

licence is held by adult members of the household. Under half the people aged 17 and over who lived in households with a net income of under £10,000 per year held a licence, which contrasts sharply with 86 per cent of those living in households with annual net incomes of over £25,000.

A similar pattern applies for the percentages driving every day. Under a quarter of adults living in households with a net income of less than £10,000 per year drove every day, compared with 68 per cent of those in households with an annual net income of more than £25,000.

Table 1 Frequency of driving¹ (people aged 17+)

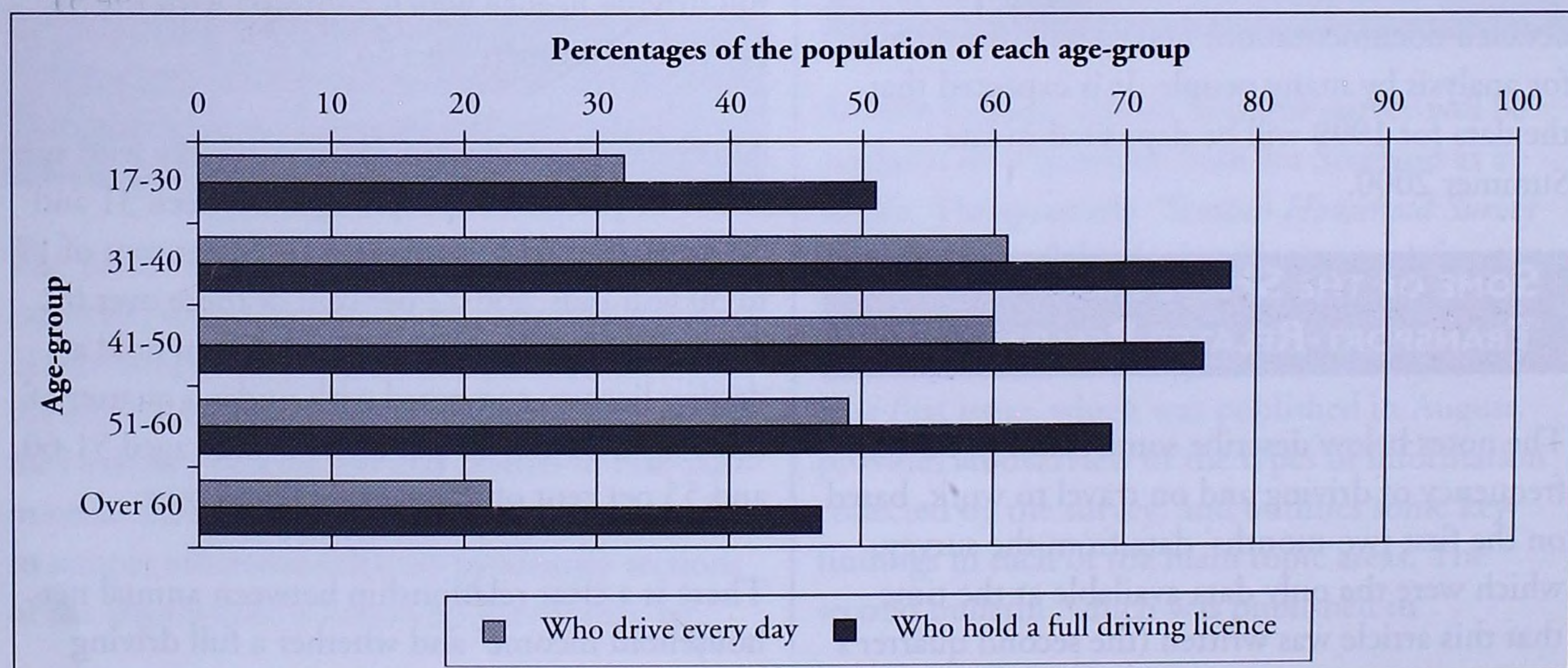
Scotland: February-March 1999 (SHS)

	Per week			Per month			Holds full licence, never drives	Total with a full driving licence	Don't have a full driving licence	Sample size (unweighted number of people) = 100%
	Every day	at least 3 times	once or twice	at least 2 or 3 times	at least once	less than once				
All people aged 17+	43	8	4	1	0	2	4	63	37	4,764
<i>by sex:</i>										
Men	54	9	5	1	0	2	5	76	24	2,205
Women	33	8	4	1	0	2	4	51	49	2,559
<i>by age:</i>										
17-30	32	6	4	2	1	2	3	51	49	968
31-40	61	9	3	1	0	1	3	78	22	941
41-50	60	6	4	1	0	2	3	76	24	875
51-60	49	9	4	0	0	2	5	69	31	779
Over 60	22	10	5	1	0	1	7	47	53	1,201
<i>by net household income*:</i>										
under £5,000 p.a.	21	10	4	2	1	1	6	46	54	232
£5,001-£10,000	23	6	5	1	1	2	8	46	54	632
£10,001-£15,000	41	9	3	0	0	2	6	62	38	625
£15,001-£20,000	53	10	5	1	0	1	2	73	27	458
£20,001-£25,000	59	10	5	1	0	2	1	79	21	321
Over £25,000	68	9	5	1	0	1	1	86	14	471

¹ for holders of full driving licences

* excluding not known and "not stated" cases

Figure 1 Frequency of driving



USUAL METHOD OF TRAVEL TO WORK

The first row of **Table 2** shows that the survey's first quarterly sample included 1,057 adults, selected from the household at random, who said how they usually travelled to work. Overall, 67 per cent went by car or van (53 per cent drove, and 14 per cent were passengers), 11 per cent travelled by bus, 15 per cent walked, 3 per cent caught a train, 1 per cent cycled, and 3 per cent used another means of transport (e.g. motorcycle, lorry, etc).

The figures in subsequent paragraphs are based upon smaller samples of adults of each type, and could be affected by quite large sampling errors. Therefore, they should be regarded as illustrative

of the kind of results that the SHS will provide when more quarters' data are available.

The next two rows give figures for each sex. They show that 61 per cent of men drove to work compared to only 45 per cent of women; and just 11 per cent of men walked compared with 19 per cent of women.

The table also shows how travel to work patterns differ with age. Almost three quarters (72 per cent) of those aged between 31 and 40 travel to work in a car, which compares with 61 per cent of those aged between 16 and 30. Only 8 per cent of those aged 31 to 40 travelled to work by bus compared with 15 per cent of those aged up to 30.

Table 2 Usual method of travel to work¹

Scotland: February-March 1999 (SHS)

	Car (or van)		Total	Bus			Rail ³	Bicycle	Walking	Other ⁴	Sample (unweighted) = 100%
	Driver	Passenger		Service	Other ²	Total					
All employed adults ⁵	53	14	67	10	1	11	3	1	15	3	1,057
<i>by sex:</i>											
Men	61	12	73	8	2	10	3	1	11	4	499
Women	45	15	60	12	1	13	3	1	19	3	558
<i>by age:</i>											
16-30	44	17	61	13	2	15	4	1	16	2	231
31-40	57	15	72	7	1	8	3	1	12	5	316
41-50	55	13	68	8	1	10	3	0	17	2	252
Over 50	53	10	63	13	1	14	2	1	16	4	258
<i>by net household income*:</i>											
under £10,000 p.a.	38	9	47	14	2	16	1	2	27	6	124
£10,001-£15,000	43	15	57	13	2	15	1	1	22	2	181
£15,001-£20,000	51	17	68	11	1	12	2	1	15	2	141
£20,001-£25,000	53	13	66	12	1	13	4	2	12	4	116
Over £25,000	74	9	83	4	0	4	4	0	8	2	154
<i>by employment:</i>											
self-employed	59	9	68	2	0	2	2	2	16	9	65
full-time employee	56	14	70	10	2	12	3	1	11	3	741
part-time employee	41	14	55	11	0	11	2	1	28	3	251

1 excluding those who work at or from home. The main method of transport is recorded if the journey involves more than one method

2 works bus or school bus

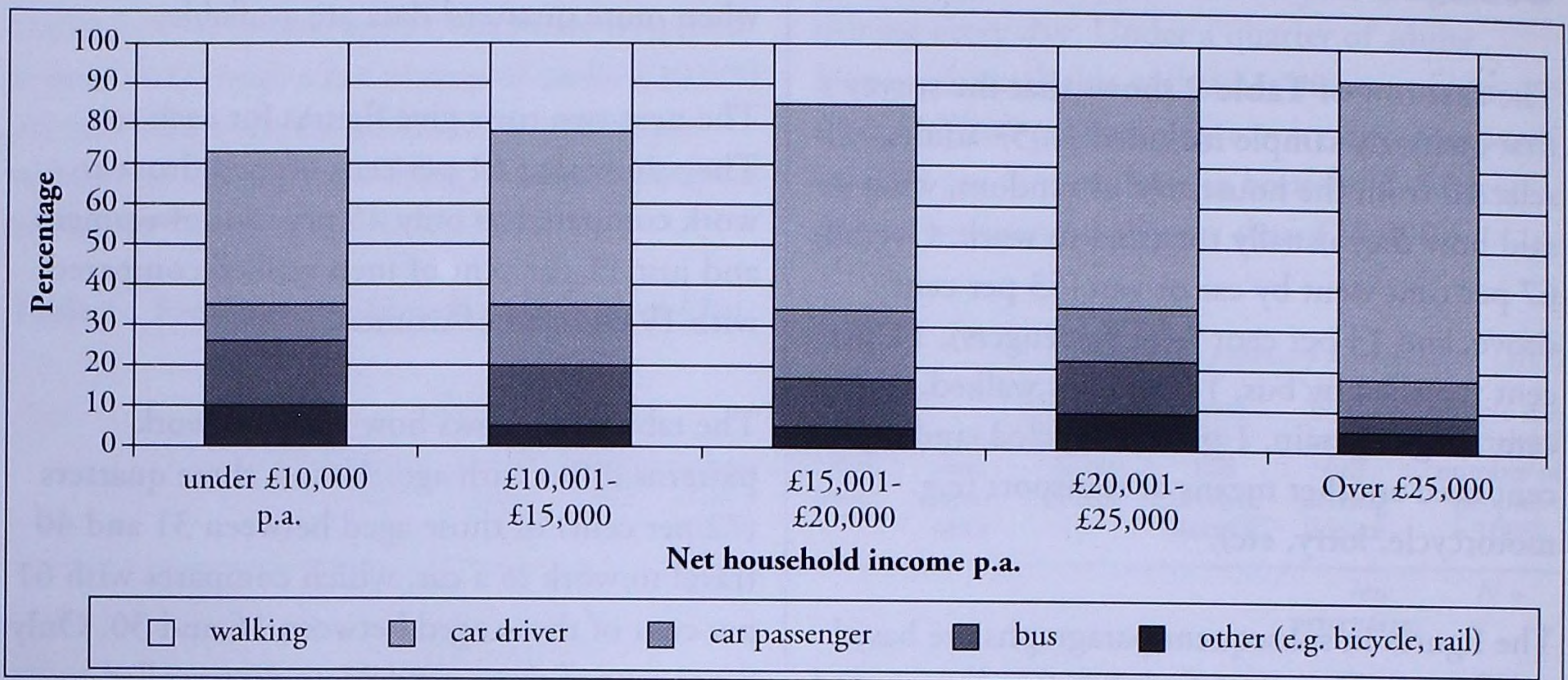
3 including the Glasgow Underground

4 e.g. motorcycle, lorry, taxi, ferry, etc

5 those whose "current situation" was best described as "self-employed, employed full-time" or "employed part-time"

* excluding "not known" and "not stated cases"

Figure 2 Usual method of travel to work of employed adults by household income group



The means of travel to work also varies with annual net household income. 83 per cent of people living in households with a net income of more than £25,000 per year travelled to work by car, and only 8 per cent walked. Of those adults living in households with annual net incomes of under £10,000 per year, only 47 per cent travelled to work in a car, with 27 per cent walking. It should be noted that these figures are based on small samples.

The last section of the table shows that 28 per cent of people in part-time employment walk to work compared to only 11 per cent of those in full-time employment. The figures for the self-employed should be used with great care given the very small sample size upon which they are based.

When more quarters' results become available, it will be possible to analyse travel to work data in more detail - e.g. for sub-groups defined by age-group, sex and income together.

ENQUIRIES AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Enquiries about the SHS should be addressed to the survey's Project Manager:

Louise Finlayson
 SHS Project Manager
 Central Research Unit
 Scottish Executive
 Victoria Quay
 EDINBURGH, EH6 6QQ

Tel: 0131 244 7557

Fax: 0131 244 7573

E-mail: shs@scotland.gov.uk

Further information about the survey can be found on the SHS website at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/shs>

This website provides some background to the survey, information about the progress of the survey, and the published results.

Please contact the Project Manager if you wish to be added to an e-mail mailing list to be kept informed of any significant updates to the information on the SHS website. The Project Manager will also, on request, distribute paper copies of information about the survey, and about significant developments when they occur, to people who are unable to access the website.

FOOTNOTES

- ¹ Annual net household income is the total annual income of the highest income householder and any spouse/partner from employment, benefits and other sources, after taxation and other deductions, and including any contribution to the household's finances made by other household members (e.g. money for 'digs').

ANNEX

TOPICS COVERED BY THE SCOTTISH HOUSEHOLD SURVEY IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH 1999

QUESTIONS ASKED OF THE HIGHEST INCOME HOUSEHOLDER OR HIS/HER SPOUSE/PARTNER

The Highest Income Householder is taken as the household reference person for the first part of the interview. This must be a person in whose name the accommodation is owned or rented, or who is otherwise responsible for the accommodation. In households with joint householders, the person with the highest income is taken as the household reference person. If householders have the same income, the older is taken as the household reference person.

H1. Household composition.

For each member of household: Date of birth; Sex; Ethnic group; Marital status; Relationship to highest income householder; Main economic activity.

H2. Property.

Property type, Number of bedrooms, Tenure.

H3. Amenities.

Sharing/concealed households, Consumer durables in household.

H4. Transport.

Orange badge holders, Time to nearest bus stop, Frequency of buses, Bicycles available to household.

For each adult: Driving licenses; Frequency of driving; Reasons for driving; Concessionary passes.
For each vehicle (if any): Vehicle type; own or company car; Vehicle Registration Mark; Main

and other drivers; Annual mileage of vehicle; Fuel costs.

H5. Children in household.

Use of childcare (paid or unpaid), Reasons for using childcare.

For randomly chosen school child: School; Satisfaction with schooling; Transport to/from school - Usual mode(s), Reason for mode choice, Suitability of public transport.

H6. Health, disabilities and care.

Who in the household has a limiting long-term illness or disability.

Who in household requires regular care or help, Who provides care, Frequency of care.

H7. Working status of highest income householder

Number of paid jobs

If not in paid work: Whether on government training; Duration of retirement or Duration of unemployment; Whether ever had a paid job.
If unemployed less than 5 years: Number of spells of unemployment; Reasons for leaving last job; Time in last job.

For main job (or last job): Whether employee or self-employed; Full- or part-time; Temporary (seasonal) or permanent; Hours of work; SIC, SOC, SEG, Social Class.

H8. Household income.

Income from paid employment/self-employment (Highest income householder, and Spouse/partner)

Amount from each benefit received (or total benefit income, if separate amounts not known). Sources and amounts of other regular income.

H9. Assets and savings.

Whether has bank/building society account, Amount saved/invested in accounts/shares etc. Whether has home contents and buildings insurance.

H10. Housing costs

H11. Credit and debt.

Household money worries, Ability to manage financially.

QUESTIONS ASKED OF A RANDOMLY-SELECTED ADULT

R1. Housing.

Time at current address, Tenure of previous home, Location of previous home (if moved in past year).

R2. Local area/community safety.

General satisfaction with local area, Particular likes and dislikes, Perceptions of crime problems / 'incivilities', Experience of housebreaking/car theft, Experience of house fires.

R3. Education.

Educational qualifications held, Whether currently in education or training, Which school / college / university.

R4. Transport.

Annual mileage (if drives), Public transport fares in past week, Frequency of cycling and walking in past week, Reasons for not driving/never learning to drive, Reasons for not using buses more often, Whether involved in road accident in past year.

If in work or education: Location of (main) place of work/education, Mode of transport to it, Reason(s) for mode choice, Type of parking, Suitability of public transport

"Travel diary" - for each journey made on previous day: Purpose; Mode; Number of occupants (if car); Origin and destination; Start time and end time.

R5. Services and local government.

Access to, Frequency of use of, and satisfaction with, local services. Contact with local Councillor, Perceptions of local councils, Community participation/volunteering.

R6. Health.

Self-perception of general health, Number of cigarettes smoked per day.

Long-standing illness, health problem or disability, Limitations on daily activities (e.g. climbing stairs, walking, using a bus), Special equipment or adaptations to home.

Whether provides regular help or care to non-household members, Limitations on paid work. Whether registered with GP, Number of visits in past year, Satisfaction with service.

R7. Economic activity.

Similar to H7. Not asked if information for the person who is the Random Adult has already been obtained in the earlier interview with the Highest Income Householder or spouse/partner.

R8. Income.

Similar to H8. Not asked if information for the person who is the Random Adult has already been obtained in the earlier interview with the Highest Income Householder or spouse/partner.

THE 1997 CENSUS TEST

*By Jacquie Hyvart and Máire Rodgers,
Demography and Methodology Branch,
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research
Agency*

INTRODUCTION

The Census Test was held on 15th June 1997 to enable the Northern Ireland Census Office to try out a new collection methodology, a new form style and to test the acceptability of new or modified questions on the form.

The Census Test involved the enumeration of 48 areas (Enumeration Areas - EA's) in Northern Ireland. The areas were selected to provide a range of levels of urbanisation, deprivation and religious composition. The 48 enumeration areas contained approximately 9,000 households.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

The 1997 Census Test had three main objectives (key design variables):

Collection method: to examine whether returning forms by post would be acceptable to the public and whether it would affect the level and quality of the responses;

Form Style: to measure the acceptability of two different form styles. The traditional matrix style form and a new page per person style form; and

Income Question: to assess the acceptability of the inclusion of an income question. This primarily involved a comparison of the response rates for areas where the form included an income question with the response rates for those areas which did not include an income question.

The Northern Ireland Census Test was also designed to examine the acceptability of the census in areas with different socio-economic circumstances. These circumstances were defined in terms of level of urbanisation, level of relative disadvantage and religious composition.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The test also provided an opportunity to test the logistics of the Census operation, which included, amongst other things:

- the use of digital maps and boundaries for EA's;
- the control of forms posted back to Census Office; and
- the automatic processing of some Census Test forms.

STATISTICAL DESIGN

Within each enumeration area every household received the same combination of key design variables. The enumeration areas were designed to be small and consequently likely to be socio-economically homogeneous.

The socio-economic circumstances of each area was defined in terms of its urbanisation (2 levels), its relative disadvantage (2 levels) and its Religion (3 levels) giving the elements of a 25 x 3 factorial experiment. A fully saturated version of this would require the selection of 96 EA's. Instead, a half-replicate design, which allowed the unbiased estimation of the main effects and two-way interactions, was utilised.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The purpose of the 1997 Census Test was to assess the acceptability of the Census forms and to compare the collection methodologies. The response rate to the Census Test, a voluntary survey, was taken as a measure of acceptability of the Census form.

The response rates varied from 29 per cent to 98 per cent. Therefore for analysis purposes the response rates were transformed using a root inverse sine transformation which stabilises the variance estimates. The statistical analysis was performed on the transformed values but response rates quoted in the results section are presented as untransformed values.

A measure of Individual form completion was derived using the proportion of questions that each individual person had completed, with regard to the number of questions that they should have completed. A similar measure was derived for Household question completion rates.

An additional measure of acceptability was the level of completion of basic information. It was defined as the percentage of households, which provided information on a person's age, sex and marital status for at least one person in the household.

The response rates to individual questions were also analysed for acceptability. This was defined as the number responding to a given question expressed as a percentage of those who returned a form and to whom the question was relevant. It was used to determine if acceptability varied with particular questions.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The main results from the 1997 Northern Ireland Census Test are split into five sections. The sections are on the Collection Method, the Form Style, the Income Question, Socio-economic Circumstances and Individual Questions.

