

# *Statistical News*

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**Lord Chancellor's Department  
Statistician Recruitment  
Central Office of Information  
Microcomputers in the GSS  
Standard Occupational Classification  
A 1938 Budget**



**No. 81**  
**May 1988**

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**FRONT COVER**

The cover design depicts a corner of the Government Offices in Great George Street which house the CSO.

# **Statistical News**

**Developments in British  
Official Statistics**

**No. 81  
May 1988**

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## Statistical Work in the Lord Chancellor's Department

Martin Daly, John Watkins, and Fiona Burgess, Statisticians.

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### Introduction

The Lord Chancellor's Department (LCD) has existed in one form or another for over 900 years. It is one of the oldest Departments but one of the least known despite the fact that two former Lord Chancellors are saints. It took on its present, considerably larger and much-changed, shape in 1972 when, following the Courts Act of 1971, it was given the task of running a court system covering all courts above the level of Magistrates' Courts (administered by the Home Office). Today the Department is responsible for expenditure of about £750 million a year, and employs 10,000 staff, most of whom help run the Courts. The court system embraces the Court of Appeal sitting in the Royal Courts of Justice in London, the High Court, the Crown Court (sitting at over 80 centres throughout England and Wales and hearing the most serious criminal cases — over 100,000 a year), and about 270 County Courts where the great majority of three million civil cases a year are dealt with — mostly summonses for debt which never come before a judge.

Management of court business is divided into six regions, known as 'Circuits', each headed by a Circuit Administrator. Circuits are further divided into groups headed by Courts Administrators who are responsible for the smooth running of Crown and County Courts in their group.

In addition, the Department is responsible for a number of associated offices that do not form part of the circuit system. These include the Law Commission, the Council on Tribunals, the Official Solicitor's Department and the Public Trust Office.

The fundamental aims of LCD are to provide access to justice through the speedy, efficient and cost-effective administration of courts, tribunals and legal aid schemes; to safeguard the independence, integrity and quality of the judiciary and the judicial process; to encourage quality and efficiency in an independent legal profession; and to promote the reform and revision of the law as it relates to England and Wales.



From left to right: Martin Daly, Fiona Burgess and John Watkins.

These aims encompass several areas of development including the court building programme and plans for the computerisation of Crown Court (criminal) business and civil debt business in the County Courts. There are two other current initiatives relating to civil business: the first is to establish the feasibility and shape of a Family Court to replace the present arrangements where very similar matters can be resolved either in County Courts or Magistrates' Courts. The second is the 'Civil Justice Review', which is addressing the problems of cost, complexity and delay in civil litigation.

There are three professional statisticians in LCD. Martin Daly runs Statistics Branch (part of the Courts Service Management Group) with the help of Fiona Burgess and ten support staff. They are primarily concerned with the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistics on the business of the Courts, forecasting workload and hence future requirements for courtrooms and judges, and for providing statistical advice to all parts of the department. The branch compiles a command paper *Judicial Statistics* each summer. This draws together much of the key information that is collected on the business of the various Courts and includes commentary on recent trends.

John Watkins runs a small Costings and Operational Research Section (within the Establishment and Finance Group) concerned with performance measures, models of the court system, and costing the effects of the various civil initiatives.

#### Statistics Branch

The key function of the branch is to collect and process data on the work of the Higher Criminal Courts (ie the Crown Court and the Criminal Division of the Court of Appeal) on the one hand, and civil business (ie County Courts, the High Court, and the Civil Division of the Court Appeal) on the other. The structure of the branch reflects the natural dichotomy of the Courts.

#### Crown Court Statistics

The criminal court section is responsible for gathering basic information on a monthly basis from over 80 court centres relating to numbers of cases received and disposed, waiting-times between committal and start of hearing, lengths of hearings, results of cases heard, types of judge sitting, and legal representation.

The source for most of this data is an edge-punched card for each defendant (described in *Statistical News* No 21: May 1973). The cards are completed in Court and sent each week to Court Administrators' offices (for London Courts they are sent direct to Statistics Branch) where they are analysed and monthly returns compiled. These returns are forwarded to Statistics Branch for input into a network of micro-computers.

Standard monthly, quarterly, and annual reports are prepared by the branch using the DATAFLEX data base management package and distributed to staff in HQ, the Circuits, senior members of the judiciary, and the Home Office.

The use of punched cards is out-dated and limits the extent of information that can be collected about Crown Court business. Nonetheless, they provide reasonably accurate data without undue delay. For the future, however, the branch is looking to the computerisation of Crown Court operations to provide a far greater range of management information.

This project, known as CREST (Crown Court Electronic Support) is nearing the end of its full study stage. If approved, it is hoped that it could be phased in during 1990 and 1991. CREST is designed principally to bring support to the administration of the Crown Court by saving staff time, improving accuracy and increasing speed of communication, and so help staff cope with the ever increasing workload. As a by-product of CREST it is proposed that management information will be provided by each crown court centre directly to Statistics Branch by electronic transfer.

It is also envisaged that crown court statistics currently provided to the Home Office by the police should be produced by CREST. This should eliminate much of the inefficiency and inaccuracy found in the present manual system of data collection and should considerably speed up the availability of information on, for instance, type of offence and sentence. It will also ensure greater consistency between LCD and Home Office data.

#### Civil Court statistics

The system for collecting and processing county court statistics differs from that for Crown Courts insofar as data on various items of county court process is captured in aggregate form only. Each of the 270 County Courts completes up to eight different forms each month (the precise number depends on their level of jurisdiction). These forms are keyed to tape by a commercial data processing bureau and the tape is input to our county court data base at COMSHARE (a computer agency), who provide full facilities management for a dedicated IBM 4381 running VM/CMS. The branch analyses the data using 'System W' software developed by COMSHARE with additional programming undertaken by LCD computer staff.

The county court data base is augmented by data captured through the Department's financial and management information system also held on COMSHARE. In addition to the regular monthly collection of data, four 'sampler' forms are returned from Courts for the months of March and September. These provide a detailed breakdown of some of the summary information provided monthly.

The type of information collected on county court business, and the method of processing, is likely to change significantly in the next few years if the Department proceeds with its proposal to introduce a computer system to assist with the routine administrative stages of debt actions in County Courts. A centralised 'Claims Registry' would aim to improve the service to plaintiffs and defendants in debt proceedings and reduce the administrative costs of handling debt cases, enabling staff to be redeployed elsewhere in the court service. A full study report is now being prepared.

### Forecasting

All this information gathered from Crown and County Courts is used to account for, monitor, and predict the caseload and workload of the Department. A major function of Statistics Branch is, therefore, to project the future workload of the Courts and to translate these projections into requirements for courtrooms and judiciary.

Crown courtrooms have come under increasing pressure with committals for trial rising by a little over 75 per cent between 1980 and 1987. It takes a very long time to plan and build new Courts, and forecasting over two decades in the face of substantial variations in workload is as much an art as a science. The underlying assumption is that the high recent average rate of growth in workload will continue in the short term before reducing to the lower rate which was experienced earlier. Even so, on this basis caseload would still stand to double over the next 25 years.

Forecasts of Crown Court cases are made for each of the six Circuits. The initial step in converting these projections into estimated courtroom requirements is to distribute the workload amongst Courts in each Circuit. This is done by looking at the historical share of each Circuit's workload dealt with by each Court and applying these proportions to each Circuit projection subject to any pending re-allocation of catchment areas. The projected caseloads are then converted into sitting days using local disposal rates of cases per day, and a national divisor of courtroom days per year is used to determine the number of courtrooms needed.

The planning horizon for judge forecasts is only five years but the methodology is similar to that used for courtrooms. The main forecast produced assumes that there will be no reduction in the backlog of outstanding cases awaiting hearing in the Crown Court; judge requirements are calculated solely on the need to match anticipated receipts of cases. An alternative forecast assumes that the number of outstanding cases will fall towards a target waiting time of eight weeks by the end of the projection period. These forecasts are then fed into a judgepower model to determine how many new appointments are needed.

### Performance Indicators and Targets

The Department's aim to provide access to justice through the speedy, efficient and cost-effective administration of

Courts is supported by a series of performance indicators or 'Circuit Objectives' which were introduced from 1984. The indicators were primarily measures of 'effectiveness' in that they concentrated on throughput and delays in crown and county court work.