COLLECTION METHOD

The 1997 Census Test was designed to allow comparisons of response rates and completion rates in areas where the collection method was Post back with areas where conventional form collection was used.

ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER THE RESPONSE RATE DIFFERED BY COLLECTION METHOD

The response rate in the areas where conventional form collection was used was 74 per cent compared to 72 per cent in the areas where Post back was used, a difference, which is statistically significant ($p < 0.05$). However the practical difference between the methods may be considered small.

Some of the two-way interactions involving the collection method were significant. These included the inclusion of an income question and all of the three socio-economic variables. For example, conventional collection had a similar response rate in both deprived and non-deprived areas, whereas the post back response rates in deprived areas were 66 per cent compared with 78 per cent in non-deprived areas. Therefore, the use of post back had a greater effect of reducing response rates in deprived areas than it did in non-deprived areas.

ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER THE LEVEL OF COMPLETION OF KEY VARIABLES DIFFERED BY COLLECTION METHOD

There was no statistically significant difference between the completion level of key variables for the two collection methods.

ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER THE LEVEL OF FORM COMPLETION DIFFERED BY COLLECTION METHOD

The level of individual form completion and the level of household question completion did not differ significantly by the method of collection.

ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER THE RESPONSE RATE TO INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS DIFFERED BY COLLECTION METHOD

Only two out of the forty-seven response rates to individual questions differed by collection method, with conventional collection method having the higher response rates. These were both in the household section and were the questions on self-contained accommodation and the number of rooms.

CONCLUSION

The conventional collection method has a higher response rate than the post back method although in practical terms the difference may be considered small. The collection methodology does not affect the level of form completion, given that the form has been returned.

FORM STYLE

The 1997 Census Test was designed to allow the comparison of response rates and completion rates in areas with page per person style forms and areas with the conventional matrix style forms.

ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER THE RESPONSE RATES DIFFERED BY FORM STYLE

The response rate in areas where a matrix style form was used was 74 per cent compared to 72 per cent for areas where a page per person style form was used. This was statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) although the practical difference between the response rates to the form types may be considered small.

Some of the two-way interactions involving form style were significant. These included the inclusion of an income question, the religion of the area and the level of deprivation of the area. For example, matrix forms have similar response rates in deprived and non-deprived areas, while page per person forms have response rates of 65 per cent for deprived areas and 78 per cent for non-deprived areas. Hence the effect of changing the form style differs with the level of relative deprivation within an area.

ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER THE LEVEL OF COMPLETION OF KEY VARIABLES DIFFERED BY FORM STYLE

The completion levels of basic information were significantly different for the two form styles although the practical difference was slight (page per person - 99 per cent, matrix - 97 per cent).

ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER THE LEVEL OF FORM COMPLETION DIFFERED BY FORM STYLE

As with the level of completion of key variables, the level of individual form completion was significantly higher for the page per person style forms (89 per cent) than for the conventional matrix style forms (87 per cent) but in practical terms the differences were slight. The level of

household question completion was significantly higher for page per person style forms (96 per cent) than for matrix style forms (91 per cent). This may be due to the different positioning of the household questions in the two types of forms.

ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER THE RESPONSE RATE TO INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS DIFFERED BY FORM STYLE

Twenty-nine out of forty-seven response rates to individual questions differed by form style with the page per person style forms having higher response rates than matrix style forms. As the level of all over response to individual questions increases the difference between page per person style forms and matrix style forms decreases.

CONCLUSION

The response rate, completion levels of basic information, level of form completion to individual questions each suggest that there is little difference between page per person forms and matrix forms. However, the level of form completion to households questions and the response rates to individual questions indicate that the page per person style forms produce more complete information than the matrix style forms.

INCOME QUESTION

The 1997 Census Test was designed to allow comparisons of response rates and completion rates in areas where an income question was included on the form with areas where an income question was not included.

ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER THE RESPONSE RATES DIFFERED BY INCLUSION OF AN INCOME QUESTION

The response rate in areas where an income question was included was 72 per cent compared to 74 per cent for areas where an income question was not included. Although this difference was statistically significant ($p < 0.05$), the two responses were similar in practical terms. Some of the two-way interactions involving the income question were significant. These included the collection method, form style and the religion of an area.

ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER THE LEVEL OF COMPLETION OF KEY VARIABLES DIFFERED BY INCLUSION OF AN INCOME QUESTION

The completion levels of basic information (date of birth, sex and marital status) were not affected by the inclusion of an income question indicating that basic information will be filled in whether an income question is included or not.

ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER THE LEVEL OF FORM COMPLETION DIFFERED BY INCLUSION OF AN INCOME QUESTION

Neither the individual level of form completion nor the household levels of form completion were affected by the inclusion of an income question. This means that an income question on the form will not affect the extent to which questions are filled in on the rest of the form, given that the form was returned in the first place.

ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER THE RESPONSE RATE TO INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS DIFFERED BY INCLUSION OF AN INCOME QUESTION

None of the individual questions were affected by the inclusion of an income question. The response rate to the income question itself was 75 per cent, which is comparable with the response rates for questions on economic activity.

CONCLUSION

The inclusion of an income question does not appear to significantly affect the response rate or the various levels of form completion.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES

The 1997 Census Test was designed to allow comparisons of the response rates and various measures of completion in areas with different socio-economic circumstances.

ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER THE RESPONSE RATES DIFFERED BY SOCIO-ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES

The response rates in areas with different socio-economic circumstances had a wider disparity than the response rates in areas with different design variables. The response rate was lower in urban areas (65 per cent) than in rural (80 per cent), lower in deprived areas (70 per cent) than in non-deprived areas (76 per cent). Response was also highest in Protestant areas (80 per cent), followed by Catholic areas (72 per cent) and lowest in mixed areas (68 per cent).

Many two-way interactions involving socio-economic circumstances were significant. For example, the deprivation of an area had a greater

effect on response rates in Catholic and Mixed areas than it did in Protestant areas.

A regression model, developed to estimate the response rates in the 96 possible combinations of design variables and socio-economic circumstances, included the urbanisation variable, the deprivation variable and a religion variable (comparing Protestant with Catholic and other). The model suggests that the response rate should increase, as areas become more Protestant, more rural and less deprived.

ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER THE LEVEL OF COMPLETION OF KEY VARIABLES DIFFERED BY SOCIO-ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES

The completion level of basic information was not affected by any of the socio-economic circumstances variables.

ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER THE LEVEL OF FORM COMPLETION DIFFERED BY SOCIO-ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES

There was no statistically significant difference in the level of individual form completion for each of the socio-economic circumstances variables. The level of household form completion was statistically significantly different in deprived areas (92 per cent) and non-deprived areas (95 per cent), but in practical terms the difference was slight.

ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER THE RESPONSE RATE TO INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS DIFFERED BY SOCIO-ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES

The religion and deprivation of an area affected the response rates to fourteen out of the forty-seven questions. The deprivation of the area

affected mainly the employment questions and the household questions, where non-deprived areas had higher response rates than the deprived areas. The religion of an area mainly affected the response rates to the group of economic activity questions where the highest response rate was for Mixed areas, followed by Protestant areas.

A two-way interaction between urbanisation and deprivation was statistically significant for 21 of the questions, with questions in the employment section and secondary economic activity questions being affected. The response rate in Catholic and mixed urban areas were similar to the response rate in Catholic and mixed rural areas, while the response rate in Protestant urban areas was much lower than in Protestant rural areas.

CONCLUSION

The response rate is affected by the socio-economic circumstances more so than by the key design variables. Urbanisation has the greatest affect. Low response rates from the model may indicate in which area types enumeration problems may arise and so indicate the need for a concentration of field staff in these areas.

COMPLETION RATES FOR ALL QUESTIONS

Response rates to individual questions were defined as the number responding to a given question expressed as a percentage of those who returned a form and to whom the question was relevant (this allows for filtering or sign posting).

The response rates varied from 97 per cent (sex) to 27 per cent (work address postcode). Response rates to economic activity questions such as industry, type of work and size of establishment were generally poor with about 40 per cent of

responses missing. The lowest response rate was for the work address postcode, possibly reflecting both unwillingness to reply and a lack of knowledge of the information.

The response rate to the question on secondary economic activity was poor, which may indicate that this style of question is not suited to a self-completion questionnaire.

Response rates to most of the household questions were high, between 92 and 96 per cent, except for the last two questions, which were preceded by filters. The response rates for these questions were 71 and 73 per cent respectively.

THE CENSUS TEST EVALUATION SURVEY

Following on from the Northern Ireland Census Test a Census Test Evaluation Survey (CTES) was conducted; the aim of which was to examine the quality of the information given in the Census Test by repeating the Census Test questions with a sample of respondents. A number of questions were also asked to determine the acceptability of the form in terms of its overall appearance and to find out whether there were any questions which had caused particular difficulties or which respondents found unacceptable.

A number of addresses were selected from half the Enumeration Areas (24) chosen for the Census Test, such that each of the area variants and form variants which made up the design variables of the Test were sampled in a balanced fashion. One person per responding household was scheduled for interview.

Further samples of 216 addresses (9 per enumeration area) were randomly selected from

households who did not respond to the Census Test.

The CTES questions asked of the Census Test responding households fell into three categories:

- questions to assess coverage of people within the household;
- questions on attitude to the questionnaire and to sensitive questions and about the burden imposed on householders; and
- questions on quality of answers to, and understanding of, the other Census Test questions.

The questions asked of Census Test non-responding households were used to discover reasons for non-response, and particularly whether this was associated with one (or more) of the key design variables of the Test.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

APPEARANCE OF THE CENSUS TEST FORM

Census Test Evaluation Survey analyses suggest that although the Census Test form was easy to understand for a large proportion of respondents, there was still quite a sizeable proportion who found it difficult to understand. People living in either predominantly Protestant or predominantly Roman Catholic areas were more likely to find the form difficult to understand than people living in more mixed areas.

Approximately 15 per cent of the Census Test Evaluation Survey respondents stated that there

were questions that they did not understand or found difficult to answer - the relationship grid and the listing grid were mentioned most frequently.

Just over 18 per cent of CTES respondents stated that there were some questions that they were unhappy with. Within this group, and where respondents had received an income question, 44.7 per cent of respondents objected to the inclusion of an income question and 28.0 per cent objected to the inclusion of a religion question. Where respondents had not received an income question, 31.9 per cent objected to the inclusion of a religion question.

CENSUS TEST COVERAGE

In terms of Census Test coverage, CTES respondents admitted to failing to record information on what equates to 0.4 per cent of the usually resident population. As well as this missing data it appears that 6.6 per cent of all names recorded and 10 per cent of all dates of birth recorded in the Census Test were in error.

QUALITY OF RESPONSES MADE TO THE CENSUS TEST

The level of agreement between the responses made to questions in the Census Test and the responses made to questions in the Census Test Evaluation Survey was used as a measure of the level of question validity/quality.

Generally, but as expected, the levels of response agreement were higher for household (objective) questions than they were for personal (more subjective) questions and ranged from 45 per cent agreement for the hours worked question to 100 per cent agreement for the ethnic group and term-time address questions.

Page per person style forms produced higher levels of response agreement between the Census Test and the CTES responses than the matrix style forms.

CENSUS TEST LOGISTICS

CTES analysis of data obtained from Census Test non-responding households revealed that there was failure of Census Test form delivery to 3.9 per cent of the sample and failure of Census Test form collection from 2.9 per cent of the sample.

A number of Census Test non-respondents also stated that they had failed to respond to the Census Test because of its voluntary nature.

CONCLUSIONS

Certain Census Test questions are difficult to understand (the relationship and listing grids) and require further work and testing before being used in a full census.

Certain questions (education, carers, employment, and secondary economic activity) are difficult to interpret and need further wording tests.

The income and religion questions were the two questions that respondents found most objectionable.

Page per person style forms produce higher quality responses than matrix style forms.

*By Michael Bollan and
Rob Hamilton, Bank of England*

SUMMARY

The following is a record of the Financial Statistics User Group (FSUG) meeting held on 30th June 1999. The meeting was chaired by Colin Jameson of Barclays Bank at their London conference centre. It was attended, inter alia, by representatives from various financial institutions, academia, financial consultants, government and trade bodies with an interest in international banking statistics. Speakers discussed the range of international banking statistics available, the practicalities and limitations of their use and the requirement for the Bank of England to balance the needs of the user against the cost to the producers when compiling banking statistics. The views expressed within the FSUG's meetings, and recorded here, are those of the speakers and do not necessarily represent the views of their organisations, the ONS or the Bank of England.

THE BIS INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL STATISTICS: CURRENT STATE AND FUTURE CHANGES

Rainer Widera of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) gave a presentation, which explained the various sets of statistics available from the BIS, and the links they have with other producers of statistics.

The range of international banking statistics available have been under-utilised in the past, but recent crises in Asia, Russia and South America have greatly increased the interest and demand for them. In response the BIS has attempted to

make data more widely available. Mr Widera made specific mention of the co-operative venture with the World Bank, the IMF and the OECD, all of whom have pooled their variously sourced data to produce a common set of series on global external debt. These components of external debt had not previously been available in one place.

Mr Widera explained that all BIS international banking statistics were sourced from banks rather than any other type of financial organisation. Their scope included three distinct datasets. In principal they dealt with the external on balance sheet liabilities and claims of banks.

The *locational* statistics, which go back to the early 1970s, were created to satisfy a need for analysis of the euro-currency markets as central banks became concerned about their effect on monetary policy. These data examine the stocks and flows of on-balance sheet international claims and liabilities of resident banks. They follow the balance of payments convention of providing data from banks operating within the national boundaries, regardless of their ownership. Coverage is of 18 industrialised nations and six offshore banking centres. Their purpose is to identify the size and structure of international bank lending, establish the relative importance of the various major financial centres, measure external transactions by currency and by sector (i.e. bank or non-bank) and to close the gap in information on non-bank capital flows. They are published quarterly, five months after the period to which they relate.

The second set of data, the consolidated series, mainly concentrates on the stocks of world-wide consolidated international claims of domestically owned banks.

However there is also some input, on a non-consolidated basis, from affiliates of banks with head offices outside the BIS area, but operating inside the area. In order to avoid double counting cross-border business with other offices of the same reporting institution is specifically excluded from these data. These series were introduced in the early 1980s, at the time of the first oil crisis, as worries grew about exposure to developing economies. Their purpose is to provide a measure of the country exposure of national banking systems. Detail is provided on the country of residence of the borrower, on the residual maturity of outstanding lending and a slightly wider sectoral analysis which includes publicly owned organisations as well as banks and other non-residents. The consolidated data also include detail on unused credit commitments.

Contributions are received from the eighteen industrialised countries within the BIS area. It is not necessary to collect data from the offshore banking centres, as few major banks in these centres are domestically owned so the business transacted in them is generally collected via head office returns of those banks within the BIS area. Data are published approximately five months after the period to which they relate.

Mr Widera stressed that because of the different reporting bases, the locational and the consolidated series do not provide the same results.

The third set of data relates to the syndicated credits facilities announced by international syndicates of banks. These are published two months after the end period and are used as an early indication of bank lending.

Mr Widera explained that the BIS statistics are disseminated in a number of ways. There is a regular quarterly review, which includes detailed analysis of the latest data and a comprehensive

statistical annex. They also make use of special press releases and developments are discussed in the Annual Report. All of these are available on the BIS website, which can be found at www.bis.org.

Mr Widera explained some of the proposals for enhancements to the BIS international banking statistics. Seventeen more countries have been invited to contribute to the locational series and so far eight of these have provided test data.

The proposals for the consolidated data are a little more wide ranging. The current five month delay in publishing statistics is to be reduced to four months - a move which will require individual data suppliers and, central bank compilers to provide information more quickly than previously. In the UK, the Bank of England will absorb most of this reduction in processing time. The data will also be expanded to include information on lending to other countries within the BIS area. There are also moves to introduce the concept of ultimate risk whereby it will be possible to reallocate the risk attached to the ultimate debtor when certain conditions apply. Both of these are concepts with which the reporters in the UK are already familiar. As with the locational series new reporting countries have been invited to report. However, perhaps the most significant change will be to increase the frequency of consolidated reporting from semi-annual to quarterly.

Mr Widera also touched on two other additional sets of international financial statistics with which the BIS are concerned. The first is securities statistics, where information is available on international debt securities, international equities and domestic debt securities. These are sourced from commercial databases and cover turnover and stocks. They encompass the type of security, as well as detail by currency, country

and maturity. There are proposals to improve future coverage in terms of country detail. The second set concerns derivatives statistics, both the exchange traded variety and the over the counter variety. Coverage includes detail on turnover, notional amounts outstanding and market values. Data are provided by the various exchanges and central banks and includes detail by risk category, instrument, currency and maturity. Future changes in this area will include the reporting of reserves and banking data.

In answer to a question from the floor, Mr Widera suggested that one benefit of increasing the frequency of the consolidated series to a quarterly cycle would be that compilers at an individual bank level would become more familiar with the concepts involved. This would lead to improved, rather than reduced, accuracy.

There was also a question on the inclusion of the Channel Islands within BIS data. Until September 1997 the islands had been classified (statistically) as part of the UK. Since that date they had become separate entities. Mr Widera explained that as far as the consolidated series were concerned there were few domestically owned banks operating in these areas. It was not yet possible for the BIS to publish data on the islands separately as some reporting countries were still including them as part of the UK.

DATA PROBLEMS WITH EMERGING MARKETS

Christian Hodson is a Senior Economist in the Economics Department of Barclays Bank. His presentation, given from an end user's perspective, concentrated on the practical problems he has faced over the last ten years when analysing data on emerging market countries.

Mr Hodson explained that in his role as an end

user of emerging markets data, he requires timely and accurate data on international reserves, external debt and capital movements. He particularly focuses on the capital account.

He highlighted a number of the key problems facing users of statistics. These include the number of different data sources - which can result in a *lack of consistency* - and the *lack of long time series*. There are a number of explanations for the lack of long time series including the establishment of so many new countries following the dissolution of the Soviet Union. In other areas it is unlikely that systems have been in place long enough to gather the data needed to construct long-run time series. *Lack of timeliness* was cited as another problem and analysts are sometimes also unaware about when new data will be available. *Data revisions*, frequently substantial, also create difficulties. Often changes may be the result of a methodological change required for membership of the OECD or prompted by the IMF: these changes help to improve the quality of data and the comparability of data across countries but can lead to discontinuities in series unless back data are revised. The *method of accessing data* is also important. Hard copies are seen as useful but access via CD-ROM is seen as essential when gathering information on a wide variety of countries and instruments over a long time period.

Mr Hodson went on to explain that he uses data both for his model-based ranking system and for more country-specific analyses. With the former, the key issues are: that data are often in ratio form which need to be, but which are not necessarily, comparable across countries; that the data must be accessible via CD-ROM; and that it must be regularly available on a timely basis.

In the past, it has only been possible to run some models annually because of the lack of timely data.

To counter these deficiencies estimates are used but this limits the scope of the country coverage. With country specific analysis the data sources are mainly multilateral organisations (World Bank etc), national sources (central banks etc) and other information services. The focus of this analysis is on international liquidity.

The recent IIF report recommends that data on international reserves should be published weekly, but for many emerging market economies this is not possible. There are also a number of reliability problems with many countries (notably those in Eastern Europe) and commercial data suppliers sometimes provide inaccurate data. It is also important to monitor the external financing table, which is principally financed by *equity inflows, international financial institutions, official bilateral creditors, commercial banks and other private creditors*.

Although the ideal would be to produce these data in flows form (rather than stocks) on a quarterly basis, current data availability does not allow this. The importance of measuring and distinguishing between country's various exposures was emphasised by the recent Russian crisis when it became clear that the unacceptable levels of short-term debt would inevitably lead to solvency problems.