It was recognised that there were many limitations in the initial set of indicators (they were for instance, primarily snapshots which might produce an unrepresentative picture of performance). A working party was therefore set up in 1985 to produce an enhanced system of Circuit Objectives. As a result a new set of indicators is to be introduced for the financial year 1988-89. Statistics Branch have played a major role in the development of these new indicators, and will continue to be responsible for monitoring performance at both court and circuit level.

Each of the new indicators is based on the definition of a target as 'a level of performance which is to be sought throughout the year and to be achieved or surpassed by the end of the year'. Targets for each circuit are agreed between HQ and Circuit Administrators, and individual court managers may also be set targets to help achieve the level of performance agreed for their circuit. The range of indicators chosen for Crown and County Courts is designed to be sufficient to give a balanced view of the total work of the courts, or of matters of specific public concern (eg waiting time). Examples of the indicators to be used for 1988-89 are:

#### Crown Court

- (i) Average waiting time between committal and start of hearing for defendants (a) committed in custody and (b) committed on bail
- (ii) Percentage of juror non-sitting days to juror attendance days
- (iii) Average length of sitting day

#### County Courts

- (iv) Percentage of (a) debt summonses, and (b) divorce petitions taking longer than five working days to issue and despatch
- (v) Percentage of hearings before a judge estimated to last (a) up to 15 minutes and (b) one day or more, which have been given hearing dates more than 40 working days ahead.

### Costings and Operational Research

Costings and Operational Research Branch are taking forward other recommendations of the Working Party in developing measures of staff productivity for Crown and County Courts. These are easily defined as ratios of workloads to staff numbers or costs but not so easily measured when staff are engaged in a diversity of tasks.

County court staff handle some 40 different kinds of case. Fifteen years ago a Work Measurement exercise established how much effort was needed for each kind of case; for example a divorce was found to need 13 times as much work as a summons for debt. For many years thereafter the weighted sum of each court's caseload was used to determine its staff complement but more recently these rather old weightings were regarded as unsafe and were in danger of being rejected without anything better to put in their place. A simple linear regression restored enough faith in them to continue until the Department can afford to invest in new measurements: with 270 observations (one for each court), nearly 98 per cent of the variation in staff costs was explained by the weighted caseload; the formula turned out to be relatively insensitive to the weightings because of the very high correlations between the caseload volumes.

The Crown Court never had a comparable formula for complementing. The temptation to calculate productivity by dividing the number of cases by staff was overwhelming but this took no account of the fact that defendants in the North of England are much more likely to plead guilty than those in the South and guilty pleas take half an hour in the courtroom while trials usually take two days. A new measure takes account of this differential and the fact that about one third of staff time is spent on out of court paperwork where there is little differential between the preparation for guilty pleas and trials. The proportion of one third is not well measured but even so the new productivity indicator is a considerable improvement on the one which managers used by default.

All these measures are helping the Department to monitor performance and take corrective action, but they are also needed in the wider arena of annual discussions with the Treasury in the Public Expenditure Survey. A useful contribution to this debate has been the development of the crown court model, written in SuperCalc and running on a microcomputer. For each circuit in turn, the model takes the projected number of cases that will be received each year and calculates the number of sitting days needed to dispose of enough business to achieve acceptable levels of backlog and delay. In doing this it takes account of how many courtrooms will be available, and of more productive use of these courtrooms by increases in the length of the sitting day. It then calculates the costs of judges, staff, jurors and legal aid taking into account changes in the productivity of some of these resources. Thus the model captures all the significant relationships between inputs, outputs and workload.

#### Civil Initiatives

The system of Civil Justice has developed piecemeal. The lack of coherence is most obvious in family matters where, for example, a woman who was divorced in a County Court

is receiving her maintenance payments through a Magistrates' Court while her child may be made a ward of the High Court and be taken into care through proceedings in a Juvenile Court. The spotlight is on children following recent events in Cleveland and the Department is working with the Home Office and DHSS to recommend reforms of the various jurisdictions. Any reform is likely to involve moving proceedings from one set of courts to another. There are fundamentally different procedures, administered on the one hand by civil servants in LCD's Courts and on the other hand by Magistrates' Courts and their staff which are funded by a different mechanism. Any change is likely to be expensive. At the start of the exercise very little was known about the costs of a dozen or more different family proceedings but most of these have now been established through a series of surveys into the amount of staff and judicial effort expended and incorporated in a single model for costing family business. The word 'costing' conjures a vision of pound signs, but most of the costing work goes into quantifying volume of cases and staff effort, and the changes in these volumes that reform would entail; the costs themselves emerge at a late stage through a relatively straightforward pricing of the volumes.

There are other proposals for reform of Civil Justice outside the family arena. One of the many problems concerns the inordinate length of time it often takes to resolve a claim for damages in cases of personal injury. Before joining a queue for a court hearing there are lengthy and sometimes dilatory discussions between lawyers while waiting to see whether there is any change in the medical condition. There are now recommendations for removing a year or more from the process by giving Courts firm control over the timetable. To cost the effect a model was devised which tracked successive cohorts of cases. The model showed that there would be a transitional period during which the workload of the Courts would rise as slower old cases and faster new cases were concluded at the same time, after which the workload would stabilise close to its previous level. There would be little change in the unit cost of cases.

#### Conclusion

The work of the two branches is at the heart of, and crucial to, the policy and operational initiatives that are currently being taken forward. The three statisticians work closely with administrators and lawyers and are frequently called on to procure more data and provide advice, while there is a continuing call for more robust analysis of information already available to explain recent trends and assess the performance of the court service. We can see an even greater need in the future as the initiatives move towards the implementation of what may be one of the most significant reforms of civil litigation this century.

*This article about the Lord Chancellor's Department is the fifteenth in a series of articles on the structure and functions of the Government Statistical Service.*



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## Recruitment of Government Statisticians: is there a problem?

Richard Alldritt, Statistician, Statistician Group Management Unit, CSO

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In recent years government departments have asked the Civil Service Commission to recruit many more Assistant and Senior Assistant Statisticians (AS/SAS) than it has been possible to get. In 1981, 22 vacancies were notified and exactly that number took up post; in 1987, 72 vacancies were notified and 39 took up post. On the face of it then we have a recruitment problem of some magnitude. However, if one looks below the surface a more complex and interesting picture emerges. This article looks at the recruitment patterns in the 1980s and considers their implications.

### The structure

The great majority of government statisticians are recruited at the two Assistant grades. Such people are typically new graduates in a range of disciplines involving statistics. They are carefully selected and enter the Service in the expectation of extensive training followed by promotion to the main career grade— Grade 7 statistician — in their late twenties. It is at this level that the professional statistical service is primarily delivered. Below Grade 7 there are many non-specialists working in supporting roles and it is they rather than Assistants who provide the stable base on which the statistical functions rely. Assistants, as they are quick to point out, do a great deal of valuable and original work in their own right but that is not their most important role. They are there to provide the source from which vacancies at Grade 7 can be filled. Assistants expect to be promoted pretty well as soon as they are deemed fitted for the more senior grade. The system is not designed to cope with a significant pool of promotable Senior Assistants 'waiting their turn'. When a promotion opportunity comes up it is normal for a promotable Senior Assistant to be released without waiting for the junior post to be filled. It is rare for someone to be promoted 'in post'. A job cannot be flexibly graded at both Grade 7 and Assistant level.

This description reveals the most important constraint on the structure — that recruitment of Assistants is primarily for the purpose of providing sufficient people to fill vacancies at Grade 7 some years in the future. It follows that the effectiveness of the recruitment process must be judged by its success in providing people for promotion at the rate at which they are needed rather than by its capacity to fill all Assistant vacancies. It is perhaps worth emphasizing here that there is no systematic central control over the number of posts designated as being Assistant or Senior Assistant Statistician posts; or indeed Grade 7 statistician posts. In practice government departments create or abolish these as they deem necessary.

Planning recruitment to satisfy expected future needs is no easy task but it is not quite as daunting as it sounds. There

is some limited scope to regulate demand for Grade 7 statisticians. This is because Grade 7 is a 'unified grade' encompassing the many specialisms that make up the Civil Service, including the administrative specialisms; often wrongly regarded as 'generalists'. In the few years that the unified grade has existed, departments have increasingly realised that a number of posts can be flexibly filled by administrators, statisticians, economists and others. Control of this internal drift provides a limited control over demand for Grade 7 statisticians. However, experience suggests that this really only works when there is a slight oversupply of people ready for promotion to Grade 7. An undersupply has been found to present greater difficulties.