Finally, Mr Hodson noted other areas of concern for emerging market analysts. He emphasised that markets have a responsibility to interpret data appropriately. Within emerging market economies, for example, large movements in foreign exchange reserves can often be explained by an analyst with good local knowledge. In these circumstances to speculate incorrectly might present insurmountable problems to that country. He also acknowledged that to make significant improvements in data for emerging markets is likely to take considerable time.

Finally he said that political and cultural issues were also likely to impact on the quality of data available for analysis.

BALANCING THE NEED OF DATA USERS AND SUPPLIERS: A UK PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Sabine, senior manager of the Bank of England's Balance of Payments and International Banking Statistics groups spoke about balancing the needs of data users and data producers in the area of international banking statistics.

He explained that the demand for international banking statistics has recently increased. One example being the increased interest in macro-prudential surveillance data, which may be thought of as risk type information at an aggregate country level. Demand for this type of data is in addition to the more traditional macro economic data requirements - which include balance of payments statistics - and for individual institution information - as required by banking supervisors.

Whilst the demand for data is undoubtedly increasing, there is also an increased complexity in both collecting and interpreting existing data. This results from a range of factors; including political change, market deregulation, technological advancements and market innovation. These changes have had a number of effects: many traditional data sources are no longer available (e.g. exchange control systems); there has been a blurring of the boundaries between different economic sectors and product types; there are valuation problems and measurement problems associated with the increased diversification and internationalisation of portfolios. Other problem areas include the difficulty in reporting counterparty detail and off balance sheet positions. In addition, statistical standards need to take account of changing accounting standards.

The UK is the largest centre for international banking activity and accounts for over 20 per cent of all world-wide cross border claims reported to the BIS. Therefore, in addition to being of importance in the analysis of the domestic market, data on the UK's international banking activity are also vital to any understanding of global markets. The multinational nature of UK activity is also reflected in the size of the foreign currency market - indeed only 11 per cent of cross border transactions are in sterling.

The Bank of England's statistics division has to balance user demands against the constraints faced by suppliers of data. Indeed, it is imperative that the gains (in terms of increased efficiency and credibility) arising from better data are balanced against the costs of data provision. The user demands are for timely, reliable, accessible, comprehensive, relevant and consistent data, whilst the constraints unsurprisingly relate to the costs on, and the resources of, the reporting institutions and collection agencies. In addition, any demands for statistical data must also be balanced against competing requirements, including those for regulatory information. Consideration also has to be made as to what would be a reasonable timescale for data production. For example, data may not always be readily accessible from banks with extensive international retail banking networks (note that this is in marked contrast to the relative ease with which information on wholesale activity can be collected) - hence the timelags before data is published.

The Bank of England attempts to ensure that this balance is maintained by adopting an incremental and consensual approach to changes in data collection. Whilst the Bank of England has the legal powers to collect statistics under the Bank of England Act, changes are carried out with the co-operation of banks following

intensive consultation. The Bank of England also plays an active role in the international bodies and discussions that create statistical standards and uses its influence to ensure that demands are reasonable and, where possible, consistent with UK practices.

The UK contributes to both the locational and consolidated BIS international banking statistics. In addition to meeting the BIS's requirements, the UK's data is of interest in its own right. The locational statistics are used to produce the statistical release "*External business of banks operating in the UK*"; this is available 11 weeks after the end of each quarter. The consolidated statistics reveal the external claims (exposures) of UK-owned banks. These data will be published on a quarterly basis with a 12-week lag from Q3 1999. Looking into the future, it is possible that further refinements might focus on risk type information - perhaps including the requirement for greater off-balance sheet information. In addition, the financial activity of the non-bank sector is not well covered by current statistics and this gap in coverage may require attention in the future.

The Bank of England's statistics will soon be improved by the inclusion of greater information on derivative activity.¹ The Bank of England, and the ONS for non-banks, is currently collecting information on a residency basis, which will eventually feed, into the National Accounts and Balance of Payments in a similar way to information on more traditional instruments. This is in contrast to the derivatives data produced by the BIS, which are for the consolidated world-wide figures of banking groups.

Financial disintermediation, which has traditionally been solely focused on the banking sector, is increasingly extending to the capital markets. Therefore the collection of comprehensive information on capital markets is

of paramount importance. A number of events are helping to shape the way these data should be collected – including the introduction of the Euro and the blurring of the distinction between certain kinds of instruments (e.g. between bonds and notes and MTNs).

One of the challenges facing data compilers in the area of capital market statistics is to meet the varying needs of different users and the UK is currently reviewing and improving these statistics. Official policymakers are often interested in the macroeconomic effects of issuance on a national accounts basis. In contrast, other users may be interested in activity by all UK owned entities, regardless of where the issuance actually occurs. In order to meet these and other requirements in a cost efficient manner, the Bank relies on a number of data sources including the London Stock Exchange. The Bank hopes that these improvements will meet the user demands for comprehensive information on this important activity.

OPEN DISCUSSION

This included a discussion on the likely current and future path of international banking activity and how it will impact on the statistics. Issues related to data consistency, gaps and quality were also covered.

Jonathan Davies (Barclays) commented that since the Brazilian crisis, international banking activity appears to have settled down. Mr Hodson agreed but also pointed out that structural micro issues also need to be addressed in many countries – this type of activity obviously could not be monitored by official statistics.

Christine Shields, Royal Bank of Scotland, raised the issue of data consistency. Mr Widera noted that considerable efforts are made to ensure that data are consistent across countries, and that the

recent National Accounts Guides and Balance of Payments Manuals have helped in this regard. Users appear to be particularly concerned with the lack of consistency in external debt data, and in particular the differences between the measures of debt from the different sources. Mr Hodson explained that the joint BIS/IMF/OECD/World Bank publication was a major step forward but that further progress needed to be made. A new book on debt data is being compiled by these international organisations which should help explain the reasons for differences between the data sources. Several participants also emphasised the importance of information on short-term debt – and in particular for data on a remaining maturity basis.

It was noted that there are considerable gaps in data in some countries. Mr Widera indicated that the new IMF/CGFS² template for the authorities' reserves should help meet many data requirements in the area of reserves. However, more generally, data needs must be balanced against the other priorities facing countries – and in particular those facing developing ones.

John Thorp from the Bank of England raised the issue of assessing the quality of data.

Stephen Sabine pointed out that the IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standards state that the production of data should be free from political interference and that the methodologies should be to international standards. These standards also indicate minimum requirements for both timeliness and frequency but quality assurance was a difficult issue on which more work was being done internationally.

FOOTNOTES

¹ *The Bank of England's statistical coverage of financial derivatives is explained in more detail in the July 1999 edition of "Monetary and Financial Statistics".*

² *Committee on the Global Financial System of the G-10 central banks*

NEWS FROM AROUND THE GSS AND BEYOND

GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL SERVICE

ANNUAL REPORT 1998-99

The sixth Annual Report of the Government Statistical Service (GSS) was published in November 1999. It includes sections on how the GSS is structured and operates, highlights of the year, future plans and key achievements and targets by subject area.

Copies are available, free of charge, from:

Mel Lea
National Statistics and Policy Division
Office for National Statistics
Zone D4/12
1 Drummond Gate
LONDON, SW1V 2QQ
Tel: 020 7533 6212
E-mail: mel.lea@ons.gov.uk

REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON WEIGHTING AND ESTIMATION

The GSS Methodology Committee Task Force on Weighting and Estimation has recently completed a review of weighting and estimation methods used in the GSS, and have published its report as No. 16 in the GSS Methodology Series.

The Task Force was set up with the remit of reviewing current GSS practice in grossing survey data, identifying any particular problems and making recommendations for good practice in the use of weighting and estimation methods in the future. The Report reviews the main approaches to grossing and describes the methods used on a number of current GSS surveys. It

recommends that the calibration weighting method be adopted whenever possible on surveys undertaken by or on behalf of the GSS.

Copies of this Report, and of the others in the series, can be obtained from:

ONS Direct
Room D130
Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
NEWPORT, NP10 8XG
Tel: 01633 812078
Fax: 01633 812762

OFFICE FOR NATIONAL STATISTICS

NEW DIRECTORS FOR ONS

The new directors to form the Office for National Statistics' senior management executive team have been announced. The appointments follow a review and re-organisation of the senior management of ONS.

The three new directors have been appointed through open competition and join the Director of ONS, Dr Tim Holt and Director of Methods and Quality, Julian Calder to form the Executive. Together with non-executive members they will comprise the Board.

The appointments include two promotions of staff from within ONS. John Kidgell (55) becomes Director of Economic Statistics. Mr Kidgell began his career in the private sector before joining the Civil Service where he has served for 27 years, mainly in statistical areas. He has been head of the macro-economic statistics group and chaired a senior European Union



John Kidgell

economic statistics committee. His new post brings together responsibility for macro-economic and business statistics heading a single directorate responsible for economic information.



John Pullinger

Director of Social Statistics is John Pullinger (40). Mr Pullinger joined the Civil Service from university in 1980 at the Department of Trade and Industry. He also held posts at the Department of the Environment and Office of Manpower Economics before

joining the Central Statistical Office, later part of ONS. Most recently he has been acting director of the socio-economic statistics and analysis group. His new role oversees social, demographic, health and labour market statistics, social surveys and the census.



Alan Goldsmith

The third appointment is from outside the Civil Service. Alan Goldsmith (51) becomes Director of Finance and Corporate Services. He worked for 29 years for Royal Dutch Shell and was a general manager with wide international experience in both senior operational and

corporate roles. In the past six years he has been Vice President for Finance and IT in Western Europe, Shell International; Director of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shell UK; and Vice President Finance and Planning, Shell Europe Oil Products.

NEW CHIEF MEDICAL STATISTICIAN



Peter Goldblatt

Peter Goldblatt has joined ONS as the Chief Medical Statistician and Director of Demography and Health Division. He began his career in Government Service when he joined OPCS's Medical Statistics Division in 1977. Since then, he has worked in

the Social Statistics Research Unit at City University, the Statistics Division of the Department of Health and the Research and Development Directorate of the Home Office. His main research interests have covered the medical aspects of the Longitudinal Study, social and demographic variations in health and the targeting of resources, particularly in the areas of health gain, social care and crime reduction.

2001 CENSUS UPDATE

In April and May 1999, the Census Office held a series of roadshow meetings around the UK as part of the continuing consultation with users on their statistical and geographic requirements for outputs from the 2001 Census.

Aims

The roadshow meetings were designed to help users to shape the content of the reports from the

2001 Census and the services of standard and customised outputs. Each roadshow meeting covered the Government proposals for the 2001 Census, particularly where there were changes from the 1991 Census, and described the first proposals for output.

Key outcomes

There was general support for the mission of the Census Offices, which stated that:

‘the effort and cost of taking a Census is only worthwhile when results meet needs and are delivered effectively’

and for the overall aim of delivering quality output, which from the user viewpoint, should be:

- comprehensive, comparable between areas and over time;
- flexible enough to meet adhoc needs;
- accessible for use on PCs through intuitive and up-to-date products;
- delivered on time and error free; and
- value for money, where costs do not constrain use.

In all, data should serve the community without disclosing personal information.

It was recognised that the basis of the infrastructure to deliver output would be:

- an output database free of bias and on a 100 per cent basis;
- a comprehensive framework of output classifications, harmonised between sources;
- an integral framework of geography;
- complete, co-ordinated and accessible metadata; and
- an efficient ‘count engine’ and a cost-effective, user-friendly service for customised output.

Joined-up government

There were frequent requests during the meetings for the Census Office to ensure that terms of use and access to 2001 Census output met the needs of modernised, joined-up government.

ONS has subsequently developed proposals for an up-front project. With the involvement of partners representing each of the main parts of the public sector - central government, the NHS, local authorities, and the academic community - this would provide a service to give access to a comprehensive set of results from the 2001 Census. It would also meet the cost recovery obligations of the Census Act 1920.

At the core of service would be a dataset of standard output, regional, local and small area statistics, plus supporting information (metadata) and a geographical framework. Data would be delivered in any degree of sophistication to users ‘desktops’ - normally but not necessarily in electronic format - with training and back-up, under terms to encourage use of the data in a joined-up way for public sector purposes.

REVIEW OF ONS AND GSS WEBSITES

ONS is currently considering the merger of the two main official statistics websites, in order to bring the best aspects of both sites together to ensure greater cohesion and improved access to official statistics.

The ONS website at www.ons.gov.uk provides up to date information on corporate issues and products and services. Its role is mainly to provide information and as such contains comparatively little by way of actual data. There are specialist pages on such things as ‘New Products’, ‘Preparation for the 2001 Census’, ‘Education’ and a useful ‘Guide to Registration Services’.

In contrast, the Government Statistical Service (GSS) site at www.statistics.gov.uk is largely data orientated. It hosts StatBase®, which provides Internet users with on-line access to a vast range of datasets via a convenient and easy-to-use electronic catalogue spanning statistics across the GSS. This site is linked to other GSS departments including the ONS.

Bringing the two sites together would provide an easier, more integrated and comprehensive route to finding official information. Rather than simply merging the two sites, ONS wishes to take the opportunity to ask site users for their views upon which pages/features are liked or disliked, which features should be retained and which should be dropped, as well as suggestions for features not currently on either site.

Comments and suggestions can be sent to:

Sallie Mogford
Office for National Statistics
Room D.130
Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
NEWPORT, NP10 8XG
E-mail: sallie.mogford@ons.gov.uk

STATBASE® SYSTEM ENHANCED BY NEW TIMEZONE DATA DELIVERY SERVICE

ONS has added a new feature to StatBase®, the online data delivery system which gives fast access, via the Internet, to all of the most widely-used Government Statistical Service time-series data.

StatBase® – TimeZone is the latest facility to be added to the StatBase® system and is designed to meet the needs of users of economic data.

StatBase® – TimeZone complements the existing ONS Databank service and is a keenly priced delivery channel providing subscribers with fast electronic access to complete time-series from ONS's major economic outputs such as First Releases or compendia volumes such as *Economic Trends*.

StatBase® – TimeZone enables access and download of a small number from a wide choice of individual time series. The facility also allows customers to:

- Browse through each of the available release sets very soon after their release.
- Access a variety of data for a specific sector of the economy, or cherry-pick data from a range of publications produced by ONS.
- Obtain a longer history for each series than appears in paper publications.
- Download data to customers' own desktop PC.

Customers can explore StatBase® by clicking on the StatBase® button on the ONS website:

www.ons.gov.uk

More information can be obtained from:

ONS Databank
Tel: 020 7533 5675
Fax: 020 7533 5688
E-mail: ons.direct@ons.gov.uk

NHSCR SIXTIETH BIRTHDAY

The Central Register at ONS Southport celebrated its sixtieth birthday on 29th September 1999.

Now known as the National Health Service Central Register, it started life in 1939 as the Central National Registration Office. National Registration was introduced at the outbreak of World War II. The system was intended to 'provide for initial compilation and maintenance of a national register to support and facilitate any national service arrangements, to provide up to date man power and other population statistics, to update the 1931 Census, to establish contact between members of families dispersed by evacuation and to facilitate identity'.

To commemorate the event, ONS has produced a souvenir booklet to give a flavour of life in its Southport office during the years of National Registration. It describes the arrangements for the enumeration of the population, the feelings of the civil servants evacuated from London, the reaction of the people in Southport to the influx and the working conditions in the office. The booklet also gives an indication of the many uses to which the Central Register was put and invariably includes some statistics.

Material for the booklet, including photographs and illustrations, has been drawn from ONS's own files, from newspaper archives, local historians and, most importantly, from several of the staff who worked at the Central National Registration Office during the war years.

If you would like a copy of this special souvenir, please contact:

Sue White
Office for National Statistics
Tel: 0151 471 4202
E-mail: sue.white@ons.gov.uk

BINOCAR

The British Isles Network of Congenital Anomaly Registers (BINOCAR) was set up jointly, in 1996, by ONS and Dr David Stone at the Glasgow Register of Congenital Anomalies. The purpose of the network is to bring together all those working in the field of monitoring and reporting on congenital anomalies. It includes the National Congenital Anomaly System at ONS and registers set up in some regions. Some of these focus on prenatal diagnosis and counselling, others on epidemiological studies or specific anomalies such as Down's Syndrome and facial clefts.

The second annual BINOCAR meeting took place in February 1999 at the new Swallow Hotel in Liverpool. It was co-hosted by ONS staff from London and Titchfield and the Merseyside and Cheshire Congenital Anomaly Survey. One hundred people attended the two-day meeting, which provided an opportunity to share information and achievements, and to plan to work together on collaborative projects. Those present included, doctors, research midwives, academics, computer programmers and statisticians. The meeting included a session where research papers on birth defects and their prevention were presented.

The event gave ONS an opportunity to celebrate the culmination of two years work with two regional registers, the Trent register CAR and the Welsh register CARIS, on electronic data transfer to the National Congenital Anomaly System. The ONS system has been modified to accept both paper and electronic data transfer. Local NHS Trusts in these regions previously filled in congenital anomaly notification forms, which they then submitted to ONS. They will now only have to notify cases to their local register who will send the data on to ONS. Regional registers collect

information about congenital anomalies from many sources, and this development is now providing ONS with more comprehensive data on congenital anomalies in Wales and the Trent region.

ONS published a new guide for the National Congenital Anomaly System to coincide with the BINOCAR meeting. The guide provides a comprehensive overview of the system for both data users and suppliers. It includes changes which have been made to incorporate the NHS number and for year 2000 compliance. It also explains the surveillance procedures and how data for England and Wales contribute to worldwide monitoring programmes. Copies of the guide can be obtained from:

Lyn Watmore
Office for National Statistics
Tel: 01329 813618
E-mail: lyn.watmore@ons.gov.uk

The 3rd annual BINOCAR meeting will be held in Birmingham on 2nd and 3rd March 2000. For more details contact:

Lorraine Streater
Office for National Statistics
Tel: 020 7533 5209
E-mail: lorraine.streater@ons.gov.uk

INDEX OF PLACE NAMES

The *Index of Place Names* (IPN) is a gazetteer that pinpoints a comprehensive listing of some 70,000 places in England and Wales with their respective administrative areas, and includes population figures for those areas which have statutorily defined boundaries. An index has been produced at intervals since the 1831 Census and, given the frequency with which boundaries of administrative areas are subject to change, the IPN is now produced annually on CD-ROM.

The latest, 1998 version, takes account of changes to statutory boundaries and/or names up to 31st December 1998.

The index on CD-ROM contains:

- over 10,000 Electoral Wards/Divisions;
- some 10,000 parishes;
- 2,600 Urban Areas and subdivisions and
- 44,000 localities (local places without legally defined boundaries).

as well as records for all the local government and other administrative areas themselves.

The file holds easily accessible 1991 Census 'usually resident' populations for all places with statutory boundaries readjusted to take account of boundary changes since Census day (21st April 1991) and includes grid references to enable place names to be identified on Ordnance Survey maps.

The *Index of Place Names* is available, price £100 (plus VAT) from:

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

SMOKING, DRINKING AND DRUG USE AMONG YOUNG TEENAGERS IN 1998

Two new surveys on smoking, drinking and drug use among teenagers in England and Scotland were produced by the Social Survey Division of ONS in October 1999.

The main purpose of these latest surveys in a biennial series was to continue to monitor smoking and drinking among secondary school children aged 11–15 (12–15 in Scotland), and for the first time to obtain estimates of the

prevalence of drug use among this age group. Some of the key results for England are given below.

Smoking

In 1998, the overall proportion of 11–15 year olds who were regular smokers (smoking at least once cigarette a week, on average) was 11 per cent, compared with 13 per cent in 1996. Continuing the pattern first established in the mid-1980s, prevalence was significantly higher among girls (12 per cent) than among boys (9 per cent). Although the fall in prevalence between 1996 and 1998 is statistically significant, it may just represent a short-term fluctuation, rather than the start of a downward trend.

Although girls are more likely than boys to be regular smokers, among those who do smoke are, boys smoke more cigarettes. In 1998, boys who were regular smokers had smoked an average of 65 cigarettes in the previous week, compared with 49 for girls.