This brings me to the point that since about 1984 our system has been failing to keep up with demand at Grade 7. This is looked at in more detail below but, in general terms, it appears that recruitment of Assistants in the period around 1978-1983 fell short of what turned out to have been required. In response to this shortfall it has been necessary to try to top up Grade 7 statistician numbers by direct recruitment from outside the Civil Service. In principle this is fine; in practice it is expensive, difficult and unpredictable. The number of people outside the Civil Service with a background which enables them to settle straight in to this kind of relatively senior post is too small for external recruitment to be regarded as a satisfactory alternative to getting the recruitment of Assistants right. Incidentally, the reasons things went wrong when they did are not hard to find. The current growth in demand for Grade 7 statisticians has been partly fuelled by the introduction of unified grading at Grade 7, leading to a rapid increase in the number of statisticians in non-statistical posts. Unified grading was little more than a twinkle in the eye of the Civil Service Department before the early 1980s. Moreover, the enforced contraction of statistical services around 1979/80 must have heavily coloured the outlook of those involved in recruitment at that time — including prospective recruits themselves.

The upshot of these considerations is that the optimum policy for recruitment of Assistants is to plan for a slight oversupply of people for promotion to Grade 7, having first allowed for the various types of wastage, such as resignations, which must be expected. Clearly assumptions about future expansion, promotions, retirements and resignations at Grade 7 then become crucial. But it would be biting off too much at once to address all this here. Instead I would like to look in more detail at what has happened in recent years in the recruitment of Assistants and their progress to Grade 7 and restrict my observations to what this reveals.

**Table 1: Civil Service Selection Board recruitment of Assistant and Senior Assistant Statisticians**

	Average 1976-80	1981	1982 <sup>1</sup>	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
Total applications	223	295	496	269	352	272	267	218	233
Invited to CSSB	121	105	181	120	177	183	192	177	185
Attended CSSB	78	67	106	94	126	130	150	139	137
Recommended for AS/SAS	22	21	33	20	39	30	45	43	37
Recommended for Cadet <sup>2</sup>	11	4	8	13	10	10	13	11	8
<b>Percent of total applications</b>									
— invited to CSSB	54	36	36	45	50	67	72	81	79
— attended CSSB	35	23	21	35	36	48	56	64	59
<b>Percent of candidates</b>									
— recommended for AS/SAS	28	31	31	21	31	23	30	31	27
— recommended for Cadet	14	6	8	14	8	8	9	8	6

1 Two Selection Boards were held in 1982

Source: CSSB

2 Cadets undertake a one year postgraduate course before appointment as AS/SAS.

### Facts and figures

Table 1 sets out the essential data from over ten years of Selection Boards. The main points are these:

- the numbers of applications were high in the early 1980s but tailed off from 1985. The 1988 total was close to the average for the late 1970s.
- the proportion of applications 'sifted in', ie. invited to the assessment centre at the Civil Service Selection Board (CSSB) has risen sharply; from 36 per cent in 1981/82 to 80 per cent in 1987/88. This change has been driven by rising vacancies and, in consequence, more CSSB places being set aside to see candidates.
- the success rate of those attending CSSB has stayed fairly stable around 30 per cent (for AS/SAS posts) with one or two exceptional years. Combined with the rise in numbers interviewed this has led to an increase in the number of successful candidates.

Putting these findings together we have a rather curious change in the pattern. Two very different hypotheses present themselves as possible explanations;

**Self selection** — fewer unsuitable candidates are applying because we are getting the message through about who we are looking for and what the work is like; the sifting process tends to enforce a common standard and we therefore expect, and get, a constant proportion who are deemed to be the 'right stuff'.

**Pragmatism** — the mix of applicants has not changed; the sifting process has been relaxed in the light of the increasing number of declared vacancies and we maintain a steady proportion of successes only because of subtle pressures to relax selection standards which may have been more stringent than necessary in the past.