In 1998 as in previous years most smokers bought their cigarettes from shops, with newsagents or tobacconists (65 per cent) and garage shops (35 per cent) being the most common type of retail outlets used. Sixty-one per cent of current smokers were given cigarettes by their friends while over a quarter (28 per cent) bought them from friends and relatives: almost a quarter (24 per cent) said that they bought cigarettes from a machine.

Drinking

The average weekly amount drunk per pupil aged 11–15 in 1998 was 1.6 units (somewhat less than a pint of beer or its equivalent). This was less than the estimate of 1.8 units in 1996, but still double the figure of 0.8 units in 1990. The overwhelming majority had drunk little or

nothing in the previous seven days and most of the remainder had drunk only modest amounts. However, at the other end of the scale, 4 per cent of boys and 2 per cent of girls had drunk 15 or more units in the previous week.

It is against the law for anyone under 18 to buy alcohol in a pub, off-licence, shop or other outlet, but almost half of those who drink (28 per cent of all children aged 11–15) said they did buy alcohol. By far the most common place of purchase was the off-licence, mentioned by 20 per cent of drinkers.

Drug use

Although one third of pupils had been offered drugs, a much smaller proportion, 13 per cent, had ever used drugs. Boys were more likely to have used drugs than were girls (14 per cent compared with 12 per cent). Over half (52 per cent) of those who had ever taken drugs had only ever used cannabis, 40 per cent had used cannabis and other drugs, and 9 per cent had used other drugs only.

Of the 13 per cent of pupils who had ever used drugs, about half - 7 per cent of all pupils - had done so in the last month, and a further 4 per cent of pupils had done so in the last year, though not in the last month. Two per cent of pupils had last used drugs more than a year ago.

The likelihood of having ever used drugs is strongly related to both smoking experience and usual drinking frequency. When the different combinations of smoking and drinking behaviour are considered, the association with drug use is striking. Virtually no children who had never smoked or drunk alcohol had ever used drugs, but as many as 75 per cent of regular smokers who drank at least once a week had done so.

Smoking, drinking and drug use among young teenagers in 1998 Volume 1: England

The Stationery Office

Price £27, ISBN 0 11 621263 2

Smoking, drinking and drug use among young teenagers in 1998 Volume 2: Scotland

The Stationery Office

Price £27, ISBN 0 11 621281 0

Available from:

The Stationery Office Publications Centre

P.O. Box 276

LONDON, SW8 5DT

Tel: 0870 600 5522

Fax: 0870 600 5533

Internet: tso-online.co.uk

ANNUAL BUSINESS INQUIRY 1997

Updated results of the Annual Business Inquiry are now available in the latest edition of the *Production and Construction Inquiries - Summary Volume* (PA1002), available from ONS Direct.

The Summary Volume (PA1002) contains data for 1993 - 1997, including higher aggregate data. The thirteen tables contained within this publication cover a wide range of variables, including employment, labour costs, capital expenditure and stocks.

In addition to this publication, individual industry results are available at a fee of £20 per industry by phoning 01633 812435 or faxing 01633 812575.

Copies of the *Summary Volume* (£75) are available from:

ONS Direct

Tel: 01633 812078

Fax: 01633 812762

E-mail: ons.direct@ons.gov.uk

Further information on the Annual Business Inquiry, individual industry tables and Summary Volume tables can be obtained from:

Julian Dowsell

Room 1.301

Office for National Statistics

Government Buildings

Cardiff Road

NEWPORT, NP10 8XG

Tel: 01633 812435

E-mail: julian.dowsell@ons.gov.uk

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
1998-99**

The 1998 - 99 edition of the ONS *Annual Report and Accounts* is now available, priced £12.55 (ISBN 0 10 276499 9) from:

The Stationery Office Publications Centre

P.O. Box 276

LONDON, SW8 5DT

Tel: 0870 600 5522

Fax: 0870 600 5533

Internet: tso-online.co.uk

HM CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

**UNITED KINGDOM REGIONAL TRADE
STATISTICS**

The Customer Services and Data Analysis team within the UK Tariff and Statistical Office (TSO) has watched with interest as the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh and Northern Irish Assemblies have been created. These three bodies have expressed a high degree of interest in acquiring trade in goods statistics generated by companies based in their countries.

For the past year or so, the team has been consulting heavily with key customers, and after a lot of research is satisfied that credible statistics for the three home countries as well as nine English regions can be produced.

Also interested are the corresponding nine English regional Government Offices (since 1st April 1999 supplemented by the Regional Development Agencies). These have been tasked to introduce regional export strategies. They see TSO's new data as a useful tool to monitor the effectiveness of these strategies.

The recently formed British Trade International body has also expressed an interest in the regional data. Other potential users, especially those taking a strategic overview of UK regions, were also identified and taken on board.

The official launch of the new regional data will be held on 27th January 2000 at the Office for National Statistics in Drummond Gate, London.

Details of the number of importers and exporters in the twelve UK regions and the total value of each region's imports and exports will be available as a quarterly news release. A more detailed breakdown, by industry group and partner countries, will be made available by subscription.

If you would like to know more about the new data or have any comments you think would be useful to the project team, please contact:

David Simpson or Laura Harkes-McKenzie
HM Customs and Excise
UK Tariff and Statistical Office
5th Floor SC
Alexander House
21 Victoria Avenue
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA, SS99 1AA
Tel: 01702 367333
E-mail: statistics.tso@hmce.gov.uk

INFORMATION AGE GOVERNMENT - THE INTRASTAT E-FORM

In their Modernising Government Action Plan, HM Customs and Excise have set specific targets to meet the challenges of the 21st Century. One of the targets is that the Department should deliver 50 per cent of its services electronically by 2005 and 100 per cent by 2008. The need to utilise technology to obtain Customs data was recognised by the Department well before the publication of the Government's White Paper, and as a first step towards Electronic Data Interchange (EDI), the UK Tariff and Statistical Office (TSO), set up an EDI Promotion Team in 1996.

In the early days, TSO promoted the transmission of Intrastat data in EDIFACT standard but the results were not encouraging. Since then, the wider uses of Internet by the business world lead TSO to launch the Intrastat e-form in December 1998. The form provided a facility for keying in data off-line.

Since its launch, the e-form has gone from strength to strength and currently some 1,600 traders have registered with the TSO to submit their trade data via the Internet. The form provides a cost effective alternative to submitting data on paper and as many Internet Service Providers (ISPs) now provide free access with local call rates, sending data via the internet is probably as cheap as sending a letter. It is certainly quicker and more efficient than sending data by post.

An update to the e-form in January 1999 provided business with the option of local input of data using Comma Separated Variables (CSV) files. This has proved a very popular feature as it allows businesses to upload bulk data from, for example, an Excel spreadsheet to the Intrastat e-form using a CSV file. This saves the trader from having to key in the data.

The pioneering work done and the lessons learnt from setting up the Intrastat e-form has provided a firm foundation for future work on setting up a system that will provide a consolidated service for the traders who wish to submit all data electronically to all government departments.

If you would like any more information on the Intrastat e-form please contact the EDI Helpdesk:

Tel: 01702 367248
E-mail: helpdesk.edcs@hmce.gov.uk

GOVERNMENT ACTUARY'S DEPARTMENT

1998-BASED NATIONAL POPULATION PROJECTIONS

National population projections are used as the basis for planning across the whole spectrum of government and non-government life. They give numbers in the population by age and sex for the United Kingdom and its constituent countries. Whilst the projections extend for 70 years for Great Britain and the United Kingdom and 40 years for individual countries, the main focus is on the first 25 years, up to 2023.

On 25th November 1999, key results from the latest 1998-based set of projections were issued in Press Release ONS (99) 408. In March 2000, *Population Trends 99* will carry an article with more information. Full details, including the assumptions made and a comparison with the previous projections, are available from GAD. The reference volume for the projections (PP2 no. 22) containing summary figures, commentary, and the variant projections will be published later this year.

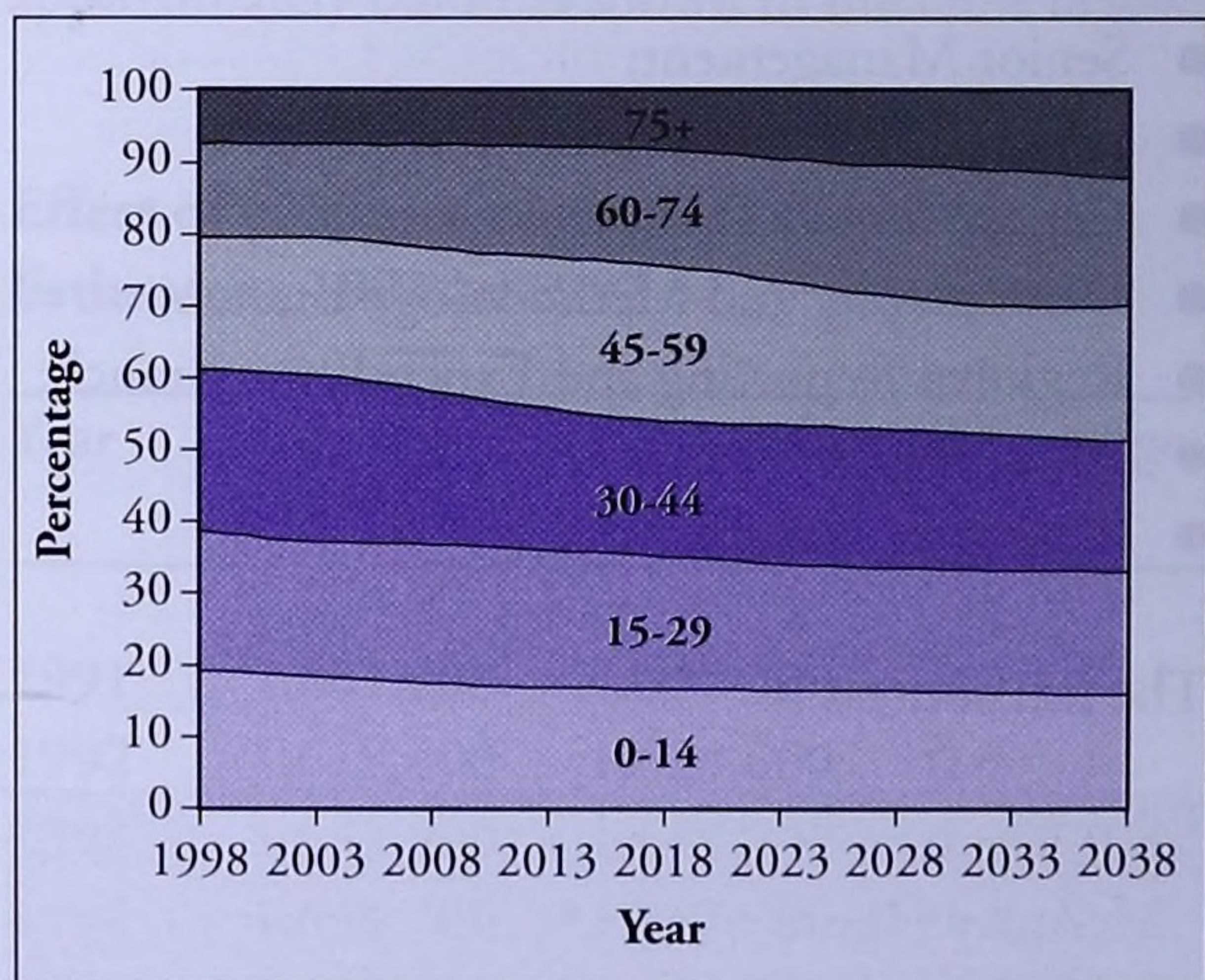
The United Kingdom population is projected to increase gradually from an estimated 59.2 million in 1998 to reach 63.6 million by 2021. Longer-term projections suggest that it will peak at nearly 65 million in 2036 and then begin to fall. The next century is expected to see a markedly older age distribution (see the chart below) with the median age rising from 36.9 years in 1998 to 44 years in forty years' time.

Compared with the previous (1996-based) projections the major change has been to the migration assumption. Annual net inward migration is assumed to be 95 thousand in the long-term, in contrast to previous projections it was assumed to be 65 thousand. Higher life expectancies are also assumed, especially for men.

For more information contact:

Graham Lamberti
Tel: 020 7211 2622
E-mail: graham.lamberti@gad.gov.uk

Percentage age distribution, United Kingdom, 1998–2038



NEW ADDRESS FOR GAD

As from 18th October 1999, GAD has moved to a new address:

New King's Beam House
22 Upper Ground
LONDON, SE1 9RJ

Telephone numbers and e-mail addresses remain unchanged.

NORTHERN IRELAND STATISTICS AND RESEARCH AGENCY

NEW ADDRESS FOR NISRA

On 29th November 1999, NISRA officially moved to its new headquarters building located at the heart of Belfast city centre. Staff previously located in The Arches Centre and Londonderry House have relocated to three floors of McAuley House, which has undergone extensive renovation in recent months.

The staff and branches involved are:

- Senior Management;
- Census Office for Northern Ireland;
- Central Survey Unit;
- Demography and Methodology Branch;
- Regional Reporting and Expenditure Branch;
- Social Policy Branch;
- Corporate Branch.

The full address is:

NISRA
McAuley House
2-14 Castle Street
BELFAST, BT1 1SA
Tel: 028 90 34 8100 (switchboard)
GTN: 440 67100

CENSUS MANAGER RETIRES

Trevor Evans retired from NISRA after 11 years as census manager and 33 years working in the Northern Ireland Civil Service. His leaving party and presentation took place on the 9th November and was attended by a large number of friends and colleagues. The Agency's Chief Executive, Mr Jardine and Registrar General, Dr Caven paid tribute to his highly valued contribution to the Census and to wider work programmes in NISRA. Most also marvelled at the fact that he never had any sick leave during his civil service career. Alex Clarke, the Deputy Director of Census Division made a presentation on behalf of ONS colleagues. Trevor will continue to undertake short-term census consultancies overseas, so will continue to combine his love of travel and the census.

Dr James Gillan will take over as Census Manager within NISRA and can be contacted at:

Tel: 028 90 34 8150
GTN: 440 67150

MID-YEAR POPULATION ESTIMATES IN NORTHERN IRELAND - VALIDATION AND EXTENSION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISTRICTS

An executive paper concerning the above subject area was recently circulated with two main aims:

- to examine the process used to generate Mid-Year Estimates (MYEs) of population in Northern Ireland, in order to validate the published data.
- to develop the method to produce MYEs at the level of Northern Ireland's 26 Local Government Districts (LGDs).

The first aim was addressed by comparing the MYEs with alternative estimates generated

through civil registrations (births and deaths) and current administrative sources such as the Central Health Index, the School Census and Social Security benefits data.

The broad level of the Northern Ireland MYEs was confirmed by these analyses. However, a number of revisions to the MYEs are proposed:

i) It is an acknowledged phenomenon that a proportion of people omit babies from Census returns. It is proposed that the number of age zeros in the MYEs in Census years, which is currently based on the Census count, be replaced by an estimate based on registration data.

ii) The estimate of the number of age zeros from registration data includes births to non-residents. It is proposed to omit births to non-residents from the MYEs. These births number about 200 per year, or 0.8 per cent of all births, and the number of age zeros in the MYEs will reduce accordingly.

iii) Birth registration data, School Census data and Child Benefit data all suggest that the phenomenon of omitting babies aged zero from Census returns also applied to very young children, aged 1-3. The data sets are more consistent if the Census count for such children is factored up by 2 per cent.

iv) There is weak evidence of slight problems with Census enumeration of 18-20 year olds. No changes in the MYEs are proposed, but this age group should be one focus of attention in 2001.

v) The current MYEs show declining numbers of the very elderly, counter to a priori expectations, and the population projections which contain increasing numbers of such people. A similar decline has been shown to be present in the MYEs, which followed each of the last three Censuses. An analysis of deaths data since 1971

quantifies an undercount of the elderly in the 1971 Census, which increases with age. The 1991 Census counts for the elderly have been adjusted using factors estimated from the 1971 Census. The resulting MYEs for the elderly are now broadly consistent with administrative data from the Central Health Index and the Social Security system.

vi) Analysis of the age at death recorded by GRO suggests generally high quality, but for the very elderly (aged 90+) about 5 per cent of death registrations overstate age at death by at least three years. It is recommended that GRO deaths data be used to generate MYEs by single year of age to age 84 (rather than 89 at present) with a top age category of aged 85+ (rather than 90+). The age distribution within the 85+ age category will be estimated from administrative sources.

vii) Analysis of the migration data suggests an underestimate of gross migration flows for males aged 18-32 of the order of 30 to 40 per cent. This applies both to in and out migration.

The overall effect of the proposed revisions is to increase Northern Ireland's population by approximately 6,000 as shown in the table below.

Effect of proposed changes to Mid-Year Estimates - 1991 to 1997

Year	Current MYE	Proposed MYE	Percentage change
1991	1,601,400	1,607,300	0.4
1992	1,618,400	1,624,600	0.4
1993	1,631,800	1,638,300	0.4
1994	1,641,700	1,647,900	0.4
1995	1,649,000	1,654,900	0.4
1996	1,663,300	1,669,100	0.3
1997	1,675,000	1,680,300	0.3

The main source of information about migration into and out of Northern Ireland is based on registrations with GPs. The data are available to NISRA through the Central Health Index (CHI) and the National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR). The data are currently undergoing enhancement, through postcoding. At present, the data are restricted to migration into and out of Northern Ireland (omitting movement within Northern Ireland) and no geographical identifier below Northern Ireland level is available. In the future, the data will include moves within Northern Ireland and have LGD identifiers enabling *future* estimates of migration at the level of LGDs. Although the enhancement of CHI data will allow a future measure of migration moves within Northern Ireland, the quality of the data will need to be assessed prior to its incorporation in the MYEs.

A method of attributing Northern Ireland migration to LGDs over the period 1991-1997 is developed in the paper, and a set of MYEs for each LGD over the period 1991-1997 is derived and presented. In addition to providing estimates of LGD population structures, these data will provide a starting point for the introduction of potential new migration estimates from the CHI.

The resulting 1997 population estimates for LGDs, which incorporate 6 years of revised migration estimates, show revisions to population which range from +4 per cent (Carrickfergus) to -3 per cent (Belfast). The population revisions for 12 of the 26 LGDs are one per cent or less.

These 1991 to 1997 mid-year population estimates at LGD level are being published simultaneously with the 1998 MYEs as part of the usual 1998 MYE round. It is intended that population projections at LGD level will follow in 2000 using the Government Actuary's Department's 1998-based Northern Ireland projections which are expected in early 2000.

The availability of MYEs at the level of LGDs will enable analyses such as expectation of life, age-standardised death rates, standardised mortality ratios and total period fertility rates to be performed at LGD level. These will be reported by NISRA.

THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

NEW SCOTTISH ECONOMIC STATISTICS PUBLICATION, AND SCOTTISH ECONOMIC STATISTICS PROGRAMME OF WORK

For many years, a twice yearly *Scottish Economic Bulletin* (SEB), which contains articles commenting on the Scottish economy, analytical and technical papers and a range of statistics on the Scottish economy has been published. In addition, a series of Statistical Bulletins has been published, along with Input-Output tables for Scotland and an annual Government Expenditure and Revenue in Scotland (GERS) analysis.

With the Scottish Parliament, and the general requirement to improve the range, presentation and availability of Scottish economic statistics, it has been decided to reorganise the publication and dissemination of economics and statistics material relating to the Scottish economy. There is intense interest in this information, and the new proposed range of publications will provide a response to that interest.

In addition to the GERS report, the existing SEB will be split into three separate publications/series:

- a twice-yearly economic report on the state of the Scottish economy and prospects, lagging the Treasury's pre-Budget report and Budget report;
- an annual Scottish economic statistics publication, similar to the UK's *Economic*

Trends, containing statistics on the Scottish economy plus methodological articles;

- an economic discussion paper series, which will incorporate any other articles which currently appear in the SEB, as well as papers which currently go out in the research series.