In fact, the true answer is probably neither of these but somewhere in between. The sift criteria have certainly been changed from time to time but there is also some reason to believe that the mix of applicants has changed. Whatever the reasons, the number of successful candidates has increased. The 1986-88 average was over 40 recommended for direct appointment to AS/SAS, twice as many as the average in the late 1970s. Thus, looked at purely in terms of the selection process, things appear to be improving. Of course, not all successful candidates take up appointment so we need to look at this directly and also to consider resignations and other wastage. This information is presented in Table 2 along with staff in post figures for Assistants and Grade 7 statisticians.

Table 2: Assistant and Senior Assistant Statisticians: Stocks and Flows

	Year								
	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
Took up post <sup>1</sup>	18	22	23	19	39	21	42	39	..
Resigned etc. <sup>2</sup>	13	10	17	6	9	14	6	15	..
Promoted from SAS	15	13	15	26	12	17	17	18	..
<b>AS/SAS staff in post</b>									
1 Jan	141	133	130	118	105	123	112	134	140
1 April	135	126	121	110	102	122	107	126	137
<b>Grade 7 staff in post (1 April)</b>									
	322	319	318	333	346	354	359	366	365

.. Not available

Source: SGMU

1 Includes those appointed on completion of a cadetship and a small number appointed other than by the Selection Board.

2 Includes those who transferred to another occupational group within the Civil Service. The 1982 figure includes 3 people who left the Group in earlier years but were not treated as having resigned until 1982.

The keen eyed reader will note that the figures for flows do not balance with those for stocks in Table 2 in quite the way they should. This is because of historical recording difficulties, particularly doubts over the dates on which some changes took effect, due for example to making promotion retrospective. These problems are not sufficiently serious to affect the interpretation here.

It is interesting to compare the numbers taking up post with those for candidates recommended for appointment from Table 1. The relationship here is complicated by a number of factors, including the one year delay before successful Cadet statisticians enter as Assistants (see footnote Table 1), a small number of serving civil servants entering as Assistants under special transfer arrangements and the occasional person who defers taking up appointment to the year after success at CSSB. Nonetheless it is possible to make some general observations.

- 1984, 1986 and 1987 were all good years in that relatively high numbers were recommended for appointment and relatively few of these subsequently dropped out (more detailed data suggests that over two-thirds took up the posts offered).
- 1985 saw a relatively low proportion recommended for appointment (23 per cent) and a high drop-out rate.
- 1983 had a low proportion recommended for appointment (21 per cent).
- 1982 had a high drop-out rate.
- 1981 saw only a small number attend CSSB after a high number of initial applications.

The numbers promoted from Senior Assistant to Grade 7 have stayed in the range 12-18 a year since 1980 except for a bit of a rush in 1983 probably reflecting the clearance of the promotion blockage which had built up during the earlier period of contraction. From 1984 on, the numbers being promoted fell short of demand. These later figures can therefore be regarded as including everyone ready for promotion. There were 22 Grade 7 statisticians directly recruited in the period 1984-87 and in early 1988 there were some 10 or so such posts vacant. Working this out roughly suggests that the numbers being promoted in the period were short of demand by about 6 a year. However, the Grade 7 staff-in-post figures indicate that this period saw a sharp rise in the number of Grade 7 statisticians, averaging about 8 or 9 a year since 1982. Thus the number of Assistants available for promotion would have been sufficient to cope with a slow rise in numbers at Grade 7 but not the increase which actually occurred. As has already been mentioned, the rise in numbers at Grade 7 was fuelled by the internal drift associated with the introduction of unified grading. So, had it not been for the effect of unified grading, the numbers of promotable senior assistants would have been close to sufficient.

The staff-in-post figures for Assistants show that their number has increased from a low point of about 100 in 1984 to 140 in early 1988. Resignations and internal transfers continue to impose a substantial drain on the pool of Assistants with more than one in three leaving before promotion. However, evidence over many years indicates that this proportion has not changed much.



Finally, what of the future? The higher number of assistants taking up post since 1984 may be expected to begin to provide higher numbers available for promotion to Grade 7 within the next couple of years. The system is already producing sufficient such people to maintain a gradual expansion at Grade 7. Thus, depending on assumptions about the future flows out of Grade 7 and expansion at that level, there is a good chance that the system will soon achieve the goal of slight oversupply.