The new *Scottish Economic Statistics* publication will contain an updated version of the Scottish Economic Statistics Programme, which sets out the strategy for the planned outputs, and the development of new economic statistics for Scotland during 2000.

For further information contact:

Jill Alexander
Office of the Chief Economic Adviser
Scottish Executive
Tel: 0131 244 2825
E-mail: jill.alexander@scotland.gov.uk

SOCIAL WORK INFORMATION REVIEW

A review is being carried out into the information requirements for social work services in Scotland. The Social Work Information Review Group (SWIRG) comprising representatives of the Association of Directors of Social Work (ADSW), the Confederation of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), the Scottish Executive and the Accounts Commission for Scotland, was established last year. Its purpose was to address concerns about the quality and availability of social work performance and management information, both within local authorities and nationally.

- A document detailing local and national information requirements was put out for consultation in August 1998 and responses are currently being examined with a view to producing an agreed statement of information needs in January 1999.

- The next phase of the review will be to commission work to develop standard definitions, classifications, and code-lists which will be required to support a national minimum data-set for social work.
- The third phase will involve an examination of local authorities IT systems, to ensure that they are capable of collecting and providing the information required for local and national purposes.

For further information contact:

Julie Goodall
Community Care Statistics Division
Scottish Executive
Tel: 0131 244 5366

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

BANK OF ENGLAND

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATISTICS USER GROUP SEMINAR ON HOUSE PRICE STATISTICS: 22ND APRIL 1999

The Royal Statistical Society at 12 Errol Street, London, hosted the FSUG house price seminar with **Mr Simon Briscoe** (*Financial Times*) in the chair and nearly 100 members present.

The aims of the seminar were:

- To inform attendees how the various UK house price indices are calculated;
- To highlight the statistical and methodological differences between these indices;
- To facilitate discussion and views from those present.

Steve Perry (Nationwide Building Society) and **Steve Rothwell** (Halifax plc) described their house price indices and the possible causes of the differences between the two. The Halifax and Nationwide indices had diverged during 1997 and, although the two indices have recently moved back more into line, there are consistent differences between them with no firm conclusions as to why these exist. Essentially the methodologies underpinning these two indices are very similar, using a regression-based approach with a large number of variables to derive a mix adjusted estimate of house prices with atypical properties excluded. The samples used by each society are mutually exclusive and based on the mortgage approvals made by each institution on a monthly basis. There are a number of different variables contained within each of the indices although research has shown that these have only a small effect on the divergence between them. The timing of the data samples is different with the Nationwide data taken over a monthly period up to the third week in every month whilst the Halifax is based on a calendar month. There may be an element of regional bias in the samples. The Nationwide attempts to correct its southern bias by using weights from the Department for the Environment, Transport and Regions (DETR) whilst the Halifax claim to have a sufficiently large customer base across the UK as to substantially reduce any potential northern bias. In any case, changing the weights has been shown to have only a small effect on the final results.

David Champion (DETR) then explained how the DETR calculate its own house price index. The index is based on data collected through the monthly Survey of Mortgage Lenders, a voluntary survey undertaken jointly with the Council of Mortgage Lenders covering a 5 per cent sample of mortgage lending activity each month. In contrast to the Halifax and

Nationwide indices, the DETR index is based on mortgage completions rather than approvals, covers data from over 50 lenders but contains fewer variables to use for mix adjustment. The DETR have discussed with the CML the feasibility of increasing the 5 per cent monthly sample although no conclusions had yet been reached and any decision would obviously depend on the agreement of all lenders in the sample.

David Wall (Office for National Statistics) talked about the development of a house price index based on official data collected by the Land Registry. These data are the only comprehensive source of information on all residential property transactions in England and Wales, and includes those properties that change hands without a mortgage such as cash purchases and inheritances. The data is based on the value of the property at completion and is therefore more in line with the DETR data although different to the basis of the Halifax and Nationwide data. Discussions on how to use this comprehensive data to construct a national house price index began in 1995 but a subsequent feasibility study concluded that the variables collected were not sufficiently detailed for use in constructing a standardised, benchmark house price index. In an attempt to enhance the usefulness of the data modified Land Registry forms were introduced in April 1998 (July 1999 for new properties) that contained new questions requesting more detailed information on the size of a property, namely the number of bedrooms. However the response to these extra voluntary questions has been poor (around 10 per cent) and the information collected thus far is not sufficient to form the basis of an index.

Jeremy Donaldson (Land Registry) confirmed that the voluntary completion of the extra questions on the Land Registry forms had been

low in spite of publicity amongst solicitors to explain why the information is required. Responses to the publicity had indicated unanimous opposition, largely on the grounds of added costs and time. Whilst a new Land Registry bill was currently being drafted, there were problems including the new questions as a compulsory requirement since it was difficult to justify them on the grounds of direct relevance to the scope of the bill. It was also difficult to provide for sanctions against those not providing the information since non-compliance would not be sufficient grounds to deny legal estate to a buyer. Furthermore, the imposition of a fine for late compliance might be passed on by solicitors to their clients.

Professor Mike Fleming, who has undertaken research work on house price statistics over many years and was one of the authors of the Halifax and Nationwide methodology, opened up the discussion from the floor. He concluded that none of the house price indices as described was sufficiently robust to be used as a UK benchmark. Combining each of the data sets and methods together may be no more successful since research has shown that this does not explain a great deal of the divergences between the various indices. The use of data for mortgage completions rather than approvals can however make a notable difference on timing when house prices change quickly. Looking ahead, the collection of more detailed Land Registry data may be the most constructive way forward although this may be difficult to achieve.

Tolga Ediz (Bank of England) explained that the Bank had developed its own index of house price inflation which was based on the Land Registry data and mix adjusted for house type and region. This measure was used alongside the published indices and other indicators to produce an assessment of the UK housing market. It was

important to take all available evidence into account when making an assessment of conditions in the housing market since no one indicator was sufficiently comprehensive. He noted also that the Land Registry data was only available with a long lag in comparison to the other more timely indices. Nonetheless the Bank was certainly interested in developing the usefulness of the Land Registry data and met regularly with the ONS, Treasury and DETR to both review the latest house price data and discuss ways of achieving a national house price index.

Milan Khatri (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors) agreed that it was important to use a large sample size in order to more accurately assess economic and housing market trends. He wondered how feasible it really would be to combine together all the existing sources of data and methodologies.

Bob Pannell (Council of Mortgage Lenders) compared the availability of house price data in the UK to that in other European countries and concluded that the UK has a much greater wealth of information. In the long-term he thought that the production of a benchmark index would have to be based on a comprehensive dataset such as that held by the Land Registry together with data covering Scotland and Northern Ireland. To achieve such a benchmark would require all parties present to work together. As an example, work had already taken place in Scotland to develop the data collected by the Scottish Land Registry.

A number of other attendees contributed to a wide-ranging discussion on the merits of the existing house price indices, possible reasons for the differences between them and the development of a benchmark index. Amongst the numerous views aired there was a general consensus that the development of a benchmark index would be a valuable additional indicator of

the housing market in the UK. The most appropriate data set on which to base this index would be the comprehensive Land Registry data although it was recognised that this was not sufficiently detailed at present.

Philip Turnbull (Bank of England) thought that the discussions had served to a large extent to eliminate methodological differences as a main reason for the variations between the outcome of each index. From this it could be concluded that the differences may be the result of an inherent bias (probably unknown) in the calculations and that the use of unbiased data such as the Land Registry or CML survey would be the most productive way forward.

Other issues raised from the floor included:

- The use of an index based on Estate Agents' property valuations as a viable alternative to the existing indices since the detailed information required may be more readily available. However, it was recognised that valuations are an opinion rather than an actual price that a buyer is willing to pay, and furthermore that such valuations will be influenced by market information.
- Changing survey samples each month in preference to using a consistent sample may not always be the most effective method by which to measure house price inflation since the results could be affected by the composition of the new sample rather than actual changes in property prices.
- The distinction between the cost of a property and the cost of land, and which was a more effective measure.
- Using mortgage data at the approvals stage has the advantage of giving an early indication of how house prices are moving.

A more detailed account of this meeting can be obtained from:

Mark Menary
Tel: 020 7601 3742

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ESTABLISHMENT SURVEYS (ICES II)

A second International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES-II) will be held on 17th - 21st June 2000 in Buffalo, New York at the Adam's Mark Hotel. Since the first ICES was held in 1993, many new techniques have been implemented by practitioners around the globe. With the new millennium upon us, it is time for a forward look at methods for surveying businesses, farms, and institutions. ICES-II will contain invited and contributed paper sessions, short courses, and software demonstrations. The preliminary program can now be seen on our website. A hardcover, unedited volume of the invited papers - as well as CD-ROMs of the invited and contributed papers - will be produced after the conference.

General questions about the conference can be addressed to:

John G. Kovar
Tel: 00 1 613 951 8615
E-mail: kovar@statcan.ca

Questions about the contributed paper sessions should be addressed to:

Pat Cantwell
Tel: 00 1 301 457 8105
E-mail: patrick.j.cantwell@ccmail

Nominations and questions on the software demonstrations should be sent to:

Claude Poirer
Tel: 00 1 613 951 1491
E-mail: poircla@statcan.ca
Website: www.eia.doe.gov/ices2/index.html

ROYAL STATISTICAL SOCIETY

“FREEDOM OF INFORMATION BILL UNDERMINES FUTURE OF NATIONAL STATISTICS”

The Royal Statistical Society has issued a statement highlighting the difficulties in creating a solid basis for National Statistics if the freedom of information bill in its present form became law.

Denise Lievesley, president of the RSS, said “We have welcomed the initiatives taken by the Government Statistical Service to provide better access to statistical information. Open access requires good management of data standards, definitions and adherence to an established code of conduct - already available in the GSS. When the White Paper [Freedom of Information] was published, we had high hopes that it would provide a platform for the extension of this culture of open access. In contrast, the draft legislation legitimises the secrecy inherent in some organisations. It could even undermine the progress which the GSS has made.”

The RSS’s submission to the consultation on the draft legislation on Freedom of Information was attached to the statement. For further information, contact Janine Smedley, Outreach Officer, tel: 020 7638 8998. *Freedom of Information - Consultation on Draft Legislation* was presented to Parliament (Cm 4355) by the

Secretary of State for the Home Department in May 1999. Copies of the draft legislation are available from The Stationery Office, tel: 0870 600 5522.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN OFFICIAL STATISTICS

A MSc in Official Statistics has been jointly developed by the Government Statistical Service and the University of Southampton. The MSc programme covers the core skills and knowledge needed by professional government statisticians working in the UK and in other countries. The modular structure of the programme is designed to enable you to tailor your individual scheme of study to your other commitments. Individual units of the MSc programme are available as short courses for those that have no need for another qualification but do wish to update their professional knowledge.

The subjects covered include Survey Methods, Statistical Computing, Survey Sampling and Estimation, Demographic Methods, Time Series and Data Analysis. Courses will be run at either Southampton University or the Office for National Statistics in London.

For more information, please contact:

Kathy Hooper
Department of Social Statistics
University of Southampton
SOUTHAMPTON, SO17 1BJ
United Kingdom
Tel: 44 (0) 23 82 594547
Fax: 44 (0) 23 82 593846
E-mail: kh@socsci.soton.ac.uk

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS CORRESPONDENTS FOR STATISTICAL NEWS

Phil Lewin - Co-ordinator, Zone B1/12, **Office for National Statistics**,
1 Drummond Gate, London SW1V 2QQ ☎ 020 7533 5659
e-mail phil.lewin@ons.gov.uk

Jon McGinty - Feature Correspondent, Zone D4/12, **Office for
National Statistics**, 1 Drummond Gate, London SW1V 2QQ
☎ 020 7533 6210 e-mail jon.mcginty@ons.gov.uk

Chris Gibbins
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Room 134
Foss House
King's Pool
1-2 Peasholme Green
YORK YO1 2PX

Sue Rushman
HM Customs & Excise
5th floor North Central
Alexander House
21 Victoria Avenue
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA SS99 1AA

Francesca Ambrose
Ministry of Defence
Room 69,
Old Naval Academy,
HM Naval Base
PORTSMOUTH PO1 3LR

Melanie Morrice
Department for Education and Employment
Room N611
Moorfoot
SHEFFIELD S1 4PQ

Russ Bentley
Employment Service
Level 2
Rockingham House
123 West Street
SHEFFIELD S1 4ER

Hema Pandya
**Department of the Environment, Transport
and the Regions**
Floor 5/F15
Ashdown House
123 Victoria Street
LONDON SW1E 6DE

Alan MacGill
General Register Office for Scotland
Room 1/2/9
Ladywell House, Ladywell Road
EDINBURGH EH12 7TF

Peter Steele
Department of Health
Room 459C
Skipton House
80 London Road
Elephant and Castle
LONDON SE1 6LH

Philip Howard
Home Office
Room 822,
Abell House
John Islip Street
LONDON SW1H 9AT

Michael Young
Inland Revenue
Room T7, West Wing
Somerset House,
Strand
LONDON WC2B 1LB

Peter Lumb
Lord Chancellor's Department
9th Floor
Selborne House
54-60 Victoria Street
LONDON SW1E 6QW

Brian Thompson
Northern Ireland Departments
McAuley House
2-14 Castle Street
BELFAST BT1 1SA

David Bailey
Office of Manpower Economics
Oxford House
76 Oxford Street
LONDON W1N 9FD

Alison Wright
Office for National Statistics
Zone DG/20
1 Drummond Gate
LONDON SW1V 2QQ

Department for International Development
Room V553
94 Victoria Street
LONDON SW1E 5JL

David Burman
Scottish Executive
Central Statistics Unit
Room 1B, West
Victoria Quay
EDINBURGH EH6 6QQ

Department of Social Security (London)
10th Floor
The Adelphi
1-11 John Adam Street
LONDON WC2N 6HT

Sarah Carroll
Department of Social Security (Newcastle)
Room B706
PO Box 2GB
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE99 2GB

Melanie McGerigal
Department of Trade and Industry
Bay 127 Red Zone
151 Buckingham Palace Road
LONDON SW1W 9SS

Piers Bisson
Her Majesty's Treasury
Room 88/4
Parliament Street
LONDON SW1P 3AG

Rachel Gaskin
The National Assembly for Wales
Room 2-002
Cathays Park
CARDIFF CF1 3NQ

NEW SURVEYS NOTIFIED TO SURVEY CONTROL UNIT

Following the Prime Minister's new instructions on survey control, there is no longer a central point for the recording of all new surveys. Anyone wishing to have information on these surveys should contact Julie Pollard in the ONS Survey Control Unit, who will advise of a suitable contact in the relevant department.

Julie Pollard
Survey Control Unit
Office for National Statistics
Tel: 01633 813271
E-mail: julie.pollard@ons.gov.uk

DEPARTMENTAL LISTINGS

OFFICE FOR NATIONAL STATISTICS

RECENTLY AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS

■ Published by The Stationery Office

Abortion Statistics 1998, AB no. 25

Price £25, ISBN 0 11 621244 6

Annual statistics on legal abortions carried out under the 1967 Abortion Act in England and Wales during 1998.

Annual Abstract of Statistics 2000

Price £39.50, ISBN 0 11 621270 5

Compendium of data covering all aspects of the United Kingdom's economy, industry, society and demography.

Birth Statistics 1998, FMI no. 27

Price £30, ISBN 0 11 621245 4

Data on live and still births and conceptions in England and Wales.

Britain 2000 – the official yearbook of the United Kingdom

Price £37.50, ISBN 0 11 621098 2

Comprehensive yearbook on the structure and organisation of the United Kingdom and description of current government policy in every area of the nation's life.

Cancer Statistics registrations 1993, MBI no. 26

Price £30, ISBN 0 11 621247 0

National and regional data on cancer incidence for England and Wales.

Congenital Anomaly Statistics 1998, MB3 no. 13

Price £30, ISBN 0 11 621250 0

Notifications of congenital anomalies received as part of the England and Wales monitoring system.

Economic Trends Annual Supplement 1999

Price £28.50, ISBN 0 11 621135 0

Notes and definitions supplement to the monthly *Economic Trends* and long runs of data of up to 50 years for the main economic indicators.

Family Spending – a report on the 1998/99 Family Expenditure Survey

Price £39.50, ISBN 0 11 621251 9

A breakdown of household expenditure and income in the United Kingdom, including analyses of expenditure on goods and services by household income.

Financial Statistics Explanatory Handbook 2000

Price £39.50, ISBN 0 11 621252 7

Explanatory commentary to the tables appearing in the monthly *Financial Statistics*.

Health Statistics Quarterly No. 4 - Winter 1999

Price £20, ISBN 0 11 621122 9

Includes articles on:

- Prevalence and management of heart failure in general practice in England and Wales 1994-96;
- Health of older people: disease prevalence, prescription and referral rates, England and Wales 1996:

- Occupational cancer – the role of routine cancer registration;
- Annual Updates on congenital anomaly statistics – notifications for England and Wales 1998; mortality statistics – general for England and Wales 1997 and Legal Abortions in England and Wales 1998;
- Reports on registrations of cancer diagnosed in England and Wales 1993-96 and Infant and perinatal mortality by social and biological factors for England and Wales 1998.

Marriage, divorce and adoption statistics 1997, FM2 no. 25

Price £30, ISBN 0 11 621256 X

Statistics on marriages solemnised and dissolutions and annulments of marriages granted in England and Wales during 1997.

Mortality Statistics 1998 – cause, DH2 no. 25

Price £35, ISBN 0 11 621257 8

Data on deaths in England and Wales analysed by cause, gender and age group.

Mortality Statistics 1997 – general, DHI no. 30

Price £30, ISBN 0 11 621258 6

Statistics of deaths relating to England and Wales classified by sex and age and other information collected at the time of registration.

Population Trends No. 97 – Autumn 1999

Price £20, ISBN 0 11 621117 2

Includes articles on:

- Having a birth outside marriage – the proportions of lone mothers who subsequently marry;

- Looking beyond the household – inter-generational perspectives on living kin and contacts with kin in Great Britain;
- Selection of topics and questions for the 2001 Census;
- Linking 1991 population statistics to the 1998 local government geography of Great Britain;
- The potential to identify South Asians using a computerised algorithm to classify names;
- Annual Update on minor revisions to conception statistics for England and Wales;
- Report on Conceptions to women under 18 in local authority areas of England and Wales 1995-97.

Population Trends No. 98 – Winter 1999

Price £20, ISBN 0 11 621118 0

Includes articles on:

- Population review of 1998 – England and Wales;
- Childbearing outside marriage in Western Europe;
- The new subnational population projections model – methodology and projection scenarios;
- Which authorities are alike;
- Demographic data for Europe – a review of sources;
- Annual Updates on Births and Conceptions 1998 and Marriages and Divorces during 1997 plus Adoptions in 1998 in England and Wales;
- Reports on Mid-1998 Population Estimates, Electoral Statistics 1999 in the United Kingdom and Divorces 1998 in England and Wales.

Regional Trends 1999, no. 34

Price £39.50, ISBN 0 11 621158 X

Comprehensive collection of official statistics about the Government Office Regions of the United Kingdom.

Smoking, drinking and drug use among young teenagers in 1998 – volume 1 England

Price £27, ISBN 0 11 621263 2

Smoking, drinking and drug use among young teenagers in 1998 – volume 2 Scotland

Price £27, ISBN 0 11 621281 0

Biennial surveys on smoking and drinking among secondary school children aged 11 (12 in Scotland) to 15, monitoring smoking and drinking habits, also including drug use for the first time.

Social Trends 2000, no. 30

Price £39.50, ISBN 0 11 621242 X

Collection of data and commentary presenting a narrative of life and lifestyles in the United Kingdom.

Travel Trends – a report on the 1998 International Passenger Survey

Price £39.50, ISBN 0 11 621262 4

Travel patterns to and from the United Kingdom, showing numbers of people travelling, how long they stayed and how much they spent.

All of the above publications are available from:

The Stationery Office Publications Centre
P.O. Box 276
LONDON, SW8 5DT
Tel: 0870 600 5522
Fax: 0870 600 5533
Internet: www.tso-online.co.uk

■ **Published by the Office for National Statistics**

Food Safety in the Home 1998

Price £10, ISBN 1 85774 354 7

Results from the ONS Omnibus Survey on knowledge among adults in Great Britain on the safe preparation of food and awareness of the dangers of contamination from bacteria.

Mineral Extraction in Great Britain 1998, PA1007

Price £25, ISSN 1461-8117

Data on all mineral extraction in Great Britain by both mineral type and end-use.

New Earnings Survey 1999 Part A – Streamlined and Summary Analyses Description of the Survey

Price £25, ISBN 1 85774 333 4

New Earnings Survey 1999 Part B – Analyses by agreement; analyses of pension categories

Price £25, ISBN 1 85774 334 2

New Earnings Survey 1999 Part C – Analyses by industry

Price £25, ISBN 1 85774 335 0

New Earnings Survey 1999 Part D – Analyses by occupation

Price £25, ISBN 1 85774 336 9

New Earnings Survey 1999 Part E – Analyses by region, county and small areas

Price £25, ISBN 1 85774 337 7

**New Earnings Survey 1999 Part F –
Distribution of hours; joint distributions
of earnings and hours, analyses of
earnings and hours for part-time
employees, analyses of earnings and
hours by age-group**

Price £25, ISBN I 85774 338 5

New Earnings Survey 1999 United Kingdom

Price £25, ISBN I 85774 339 3

Parts A – F available for £120, parts A – F and
UK volume available for £130.

**Non-fatal suicidal behaviour among
prisoners**

Price £15, ISBN I 85774 329 6

Further analysis of the survey of psychiatric
morbidity among prisoners aged 16 – 64 in
England and Wales, identifying distinguishing
factors between prisoners who had attempted
suicide and those who hadn't.

**The ONS classification of local and health
authorities of Great Britain: revised for
authorities in 1999**

Price £30, ISBN I 85774 355 5

Summary of the similarities and differences
between different geographic areas in Great
Britain.

**Production and Construction Inquiries
Summary Volume 1997, PA1002**

Price £75, ISSN I463-3736

Data from the manufacturing and production
and construction sectors for output and costs
stock levels and capital expenditure.

A Region in Figures series

East

Price £15, ISBN I 85774 348 2

East Midlands

Price £15, ISBN I 85774 346 6

London

Price £15, ISBN I 85774 349 0

North East

Price £15, ISBN I 85774 343 1

North West

Price £15, ISBN I 85774 344 X

South East

Price £15, ISBN I 85774 350 4

South West

Price £15, ISBN I 85774 351 2

West Midlands

Price £15, ISBN I 85774 347 4

Yorkshire and the Humber

Price £15, ISBN I 85774 345 8

Detailed statistics on key aspects of each of the
Government Office Regions, including sub-
regional data.

Three volumes can be purchased for £30, or the
full set of nine for £75. An electronic version of
the data is available free of charge upon purchase
of the relevant volume(s).

**Size Analysis of United Kingdom Businesses
1999, PA1003**

Price £50, ISSN I363-9013

Detailed information on businesses in the United
Kingdom, including size, classification and

location, compiled from the Inter Departmental Business Register.

Substance misuse among prisoners in England and Wales

Price £15, ISBN 1 85774 330 X

Further analysis of the survey of psychiatric morbidity among prisoners aged 16 – 64 in England and Wales, bringing together information on substance misuses from the main survey with the results of further analyses.

All of the above publications are available from:

ONS Direct
Room D.130
Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
NEWPORT, NP10 8XG
Tel: 01633 812078
Fax: 01633 812762
E-mail: ons.direct@ons.gov.uk

**DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT**

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Bulletins

Survey of Information and Communications Technology in Schools 1999

Published 30th November 1999

The Bulletin presents the detailed results of the latest ICT Survey. It updates the information from the 1998 Survey, published in November 1999.

Participation in Education and Training by young people aged 16 and 17 in each Local Area and Region, England, 1993/94 to 1997/98

Published 14th December 1999

This Bulletin gives rates of participation in education and training for 16 and 17 year olds by sex, by region and by local Lifelong Learning Partnerships in 1997/98. Participation in full and part-time education by LEA is shown from 1993/94 to 1997/98 and in education and training by TEC area from 1994/95 to 1997/98.

Pupil Absence and Truancy from Schools in England 1998/99

Published 22nd December 1999

An update of a bulletin first published in December 1998. The majority of the information will have already been published on 22nd November 1999 in the *National Pupil Absence Tables 1999*.

Statistical First Releases

GCSE/GNVQ and GCE A/AS and Advanced GNVQ Results for Young People in England 1998/99 (Provisional)

Published 22nd November 1999

This annual publication contains national and local education authority information on the overall achievements of young people in GCSE examinations and the GNVQ equivalent and in the GCE A/AS examinations and the Advanced GNVQ equivalent. These will have been checked by schools and colleges as part of the Performance Tables exercise.

Student Support: Student Loans in the United Kingdom – financial year 1998-99 and Academic Year 1998/99

Published 30th November 1999

The first release of 1998/99 data showing information on repayments of loans for both the

publicly and privately owned debt and on payments of both mortgage-style loans and also the income contingent loans which were introduced in September 1998 as part of the new student support arrangements.

New Deal for Lone Parents: statistics

Published 2nd December 1999

Latest in a series of monthly First Releases giving key information on the New Deal for Lone Parents. Includes numbers of starts and leavers, information on gender, disability, ethnic origin, participation and destinations on leaving. Information is up to the end of September 1999.

Student Numbers at Colleges in the Further Education Sector and External Institutions in England, 1998-99

Published 21st December 1999

This Statistical First Release presents provisional figures for the number of students enrolled at colleges in the further education sector and provision funded by the council in local education authority maintained and the institutions (external institutions) in England in 1998-99. It also contains a comparison between student numbers in 1994-95 to 1998-99. The data are based on the individualised student record (ISR) introduced in 1994/95.

TEC delivered government-supported training: work-based training for young people and work-based learning for adults, England and Wales

Published 23rd December 1999

Quarterly statistics on government-supported training. The previous Statistical First Release contained, for the first time, information about qualification rates from Modern Apprenticeships. This edition updates these and all other figures.

New Deal for Young People and long-term Unemployed People aged 25+: statistics

Published 30th December 1999

Latest in a series of monthly First Releases giving key information on the New Deal for 18-24 year olds and those aged 25+ unemployed for two years or more. Includes number of starts and leavers, information on gender, disability, ethnic origin, options followed and destinations on leaving. Information is up to the end of October 1999.

Volumes

National Curriculum Assessments of 7, 11 and 14 year olds in England, 1998

Published 30th November 1999

This new volume details national and LEA level achievement at three Key Stages split by gender, subject and attainment target. It is an update of the 20th January 1999 Statistical First Release, which gave provisional data for 1998; the volume uses final data. The volume also examines KS1 achievement at Level 2B or above and KS3 achievement at Level 6 and above.

The volume will only be released via the Internet – there will not be a hard copy publication. Hard copies are available on request.

Education and Training Statistics for the United Kingdom 1999

Published 3rd December 1999

This is the third edition of Education and Training Statistics for the United Kingdom and again provides an integrated overview of statistics on education and training in the UK in over 50 tables. Chapters relate to expenditure: schools; post-compulsory education and training; qualifications; destinations and population. There are two new areas covered in the tables; the first gives the proportion of pupils reaching and exceeding expected standards at Key Stages 1, 2

and 3, while the second gives Intermediate, Foundation and Advanced GNVQ entries and results by subject and gender.

Statistics of Education: Teachers, England and Wales, 1999 edition

Published 17th December 1999

Detailed tables showing teacher information on age, sex, and initial teacher training.

Qualifications pay retirements and vacancies in schools in England and Wales.

Statistics of Education: Children's' Day Care facilities at 31st March 1999, England

Published 20th December 1999

This is an annual Volume compiled from forms submitted by local authorities, covering day nurseries, playgroups, childminders, out of school clubs, holiday schemes and family centres. The main findings have already been released in a Statistical First Release on 1st October 1999. The Volume should also be available on the Internet.

For further information contact:

Department for Education and Employment
Mowden Hall
Staindrop Road
DARLINGTON, DL3 9BG
Tel: 0870 0012345
Fax: 01325 392695
E-mail: info@dfee.gov.uk

FORESTRY COMMISSION

Forestry Commission Facts and Figures 1998-99

This free leaflet, published in December 1999 gives selected forestry statistics for Great Britain, taken from the 1998-99 Annual Reports of the Forestry Commission and Forest Enterprise and from other sources. Also on the web site.

Public Opinion of Forestry 1999

A report, written by Simon Gillam, giving results from the 1999 survey of Public Opinion of Forestry, and comparing the findings with similar surveys carried out in 1997 and 1995. Published November 1999, price £2.00. Also on the web site.

Wood Supply and Demand 1998

This report written by Simon Gillam and Alister Henderson gives statistics on British wood supply and deliveries to sawmills and other wood processing industries, showing trends over the 12 years 1987 to 1998. Published December 1999, price £2.00. Also on the web site.

Sawmill Survey 1998

Another report written by Simon Gillam and Alister Henderson, this gives results from the Sawmill Survey for 1998, carried out in early 1999. Published December 1999, price £2.00. Also on the web site.

Available from:

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

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

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

For further information contact:

Simon Gillam
Tel: 0131 314 6280
Alister Henderson
Tel: 0131 314 6337
E-mail: statistics@forestry.gov.uk

STATISTICAL BULLETINS

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

Public Health	
● Prevalence of Back Pain in Great Britain in 1998	1999/18
● Sun Exposure: Adults' Behaviour and Knowledge	1998/3
● Statistics from the Regional Drugs Misuse Databases for the six months ending 31st March 1999 (formerly Drugs Misuse Statistics) (six monthly)	1999/33
● Statistics on alcohol: 1976 onwards	1999/24
● Statistics on smoking (occasional)	1998/25
Health Care	
● Statistics of prescriptions dispensed in the community	1999/17
● General pharmaceutical services	1999/29
● Community pharmacies England and Wales (six monthly)	1999/20
● Ophthalmic statistics for England	1999/27
● Cervical screening programme	1999/32
● Breast screening programme	1999/9
● NHS Immunisation statistics	1999/28
● NHS maternity statistics, England	1999/30
● NHS Contraceptive services	1999/5
● NHS hospital activity statistics: England 1987-88 to 1997-98	1998/31
● Elective admissions and patients waiting: England at 31st March 1998	1998/20
● Waiting times for first outpatient appointments in England (quarterly)	1999/31
● Ambulance services, England	1999/16
● 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: 1988-89 to 1998-99	1999/25
● Electro-convulsive therapy	1999/22
Social Care	
● Community care statistics: day and domiciliary personal social services for adults	1999/10
● Community care statistics: residential personal social services for adults	1998/37
● Children looked after in England	1999/26
● Supervision orders year ending 31st March	1999/3
● Children accommodated in secure units year ending 31st March 1998	1999/6
Workforce	
● Statistics for general medical practitioners in England 1988-98	1999/13
● Hospital, public health medicine and community health services medical and dental staff 1988-98	1999/15
● NHS hospital and community health services non-medical staff 1988-98	1999/12
● 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: 1997-1998	1999/11

Copies of the above are available from:

Department of Health
PO Box 777
LONDON, SE1 6XH

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

All annual and relating to England unless otherwise stated.

Compendium Publication

Health and Personal Social Service Statistics for England: 1999 edition

The Stationery Office

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.

Public Health Common Data Set

(Only available to the NHS, individual academic users and academic institutes of Public Health)

Access to GPs and Clinical Services outside office hours, England 1999

ISBN 1 84 182105 5

Morbidity

Asthma

The Stationery Office

Price £11, ISBN 0 11 321667 X

Coronary Heart Disease

The Stationery Office

Price £11, ISBN 0 11 321667 X

Stroke

The Stationery Office

Price £11, ISBN 0 11 321668 8

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 £6.00

Health Related Behaviour: an epidemiological overview

The Stationery Office

Price £13.99, ISBN 0 11 321976 8 £13.99

Health Care

- Sight tests volume and workforce survey 1996-97 (*annual report*)
- General ophthalmic services activity statistics – October 1998 to March 1999 and year ending 31 March 1999
- NHS Spectacle Voucher Scheme - results of 1997 survey
- Prescription Cost Analysis - England 1998 (*price £12, ISBN 1 84182 045 8*)
- Maternity services - midwife clinics and domiciliary visits 1997-98
- District nurses activity 1997-98
- Psychiatric nurses activity 1998-99
- Learning disability nurses activity 1998-99 (*formerly mental handicap nurses' activity*)
- Specialist care nurses activity 1998-99
- Chiropody services 1998-99
- Clinical psychology services 1998-99
- Maternity Services 1998-99
- Occupational therapy services 1997-98
- Physiotherapy services 1998-99
- Speech and language therapy services 1998-99
- Professional Advice and Support Programmes (*formerly health visitor activity*) 1997-98

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, detailed statistics (*quarterly, price £10, ISBN 1 84182 067 9*)
- Hospital Waiting List statistics: England, responsible population-based (*quarterly, price £8, ISBN 1 84182 068 7*)
- 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 115 2*)
- Outpatients and ward attenders 1997-98 (*price £9*)
- NHS day care facilities 1998-99
- 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 84182 098 9)
- 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, *The Stationery Office*)
- 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 1998 (price £15, ISBN 1 84182 072 5)
- General and Personal Medical Services Statistics - England and Wales: 1 October 1998 (price £15, ISBN 1 84182 046 6)

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
P.O. Box 777
LONDON, SE1 6XH
Tel: 0541 555 455

The Stationery Office publications are available from:

The Stationery Office Publications Centre
P.O. Box 276
LONDON, SW8 5DT
Tel: 0870 600 5522
Fax: 0870 600 5533
Internet: www.tso-online.co.uk

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH STATISTICAL CONTACTS

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

Skipton House, 80 London Road, London SE1 6LH

020 797

(followed by ext. number)

Family Health Services (Branch SD1)

General dental and community dental services	ext. 25392
General pharmacy services	ext. 25504
General ophthalmic services	ext. 25507
Prescription analysis	ext. 25515

Hospital and Community Health Services (Branch SD2)

Mental illness/handicap	ext. 25546
Community and cross-sector services	ext. 25524
Demographic statistics	ext. 25562
Drug misuse	ext. 25550
Legal status	ext. 25546
Smoking and alcohol	ext. 25551
Hospital inpatient activity	ext. 25529

Personal Social Services and Surveys (Branch SD3)

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

Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds LS2 7UE

0113 25

(followed by ext. number)

Workforce (Branch STATS(W))

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

NHS Performance Indicators (Branch FPA-PA)

Performance indicators	ext. 46425
Waiting lists	ext. 45555
Hospital activity	ext. 45522

NHS Expenditure (FPA-PX1)

ext. 45356

Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS

020 7210

(followed by ext. number)

Personal Social Services financial statistics (RMF-DPSS5)

PSS budget data

ext. 5140

Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG 020 797

(followed by ext. number)

Central Health Monitoring Unit

Our Healthier Nation target monitoring

ext. 24648

The Health Literature Line

0800 555777

HOME OFFICE

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Control of Immigration: Statistics, United Kingdom, 1998 (Cm 4431)

The Stationery Office

Price £17.20, ISBN 0 10 144312 9

The annual Home Office Statistical Command Paper on the control of immigration was published in August 1999. It contains detailed information for 1998 and the preceding ten years, by nationality and category, on: applications and grants of entry clearance; admissions to the UK; applications for asylum and their outcome; after-entry extensions and refusals of stay; acceptances for settlement; appeals; enforcement action; and net migration.

The main points from the annual figures for 1998 were:

- an increase to 11.5 million passengers (excluding EEA nationals) admitted,

including 8 million visitors;

- a large increase to 46,000 in applications for asylum;
- a large increase to 69,800 in persons accepted for settlement (i.e. allowed to stay indefinitely);
- an increase to 21,100 in enforcement action initiated against immigration offenders and an increase (to 7,300) in persons leaving the UK as a result of such action;
- an increase to 38,000 appeals heard by immigration adjudicators, of which nearly 14 per cent were allowed.

For further information contact:

Tony Chilton

Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate,

Immigration Research and Statistics Service

Tel: 020 8760 8280

Prison Statistics England and Wales, 1998

The Stationery Office

Price £18.50

Prison Statistics England and Wales, 1998, compiled by the Research Development and Statistics directorate (RDS) of the Home Office, was published in October 1999. It contains information on the prison population, receptions and discharges in and out of prison, reconviction rates after discharge from prison, prison discipline (offences and punishments), regimes and conditions, life sentence prisoners and ethnic groups of prisoners for 1998, and previous years.

The main points were:

- The average prison population in 1998 was 65,298 – 7 per cent greater than the 1997 average;
- The increase in 1998 included 16 per cent more female prisoners;
- Since 1993 the prison population has increased by 47 per cent. Greater use of custody and longer sentences are the main reasons for this increase;
- The greatest proportion of male sentenced prisoners (21 per cent) was held for 'violence against the person' offences;
- Among sentenced females, more than one-third were held for drug offences;
- The average time remanded on custody for untried prisoners (47 days for males) was shorter in 1998 than in any of the previous ten years;
- 3,934 prisoners were serving life sentences on 30 June 1998, the highest ever figure;
- The number of prisoners in England and Wales, expressed at a rate per 100,000 population, was the second highest in Western Europe in 1998;

- 58 per cent of prisoners discharged from prison in 1995 were reconvicted of a standard list offence within 2 years of release.

Summary information from *Prison Statistics England and Wales, 1998* is available in Research Findings No. 94 *The Prison population in 1998: A statistical review*.

Copies of the summary are available from:

The Information and Publications Group
Room 201
Home Office
50 Queen Anne's Gate
LONDON, SW1H 9AT
Tel: 020 7273 2084
Fax: 020 7222 0211
E-mail: rds.ho@gtnet.gov.uk
Internet: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.htm>.

The full printed version of *Prison Statistics England and Wales, 1998* can be obtained from:

The Stationery Office Publications Centre
P.O. Box 276
LONDON, SW8 5DT
Tel: 0870 600 5522
Fax: 0870 600 5533
Internet: www.tso-online.co.uk

Control of Immigration: Statistics, United Kingdom, First Half 1999

Statistical Bulletin Issue 20/99
The Home Office
Free, ISSN 1358-510X

The regular half-yearly Home Office Statistical Bulletin on the control of immigration was published on 4th November 1999. It contains

summary information for the first half of 1999 and earlier years on grants of entry clearance; admissions to the UK; applications for asylum; extensions of stay including settlement; and enforcement action.

The main points for the 12 months ending June 1999 were:

- an increase of 22,000 to 57,800 in applications for asylum;
- an increase of 14,300 to 76,400 in persons accepted for settlement (i.e. allowed to stay indefinitely);
- a slight decrease to below 31,000 in the number of spouses and fiancé(e)s entering the country for a year prior to settlement;
- little change in the number (19,000) of immigration offenders against whom enforcement action was initiated, or in the number (6,800) of persons leaving the UK as a result of such action.

For further information contact:

Tony Chilton
Home Office Research, Development and
Statistics Directorate
Immigration Research and Statistics Service
Tel: 020 8760 8280

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

NEW PUBLICATIONS

The Digest of Agricultural Census Statistics – UK 1998

Compendium of statistics from the June 1998
Agricultural and Horticultural Census at UK

country, region and county level. Available free of charge on the MAFF web site (see below).

National Food Survey 1998 (November 1999)

The Stationery Office

Price £28, ISBN 0 11 243052 X

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

The results of the 1998 survey, expressed as averages of expenditure and consumption per person per week and intakes of nutrients per person per day, are presented in this annual report. For household food, comparisons are made with expenditure and consumption one year and ten years ago and a breakdown of 1998 consumption results by quarter is provided. Results by Government Office Region, household composition, income group of the head of the household and the age of the main diary keeper are also included. The report also covers developments in respect of eating out and nutritional intakes.

This year's special analysis section looks at NFS-based estimates of variations by age and gender in food energy and nutrient intakes over a 25-year period. Comparisons are given of nutrient intakes from home supplies and from food eaten out and with results from the National Diet and Nutrition Surveys.

The 1997 and 1998 annual reports, along with the latest annual and quarterly Statistical News Releases and a summary of annual data from 1974, are also available free of charge on the MAFF web site (see below). Other enquiries about this publication and the survey should be directed to:

Fiona Amos
Tel: 020 7270 8563
E-mail: f.amos@esg.maff.gov.uk.

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 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 ten years. This is available free of charge on the MAFF web site.

Enquiries to:

Christine Jeannette
Tel: 01904 455069
E-mail: c.jeannette@esg.maff.gsi.gov.uk

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, homegrown horticultural produce and other agricultural products.

Enquiries to:

Jenny Higgins
Tel: 01904 455250

STATISTICAL NOTICES

The following Statistical Notices are available free of charge on the Internet 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 2 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 Internet 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 - England and UK – Summary 4 – Labour	0906 711 0304
● June Census - UK (<i>Annual</i>) – Complete Statistical News Release	0906 711 0305
● June Census - UK – Summary 1 – Land use and Crops	0906 711 0306
● June Census - UK – Summary 2 – Livestock	0906 711 0307
● June Census - UK – 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>)	0906 711 0314
● Tenanted Land Survey	0906 711 0317
● Cereals Stocks Survey (<i>Quarterly</i>)	0906 711 0318
● Dried Pea & Bean Survey (<i>Annual</i>)	0906 711 0328
● Earnings and Hours Survey (<i>Annual</i>)	0906 711 0310
● Deer Farming Census (<i>Irregular</i>)	0906 711 0321
● Glasshouse Crops Survey (<i>Annual</i>)	0906 711 0323
● Grain Fed to Livestock Survey (<i>Monthly</i>)	0906 711 0320
● Irrigation of Outdoor Crops (<i>Irregular</i>)	0906 711 0322
● 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>)	0906 711 0326
● Vegetables and Flowers Survey (<i>Annual</i>)	0906 711 0324
● Agriculture Price Index (<i>Monthly</i>)	0906 711 0338
● Prices of Agricultural Land in England (<i>Quarterly</i>)	0906 711 0340

For further information contact:

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Publications and Output Section
Statistics (Censuses and Surveys) G
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
- Economic conditions in the Hills and Upland in the United Kingdom – Statistical tables 1999
- 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 0906 711 0352
- Quarterly pig statistics 0906 711 0356
- 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 0906 711 0363
- 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) H
Room 145
Foss House
Kings Pool
1-2 Peasholme Green
YORK, YO1 7PX
Tel: 01904 455253 or GTN 5137 5253

Agricultural Land Prices - from Summer 1999 quarterly Statistical Notices will be available free of charge on the MAFF web site or by Faxback on 0906 711 0340.

Enquiries to:

Mr P Holmes
Tel: 020 7270 8371
E-mail: p.holmes@esg.maff.gov.uk

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: 020 7270 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 1998 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 1998 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 1998 Agricultural and Horticultural Census 1989 to 1998, by Parish Groups, Agricultural Districts and Local Government Districts. Charges will be made for Small Area Statistics where the order exceeds £40.00 in total.

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) G
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

NORTHERN IRELAND DEPARTMENTS

NORTHERN IRELAND STATISTICS AND RESEARCH AGENCY

New Publications

Northern Ireland Annual Abstract of Statistics 1999

The Stationery Office
Price £20

The latest edition of the Abstract was published in December 1999. The new edition has been completely redesigned and now includes bullet points for each chapter, charts and maps as well as the usual tables. The content of the publication has been reviewed and restructured into themes including population, housing and households, health and care, crime and justice, education and training and the labour market.

1997 Labour Force Survey Religion Report

A summary of the labour force characteristics of Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland.

Available free of charge from:

Human Resource Research and Evaluation
Branch
Room 151
Rosepark House
Upper Newtownards Road
BELFAST, BT4 3NR

Or the NISRA Internet site at www.nisra.gov.uk

Mid-year population estimates in Northern Ireland. Validation and extension to Local Government Districts (NISRA Occasional Paper No. 12)

Price: £10

1997 Northern Ireland Census Test and Census Test Evaluation Survey (NISRA Occasional Paper No. 13)

Price: £8

Available from:

Demography and Methodology Branch
NISRA
McAuley House
2-14 Castle Street
BELFAST, BT1 1SA

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

New Publications

National Food Survey 1998 – Northern Ireland

Price £6

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

Farm Business Data Book 2000

Price £7.50

The *Farm Business Data Book* contains a wide range of farm planning data relevant to Northern Ireland conditions. It covers most of the major enterprises on farms in Northern Ireland and provides information on physical performance level, enterprise outputs, variable costs and gross margins.

The Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland – Results for June 1999

Price £14

This publication provides data by geographical area for crops, livestock and farm labour.

Available from:

Economics, Statistics, Policy and
Co-ordination Group
Department of Agriculture
Room 810
Dundonald House
BELFAST, BT4 3SB
Tel: 028 90 52 4594

A list of publications and an electronic order form are available on the DANI website:

www.nics.gov.uk/danihome.htm

NORTHERN IRELAND COURT SERVICE

New Publication

Northern Ireland Judicial Statistics 1998

Price: £11

Available from:

Resource Management Branch
Northern Ireland Court Service
Windsor House
Bedford Street
BELFAST, BT2 7LT

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

New Publication

Annual Business Inquiry, Production and Construction Industries, Northern Ireland 1995, 1996 and 1997

Free

The publications present a range of the results for the 1996 and 1997 Annual Business Inquiry (Production and Construction) and for the 1995 Annual Census of Production and Construction.

Available from:

Gillian Seeds
Statistics Research Branch
Department of Economic Development
Netherleigh
Massey Avenue
BELFAST, BT4 2JP
Tel: 028 90 52 9426
Fax: 028 90 52 9459
E-mail: gillian.seeds@dedni.gov.uk

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION NORTHERN IRELAND

Press Releases

- Qualifications and destinations of Northern Ireland school leavers 1997/98.
- Students' enrolments on Higher Education courses: Northern Ireland 1998/99 (provisional).
- Achievement of GNVQ's in Northern Ireland - 1997/98.
- Enrolments on vocational courses at Northern Ireland further education colleges 1998/99.
- First destinations of students gaining qualifications from Higher Education institutions: Northern Ireland 1997/98.
- Participation in full-time education by 16 and 17 year olds in Northern Ireland 1998/99.

Research Briefings

- RB1/1999 Northern Ireland suspension and expulsion study (1996/97)
- RB2/1999 Supporting newly qualified teachers in post primary schools
- RB3/1999 Literature review: integrated education in Northern Ireland
- RB4/1999 DENI funded research 1998/99
- RB5/1999 Women in teaching: equal opportunities
- Diversification of the first modern language in Northern Ireland post primary schools

Research Reports

- No. 13 The 1996/97 Northern Ireland suspension and expulsion study
- No. 14 Supporting newly qualified teachers in post primary schools
- No. 15 Integrated education in Northern Ireland
- No. 16 Women in teaching: equal opportunities
- No. 17 Diversification of the first modern language in Northern Ireland schools

- No. 18 Participation by and provision for students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (SLDD) in the further education sector in Northern Ireland

Available from:

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

Or the DENI website at:

www.deni.gov.uk

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

New Bulletins

Northern Ireland Housing Bulletin (1 April – 30 June 1999)

Free

Compilation of Northern Ireland Housing Statistics. Contains data on new house sales and prices and housing starts.

Northern Ireland Construction Bulletin (1 April – 30 June 1999)

Free

Contains data on construction activity.

Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 1998/99

Price: £10

Comprehensive Northern Ireland Housing Statistics. Contains data on housing stock, new

house building, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Housing Associations, housing market activity and household surveys.

Northern Ireland Road and Rail Transport Statistics Bulletin (1 April – 30 June 1999)

Price: Free

Compilation of Northern Ireland Road and Rail Transport Statistics. Contains data on new vehicle and car registrations, vehicle and driver testing, road traffic injury accidents, use of public transport and deliveries of petroleum for use in Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland Transport Statistics 1997/98

Price: £10

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

Available from:

Central Statistics and Research Branch
Department of the Environment (NI)
Room 609, Clarence Court
10 -18 Adelaide Street
BELFAST, BT2 8GB
Tel: 028 90 54 0800/1
Fax: 028 90 54 0782
E-mail: csrb.doe@nics.gov.uk

The Northern Ireland Environment 1999

Free

Contains data on air and water quality, radioactivity, energy and land use.

Available from:

Environment and Heritage Service
Department of the Environment (NI)
Commonwealth House
35 Castle Street
BELFAST, BT1 1GU
Tel: 028 90 25 1477

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE (NORTHERN IRELAND)

New Publication

Annual Report of the Registrar General 1998

The Stationery Office

Price £25

The Report provides details of vital statistics on births, deaths and marriages registered in Northern Ireland during the year ended 31st December 1998 and on adoptions and divorces which took place during the same period. This year's Report has been significantly restyled to provide more information and to facilitate ease of reference. It contains nine chapters - Population, Births, Stillbirths and Infant Deaths, Causes of Death, Marriages, Divorces, and Adoptions and Re-registrations. A summary chapter at the beginning of the Report highlights the main statistics while each individual chapter provides more detail on each subject area. A section on the work of the General Register Office is also included, as is a glossary of notes and definitions. A special article on the Northern Ireland mid-year population estimates is also included.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT EAS 2: TRANSPORT STATISTICS

New Publications

Scottish Transport Statistics: No. 18, 1999 Edition

The Stationery Office
Price £10, ISBN 0 11 497259 1

Published on 29th July 1999, this publication contains chapters on Road transport vehicles, Bus and coach travel, Road freight, Toll bridges, Road network, Road traffic, Injury road accidents, Rail services, Air transport, Water transport, Finance and Personal and cross-modal travel. Each chapter consists of groups of tables and charts on that topic, together with some comments on points shown in the tables, and some notes on the definitions and sources of the statistics. Also includes a summary of trends in Scottish transport over the past ten years, some comparisons with corresponding figures for Great Britain as a whole, and some longer-term historical series.

The main points contained within this publication include the following:

- Around 2,073,000 vehicles were licensed in 1998, two per cent more than in the previous year and, it is estimated, about 28 per cent more than ten years earlier;
- There were 438 million passenger journeys on local bus services in 1997-98, which was six per cent less than the previous year and 32 per cent less than in 1987-88;
- An estimated total of around 22.6 million vehicles crossed the Forth Road Bridge in

1998 (over 62,000 per day), more than in any previous year;

- There were 15.2 million air terminal passengers in 1998: six per cent higher than the previous year. Over the ten years from 1988 to 1998, terminal passengers have increased by 79 per cent.

Road Accidents Scotland 1998

The Stationery Office
Price £10, ISBN 0 7480 8262 X

Published on 28th October 1999, this publication contains a commentary, which summarises the key statistics and identifies the most interesting and significant points. This is followed by groups of tables on Accidents, Accident costs, Vehicles involved, Car drivers, Drivers breath tested, Drink-drive accidents and casualties, and Casualties. There are notes on the definitions and sources of the statistics. The main points contained within this publication include the following:

- There were a total of 16,514 accidents resulting in an injury in 1998: 132 (one per cent) lower than in 1997, and 19 per cent less than the annual average for 1981-85;
- There were 385 people killed in 1998 – an increase of eight (two per cent) over 1997 but still the fourth lowest number recorded for at least fifty years, and 40 per cent below the 1981-85 average;
- 4,066 people were seriously injured in 1998 – 19 (0.5 per cent) more than in 1997, but the third lowest number since records began in 1950 and 51 per cent below the 1981-85 average;
- The numbers of drink-drive accidents and casualties are estimated to have almost halved between 1987 and 1997 (the latest year for which such figures are available);

- There were 3,535 child casualties in 1998, 28 per cent less than the 1981-85 annual average. They included 698 fatalities or serious injuries, of whom 32 died: these figures were less than half those of 1981-85.

For further information on both of the above, contact:

Andrew Knight
EAS2: Transport Statistics
Scottish Executive Development Department
Area 1-F
Victoria Quay
EDINBURGH, EH6 6QQ
Tel: 0131 244 7256
Fax: 0131 244 0888
E-mail: transtat@scotland.gov.uk

Copies of the publication may be purchased from:

The Stationery Office Bookshop
71 Lothian Road
EDINBURGH, EH3 9AZ
Tel: 0870 606 5566
Fax: 0870 606 5588

They can also be found on the Scottish Executive Website (address below).

**SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT EAS7: HOUSING
STATISTICS BRANCH**

New Bulletins

**Housing Trends in Scotland: Quarter Ended
31 December 1998 Statistical Bulletin**

The Stationery Office
Price £2, ISBN 0 7480 9151 3

Published on 30th September 1999, this Bulletin contains tables on topics such as Sales of Public

Authority Dwellings, New housebuilding, Operation of the Homeless Persons Legislation and Tenure of Dwelling Stock: 1998.

The main points contained within this bulletin include the following:

- **Sales of Public Authority Dwellings.** There were around 4,300 applications from sitting tenants to buy public authority dwellings in the fourth quarter of 1998. Total sales to sitting tenants for this quarter numbered around 3,600, an overall decrease of about 800 on the same quarter in 1997.
- **New Housebuilding.** There were around 4,500 new dwellings started in the fourth quarter of 1998. The total number of dwellings completed in this period was around 4,600, an overall decrease of about 1,100 on the total for the same quarter in 1997.
- **Operation of the Homeless Persons Legislation.** During 1998-99, a total of just over 45,700 households applied to local authorities under the homeless person's legislation, an increase of around 2,600 on the number of applications in 1997-98.
- **Tenure of Dwelling Stock 1998.** The provisional estimate of the total dwelling stock as at the 31 December 1998 is 2,284,000 (an increase of 16,000 compared with the 1997 estimate). Sixty-one per cent of these dwellings are estimated to be owner occupied, one per cent more than in 1997.

For further information, contact:

Robert Spratt
EAS7: Housing Statistics Branch
Scottish Executive Development Department
Area 1 G-24
Victoria Quay
EDINBURGH, EH8 7BQ
Tel: 0131 244 7232
Fax: 0131 244 0446
E-mail: Robert.Spratt@scotland.gov.uk

Copies of the publication may be purchased from:

The Stationery Office Bookshop
71 Lothian Road
EDINBURGH, EH3 9AZ
Tel: 0870 606 5566
Fax: 0870 606 5588

They can also be found on the Scottish Executive Website (address below).

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT EDUCATION STATISTICS DIVISION

News Releases

Provisional Results of the 1999 School Census

Published on 1st November 1999, the main points include the following:

- At September 1999, there were 2,218 pre-school education centres, of which 2,174 were publicly funded or working in partnership with Local Authorities.
- There were 3,022 primary, secondary or special schools/departments in Scotland at September 1999, of which 2,855 were publicly funded. This compares with 2,868 publicly funded primary, secondary or special schools/departments at September 1998.
- Around 86,900 children were estimated to be attending publicly funded or partnership pre-school education centres at September 1999. Over 58,800 of those children were estimated to be in their pre-school year, including those who had deferred entry to Primary 1.
- Nearly 754,500 pupils (excluding adults) were attending publicly funded primary, secondary and special schools in Scotland at September 1999, a decrease of 4,000 pupils from September 1998. This decline follows

the general trend in the population over the same period.

- The number of pupils in publicly funded primary schools was 431,000 at September 1999, a decrease of some 6,000 pupils from September 1998.
- Around 315,400 pupils attended publicly funded secondary schools at September 1999, an increase of over 2,200 pupils from September 1998. Nearly 1,400 adults attended publicly funded secondary schools for day classes at September 1999, compared with over 2,000 in September 1998.
- At September 1999, 8,100 pupils were based in publicly funded special schools in Scotland, a slight decrease from 1998.

Summary Results of the 1998-99 Census of Pre-school Education Centres

Published on 8th November 1999, this News Release contains tables on topics such as numbers of pre-school children, teachers and other staff. The main points include the following:

- At February 1999, there were 1,712 pre-school education centres in Scotland. The large majority of these, 69.3 percent were Local Authority pre-school centres registered with Scottish Executive Education Department.
- Over 79,000 children were attending pre-school education centres in Scotland at February 1999. The majority of these, 79.5 percent were attending Local Authority pre-school centres. Over 54,000 children attending pre-school centres were in their pre-school year, which is estimated to represent around 97 per cent of all children of pre-school age (i.e. born between 1 March 1994 and 28 February 1995).

Pupil Projections for Scotland

Published on 8th November 1999, the main points include the following:

- The number of pupils in publicly funded primary schools is projected to fall steadily from the current (September 1998) level of 437,100. The total is estimated to fall to 398,900 in 2004, 9 per cent less than at present and to 380,000 in 2009, 13 per cent less than at present.
- Under an assumption that staying-on rates for pupils aged 16, 17 and 18 remain at their current levels, the number of pupils in publicly funded secondary schools is projected to rise slightly from the current level of 313,200 to 316,700 in 2000. It will then remain steady at this level until 2004. After that, a steady fall is anticipated so that the number in 2009 is estimated to be 292,400, 7 per cent less than at present. Alternatively, if it is assumed that staying-on rates increase steadily over the next 10 years, the number of pupils in publicly funded secondary schools is projected to increase to 323,800 in 2004, 3 per cent more than at present. After that, there is estimated to be a fall to 305,700 in 2009, 2 per cent less than at present.
- The numbers of pupils in publicly funded special schools and independent schools are both projected to fall slightly in line with the anticipated decrease in the number of children of school age.

For further information on all of the above, contact:

Peter Scrimgeour
 Education Statistics
 Scottish Executive Education Department
 Area 1-A
 Victoria Quay
 EDINBURGH, EH6 6QQ
 Tel: 0131 244 0325
 Fax: 0131 244 0354
 E-mail: peter.scrimgeour@scotland.gov.uk

The News Release can also be found on the Scottish Executive Website.

Information Notes

Information on Children Looked After as at 31st March 1999

This Information Note was issued with a Press Release on 18th August 1999. It contains tables on topics such as age-group and gender of children being looked after, accommodation type, and rates of children being looked after in each authority, compared with the Scottish national average. The main points include the following:

- The number of children being looked after in Scotland by local authorities increased from 10,800 in 1998 to 11,200 in 1999.
- The total children being looked after in Scotland represents 9.8 children per 1,000 population aged 0-17 years.
- Around 58 per cent of the children looked after were boys and around 55 per cent of the children were aged 12 years or older.

Information on Children in Residential Accommodation in the year to 31st March 1998

This Information was issued with a Press Release on 6th October 1999. It contains tables on topics such as age of children, type of accommodation, length of stay, admissions, discharges and staff-to-places ratio. A separate set of tables covers children in secure accommodation. The main points include the following:

- The number of children in residential care has steadily decreased over the last ten years. There were just over 1,700 children in residential care at 31st March 1998 compared with over 2,300 at 31st March 1988.
- In the year to 31st March 1998, there were over 8,000 admissions to residential care,

which was almost double the number in the year to 31st March 1993.

- While the number of places available in residential accommodation has fallen by 28 per cent between 1988 and 1998, staff numbers have increased by 16 per cent over the same period.

For further information on both of the above contact:

Mr Alan Fleming
Children's Social Work Statistics
Scottish Executive Education Department
Room 1-B
Victoria Quay
EDINBURGH, EH6 6QQ
Tel: 0131 244 3745
Fax: 0131 244 0354
E-mail: alan.fleming@scotland.gov.uk

The Information Notes can also be found on the Scottish Executive Website.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE ENTERPRISE AND LIFELONG LEARNING DEPARTMENT

News Releases

Students in Higher Education in Scotland: 1997-98

This News Release, published on 26th August 1999, updates and expands on the provisional summary news release from March 1999. It consists of a summary of main points and 19 tables, which include information on the mode of attendance, sector, sex, level of study, age, subject and domicile, of higher education entrants and students in Scotland. Time series tables are included as well as those presenting only 1997-98 data.

The main points include the following:

- There were almost a quarter of a million (247,656) students in higher education in

Scotland in 1997-98, an increase of 9,500 (4 per cent) on the previous year. One in three students attended on a part time basis.

- Business Administration was the most popular subject, with almost one in four students undertaking a course in this field.
- Under half of all students in 1997-98 were studying for a first degree (46 per cent), 37 per cent were undertaking sub degree level qualifications, and 17 per cent were studying for postgraduate qualifications.
- The age distribution of students in higher education in Scotland has shifted slightly over recent years. Although students aged under 25 still form the majority, this has fallen from 62 per cent in 1994-95 to 57 per cent in 1997-98. Consequently there has been an increase in the proportion of students aged 25 and over, from 38 per cent to 43 per cent over the same period.
- There were 128,686 entrants to higher education in Scotland in 1997-98, an increase of 4,800 (4 per cent) on the previous year.
- There was a fall in the numbers of entrants to primary teacher training courses in 1997-98 compared to the previous year (down 15 per cent) although entrants to secondary teacher training courses were virtually unchanged.

Higher Education Graduates and Diplomates in Scotland: 1997-98

This News Release, published on 18th November 1999, gives information on students who successfully completed a higher education course in Scotland in 1997-98. It consists of a summary of main points and six tables, which include information on the qualification achieved, sex, age, subject of study, level of qualification obtained and examination results, of higher education graduates and diplomates in Scotland. Time series tables are included as well as those presenting only 1997-98 data.

The main points include the following:

- In 1997-98, 55,124 students successfully completed a higher education course in Scotland, an increase of around 3,000 on the previous year.
- There were 24,770 male and 30,354 female graduates and diplomates in 1997-98, an increase of around 700 and 2,300 respectively on the previous year.
- There were increases in the numbers of postgraduates and those with first degree qualifications in 1997-98, but a small fall in the numbers with sub-degree qualifications.
- There has been a slight shift in the age distribution of graduates and diplomates. The percentage in the 16-20 age group has fallen by 2 percentage points from 16 to 14 per cent, and there has been an increase in the 30 and above age group from 25 to 26 per cent between 1996-97 and 1997-98.
- Business Administration continued to be the most popular subject for graduates and diplomates in 1997-98 although the numbers fell by around 300.
- There was a large increase (41 per cent) in the numbers who qualified in subjects allied to medicine, up from 4,018 in 1996-97 to 5,658 in 1997-98, which moved this to the third most popular subject.

First Destination of Graduates and Diplomates in Scotland: 1997-98

This News Release, published on 18th November 1999, gives information on the first destination of students who successfully completed a higher education course in Scotland in 1997-98. It consists of a summary of main points and nine tables, which include information on first destination, level of qualification obtained, subject, type of work, industry of employer, location of employment, domicile and response

rate to the first destinations survey, of higher education graduates and diplomates in Scotland. Time series tables are included as well as those presenting only 1997-98 data.

The main points include the following:

- Of those who responded, over half (52 per cent) had obtained permanent or temporary employment in the UK, and a further five per cent obtained employment overseas.
- Unemployment for graduates and diplomates fell to the lowest level in recent history, at four per cent in 1997-98.
- Around three in ten graduates and diplomates continued in full-time study.
- Post-graduate students were more likely to obtain overseas employment than those with first degree or sub-degree qualifications.
- Half of all students who obtained a sub-degree level qualification continued in full-time study.
- Students who qualified in Maths and Computing were most likely to continue in full-time education. Around 7 in 10 students who qualified in Subjects Allied to Medicine obtained permanent UK employment.

For further information on the above news releases contact:

Colin Gallacher
Further and Higher Education Statistics
Education Statistics
Room 1-A
Victoria Quay
EDINBURGH, EH6 6QQ
Tel: 0131 244 0331
Fax: 0131 244 0354
E-mail: colin.gallacher@scotland.gov.uk

The News Releases can also be found on the Scottish Executive Website.

New Bulletin

Input-Output Tables and Multipliers for Scotland 1996

The Stationery Office
Price £45, ISBN 0 7480 8907 1

Contains tables on topics such as domestic output at producers' prices and the demand for products – the domestic use matrix. The main points include the following:

- The manufacturing and finance and business services sectors were estimated to account for approximately 23 per cent and 21 per cent of Scottish GDP, respectively.
- Exports to the rest of the UK (RUK) were estimated at £22.7 billion, whereas imports from the RUK were estimated to be around £31.5 billion.
- Exports to the rest of the world (RoW) were estimated at £21.3 billion, with imports from the RoW to be around £16.8 billion.
- These figures show a balance of trade surplus of £4.5 billion between Scotland and RoW, and a balance of trade deficit of £8.8 billion between Scotland and RUK.

For further information contact:

Maria Melling
Economics Advice and Statistics 6
Scottish Executive Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Department
3rd Floor
Meridian Court
GLASGOW, G2 6AT
Tel: 0141 242 5459
Fax: 0141 242 5455
E-mail: maria.melling@scotland.gov.uk

Copies of the bulletin may be purchased from:

The Stationery Office Bookshop
71 Lothian Road
EDINBURGH, EH3 9AZ
Tel: 0870 606 5566
Fax: 0870 606 5588

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE HEALTH DEPARTMENT: COMMUNITY CARE STATISTICS DIVISION

Information Note

Residential Community Care, Scotland 1998, Statistical Information Note: SEHD/ RCC/1998

Published on 25th August 1999, this Information Note contains tables on topics such as residential care homes by client group and sector; number of admissions during the year by client group and sector and destination of long-stay residents discharged during the year by client group.

The main points include the following:

- On 31st March 1998, there were 1,618 residential care homes registered in Scotland, offering a total of 24,848 places.
- Of these homes 681 were intended for older people.
- As at 31st March 1998, 56 per cent of all residential care homes in Scotland were run by the voluntary sector.
- In 1998 the average length of stay for long-stay residents discharged from homes intended for older people was two years and nine months.

New Report

Vacancy Monitoring Report – Residential Care Homes and Nursing Homes in Scotland – 1st April 1998 to 31st March 1999

Published on 29th September 1999, this report contains tables on topics such as Occupancy Rates, Admissions and Response Rates of residential care homes for older people and nursing homes.

The main points include the following:

- The number of occupied beds and bed complement on local authority homes for older people has generally fallen since March 1993.
- Both bed complement and the number of occupied beds in private residential care homes for older people are continuing to increase.
- The number of occupied beds in nursing homes has generally increased over the period 1 April 1998 to 31 March 1999.
- Bed complement and number of occupied beds increased over the period in the voluntary sector.

Further information or a copy of the above titles (free of charge) can be obtained from:

David Purdie
Community Care Statistics Division
Scottish Executive Health Department
Room 52
James Craig Walk
EDINBURGH, EH1 3BA
Tel: 0131 244 3777
Fax: 0131 244 5315
E-mail: david.purdie@scotland.gov.uk

These publications can also be found on the Scottish Executive Website.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION

Statistical Bulletins

Firearm Certificates Statistics, Scotland 1998

The Stationery Office
Price £2, ISBN 0 7480 8755 9

Published on 25th August 1999, this Bulletin contains statistics on topics such as Firearms Certificates, Shotgun Certificates, Firearms Dealers, Visitors Permits, European Firearm Passes and Article 7 Authorities.

The main points include the following:

- There were 31,072 firearm certificates on issue at the end of 1998, 22 fewer than the previous year and the lowest number ever recorded.
- The total number of applications for a new firearm certificate was 982 in 1998 compared with 1,304 in 1997, a decrease of 322 applications (25 per cent). Twenty applications (two per cent) were refused. There were 918 cancellations (down from 2,069 in 1997) and 61 revocations of firearm certificates in 1998. The decrease in the number of cancellations can be partly attributed to 1998 not being a year in which renewal of certificates was required and that the surrender of large and then small calibre handguns led to variations of the majority of certificates, rather than cancellation.
- As at December 1998, there were 63,100 shotgun certificates on issue, compared with 63,215 in 1997, the lowest level ever recorded.
- The number of applications for a new shotgun certificate was 1,530 in 1998, 231 (13 per cent) less than the number recorded in 1997. Thirty-six applications (two per cent) were refused. There were 1,509

cancellations and 129 revocations of shotgun certificates in 1998.

- There were 295 registered firearm dealers in Scotland in 1998, 18 less than the 1997 figure of 313
- The number of applications for Visitors' Permits from both EC and non-EC residents in 1998 totalled 3,536 for firearms and 5,777 for shotguns.
- The number of European Firearm Passes on issue at the end of 1998 was 444, compared to 379 in 1997.

For further information contact:

Gary Hunter
Civil and Criminal Justice Statistics Unit -
Branch 2
Scottish Executive Justice Department
W1(C) Spur
Saughton House
Broomhouse Drive
EDINBURGH, EH11 3XD
Tel: 0131 244 2225
Fax: 0131 244 2286
E-mail: gary.hunter@scotland.gov.uk

Recorded Crimes and Offences Involving Firearms, Scotland 1998

The Stationery Office
Price £2, ISBN 0 7480 8792 3

Published on 27th October 1999, this Bulletin contains statistics on topics such as Crimes where a firearm was used, Crimes cleared up involving firearms, Analysis by police force area and Crimes where a firearm was stolen. The main points include the following:

- In 1998 the Scottish police recorded 985 offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been used, a decrease of 17 per cent from

the 1,187 recorded in 1997, and the lowest figure recorded since 1989. The number of offences involving a firearm other than an airweapon also decreased, down 21 per cent to total 319 in 1998.

- As in previous years, an airweapon was the most commonly used firearm. Airweapons accounted for over two thirds of all offences involving firearms in 1998. The total number of offences that involved the use of an airweapon decreased by 15 per cent from 783 in 1997 to 666 in 1998. Though the number of offences involving the alleged use of a pistol/revolver has been decreasing since 1996, the level in 1998 - at 123 - remains high at 64 per cent above the number recorded in 1995.
- Of the 650 offences in which a firearm was actually fired, 570 (88 per cent) involved the use of an airweapon. Of those offences involving an airweapon, 215 resulted in injury to a person and 322 resulted in damage to property. A shotgun was fired in 16 offences resulting in personal injury in eight cases (50 per cent).
- The use of firearms in criminal activity constituted only a small and decreasing proportion of all offences recorded by the police in 1998. These included seven per cent of recorded homicides (seven offences), three per cent of recorded attempted murders (19 offences) and less than three per cent of recorded robberies (135 offences). Less than half a per cent of recorded assaults (213 offences) and vandalism offences (263 offences) involved the alleged use of a firearm.
- In 1998, 30 per cent of offences involving the alleged use of a firearm occurred in a dwelling. Two per cent occurred in banks, building societies or post offices and a further 33 per cent on public highways.
- The Strathclyde police force area which contains 44 per cent of the Scottish population, accounted for more than one half (56 per cent)

of all offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been used in 1998. More specifically, 81 per cent of recorded robberies, 61 per cent of assaults but only 50 per cent of vandalism offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been used took place in Strathclyde.

- The total number of offences cleared up (where one or more persons were accused of the offence) decreased by 21 per cent, from 541 offences in 1997 to 430 in 1998. This equated to a clear-up rate of 44 per cent, a decrease of two percentage points when compared with 1997.
- In 1998 the police recorded 25 offences in which a firearm other than an airweapon had been stolen, the lowest number recorded since this information was first collected in 1978.

For further information contact:

Paul Hughes
Civil and Criminal Justice Statistics Unit -
Branch 2
Scottish Executive Justice Department
W1(C) Spur
Saughton House
Broomhouse Drive
EDINBURGH, EH11 3XD
Tel: 0131 244 2228
Fax: 0131 244 2286
E-mail: Paul.hughes@scotland.gov.uk

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

The Stationery Office Bookshop
71 Lothian Road
EDINBURGH, EH3 9AZ
Tel: 0870 606 5566
Fax: 0870 606 5588

The bulletins can also be found on the Scottish Executive Website.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE RURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT ECONOMICS, STATISTICS AND IACS

Agricultural Census Summary Sheets by geographic area: June 1999

Price £5

These tables were published on 22nd December 1999 and contain aggregated data from the *Agricultural and Horticultural Census*, 1st June 1999, with information on cropping, grassland and set aside areas, livestock numbers and the size of farm labour on main holdings. These are statistical tables only, rather than a statistical bulletin with news/comment.

For further information contact:

Andy Reid
Economics, Statistics and IACS
Scottish Executive Rural Affairs Department
Room 028
Pentland House
47 Robb's Loan
EDINBURGH, EH14 1TY
Tel: 0131 244 6149
Fax: 0131 244 6490
E-mail: andy.reid@scotland.gov.uk

Copies of the tables may be purchased from:

The Stationery Office Bookshop
71 Lothian Road
EDINBURGH, EH3 9AZ
Tel: 0870 606 5566
Fax: 0870 606 5588

The tables can also be found on the Scottish Executive Website.

Scottish Executive Website:

www.scotland.gov.uk

NEW STATISTICAL BULLETINS

**Small and Medium Enterprise (SME)
Statistics for the UK, 1998**

The Statistical Bulletin *Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Statistics for the UK, 1998*, published on 5th August 1999, contains a size breakdown of the number of businesses in the UK, from small traders with no employees to those with 500 or more employees. It also shows the contribution to employment and turnover made by businesses of different sizes, industry by industry, and on a regional basis.

Of the 3.7 million businesses in 1998, over 2.3 million were 'size class zero' businesses - those made up of sole traders or partners without employees. At the start of 1998, 1.3 million businesses were employers, an increase from the 1.2 million employers seen in the previous three years.

Of the entire business population of 3.7 million enterprises only 25 thousand were medium sized (50 to 249 employees) and less than 7 thousand were large (250 or more employees). Small businesses, including those without employees, accounted for over 99 per cent of businesses, 45 per cent of non-government employment and (excluding the finance sector) 38 per cent of turnover. In contrast, the 7 thousand largest businesses accounted for 44 per cent of non-government employment and 48 per cent of turnover.

The share of employment provided by SMEs varies greatly from one industry to the next. In construction 86 per cent of employment is

accounted for by SMEs while in finance it is only 23 per cent.

The share of employment in SMEs was highest among Northern Ireland based businesses and lowest among those based in London. The share of turnover in SMEs was also highest among Northern Ireland based businesses, and was lowest among those based in London and the South East.

This Bulletin is of great use to researchers of SMEs and the labour market and to businesses drawing up market strategies, business plans or conducting business surveys.

For a copy send a cheque for £15, made payable to the Department of Trade and Industry to:

SME Statistics Unit
Level 2
St. Mary's House
c/o Moorfoot
SHEFFIELD S1 4PQ
Tel: 0114 259 7538

A data disk is enclosed with the bulletin. When ordering please state whether you require Excel, Lotus or CSV format.

**Business start-ups and closures: VAT
registrations and de-registrations 1980-1998**

The Statistical Bulletin *Business start-ups and closures: VAT registrations and de-registrations 1980-1998*, published on 26th August, contains estimates of the number of enterprises registering and de-registering for VAT in 1998, and the stock of registered businesses at the start of 1999. They are the best official guides to the pattern of business start-ups and closures across the UK and in each industry. They are an indicator of the level of entrepreneurship and of the health of the business population.

There were 186,300 registrations in the UK in 1998. There were 155,900 de-registrations in 1998, or one in nine of the businesses registered at the start of the year. There was a net gain of 30,300 registered enterprises during the year, increasing the stock of VAT registered businesses to 1.65 million at the start of 1999.

In 1998 there were 40 registrations for every 10,000 people age 16 or over in the UK. There were 33 de-registrations for every 10,000 people age 16 or over.

In 1998 the number of registrations fell compared with 1997 in the agriculture, production and construction sectors. There were 12,600 registrations in manufacturing, a fall of 900. In contrast there were more registrations in most service industries. In 1998 there were 66,900 registrations in business services (which include consultancy, legal, accounting and computer services), a rise of 5,900 since 1997 and one in three of the UK total. There were 37,700 registrations in wholesale, retail and repairs, a rise of just 600.

In 1998 there were 6,100 registrations in Wales, 11,800 in Scotland, and 3,700 in Northern Ireland. There were 39,700 registrations in London, the largest number of any English region. In London there were 70 registrations for every 10,000 residents age 16 or over, compared with just 20 in the North East. Most newly registered enterprises are small local businesses, so this high rate cannot be explained by the concentration of head offices in London. Registrations per 10,000 adults were higher in England (42) than in Wales (26) in Scotland (29) and in Northern Ireland (29). Within England there were high registration rates in the rest of the South East (47), the East of England (42) and the South West (40).

This Bulletin is of great use to those involved in regional and local economic planning, as well as businesses drawing up market strategies. It contains: industry by industry estimates for every country, region, county, unitary authority and local authority district in the UK, 1994-98, as well as more detailed estimates for each of the UK's main 200 or so industries, 1994-98.

For a copy send a cheque for £25, made payable to the Department of Trade and Industry to the address given above.

A data disk is enclosed with the bulletin, including historical data for the period 1980-93. When ordering please state whether you require Excel, Lotus or CSV format.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

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 following four sections analyse developments in money and financial markets, demand and output, the labour market and costs and prices respectively. The concluding sections present a summary of monetary policy since the August *Report* and an assessment of inflation prospects and risks. Minutes of recent Monetary Policy Committee meetings are attached as an annex.

Articles

News and the sterling markets (*by Martin Brooke, Graeme Danton and Richhild Moessner of the Bank's Gilt-edged and Money Markets Division*). The *Quarterly Bulletin* reports developments in financial markets in detail each quarter in the regular 'Markets and operations' article. Day by day, items of news about the economy – in the form of data releases and news about policy – are the most significant market-moving events. The article looks over a longer time period than is usually possible in the 'Markets and operations' article to answer the following two questions: Which news items tend to move the sterling interest rate markets most? How do different parts of the sterling yield curve respond to news?

News estimates of the UK real and nominal yield curves (*by Nicola Anderson and John Sleath of the Bank's Monetary Instruments and Markets Division*). This article presents some new improved estimates of the UK yield curve, both nominal and real. It describes the rationale for changing the estimation techniques that we have previously used, in the light of our own experience and developments in the academic literature. The article also illustrates the use of data from the general collateral repo market to derive estimates of the nominal yield curve at short maturities.

Government debt structure and monetary conditions (*by Alec Chrystal of the Bank's Monetary Assessment and Strategy Division, Andrew Haldane of the Bank's International Finance Division, and James Proudman of the Bank's Monetary Instruments and Markets Division*). In June 1998 the Bank of England organised a conference on 'Government debt structure and monetary conditions'. The aim of the conference was to discuss the interactions between the size and

structure of government debt and the concerns of monetary policy. The proceedings of the conference will be published shortly. This article summarises the issues discussed.

For more information contact:

Bank of England Publications Group
Tel: 020 7601 4030
Fax: 020 7601 5196
E-mail: mapublications@bankofengland.co.uk

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

Official statistics in the United Kingdom are produced by the Government Statistical Service (GSS) and other official bodies such as the Bank of England and Northern Ireland government departments.



The GSS comprises around 5,000 staff located in over 30 departments and executive agencies, the largest of these being the Office for National Statistics. Every quarter Statistical News includes three or more articles which describe a subject in depth; these subjects range from the latest surveying techniques to statisticians' projects in Zambia. The News from around the GSS and beyond section carries shorter articles from each department and associated organisations on their latest statistical ventures and plans. The Supplement of New Surveys and Departmental Publications is a reference source for all recent output and products.

£16.00

(Annual subscription £59.00 including postage)

ISBN 0 11 621154 7

ISSN 0017-3630

ISBN 0-11-621154-7



9 780116 211545