#### Is there a problem?

To come back to the question in the title of whether or not we have a problem I would like to give five answers;

**Yes** — in that the rate of loss due to resignations etc. is higher than desirable and imposes a drain on talent and training.

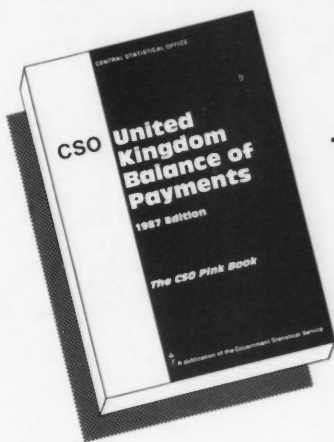
**No** — in that the numbers currently being recruited now look to be adequate for perceived future needs at Grade 7, even assuming continued expansion.

**Yes** — in that the system is not yet producing enough Grade 7 statisticians to satisfy demand.

**No** — in that the proportion taking up the posts they are offered shows no sign of decline.

**Yes** — in that the number of vacancies declared each year now seems to be beyond what the system could support.

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# The Work of The Central Office of Information Research Unit

Michael Warren, Director of Research, Central Office of Information

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## Introduction

The Central Office of Information (COI) is a common service department, which supplies publicity material, services and advice to other parts of government, for use both at home and overseas. Specialist departments within COI provide advertising and research, plus press, film, tv, radio, publications, exhibitions and a variety of other services. The COI Research Unit has a staff of ten, the executive element of which has joined Government after experience in the client and agency sides of the survey research industry, and in advertising.

Some of the COI's campaigns are familiar but relatively low key (blood donor recruitment for example, or nurses recruitment) whilst others are, by any standards, major advertising and research exercises. Our work on AIDS, undertaken for the DHSS between 1985 and 1988, is an example of one such large-scale exercise. The range of our studies is, of course, considerably wider than these few examples would suggest. Information campaigns are required by Departments for a variety of purposes, including

- to improve health and safety;
- to publicise or explain the effect of new legislation or administrative measures;
- to assist recruitment to the armed forces or other public services;
- to make the public aware of their rights (or, of course, duties) within job creation and similar schemes and to encourage proper use of the services offered.

Overseas, the COI equips our diplomatic missions with material designed to present Britain's point of view and to encourage confidence in the country as a good trading partner.

It should be pointed out that COI is both part of, yet in some ways distinct from government. Until a few years ago COI received a substantial sum of money direct from the Treasury, which it was free to spend to provide Departments and comparable government organisations with whatever publicity services they might require. These days, not surprisingly, COI recovers its costs by charging departments for the services and work they need: it is, occasionally, in competition with the commercial sector for some contracts.

COI's work is distinct from the work of OPCS and the Departments in that it is publicity-related rather than policy-related. There are policy-linked elements to it, of course, but these tend to be peripheral. Our main work — and we are the specialist government department in this area — is in the **planning, execution and evaluation of government advertising.**

One additional point might usefully be made. COI is a substantial purchaser of research. Our research turnover in 1987/88 was some £2 million, of which 85 per cent or thereabouts was money spent with research agencies. We undertake over 100 projects a year, and employ more than 30 agencies. The government's expenditure on advertising and on research and other services is substantial, and has increased significantly in recent years. It is difficult to know what the next few years will bring, but there is no sign at present of any reduction in the overall demand for COI's services, nor in the demand for its research.

## Background

The Government's use of survey research techniques, quantitative and qualitative, has increased over the years, and dates back to at least the 1940s. The Social Survey was a section of the Home Intelligence Division of the wartime Ministry of Information, and conducted enquiries into many aspects of wartime conditions and public reactions to them, not only for the Ministry but for other Government departments. The Social Survey remained a division of the COI until 1967, when, following a recommendation of the Heyworth Committee on Social Research in 1965, it became a separate non-ministerial Department. Later it became part of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

Much of the work of the Social Survey, however, was serving the requirements of policy divisions in departments rather than those of the information service. With the growth of COI publicity work, particularly relating to advertising campaigns, the number of research studies that were specifically concerned with publicity grew. At the end of 1969 a special research section was set up with the Advertising Division. In 1973 a separate Research Unit was set up and its scope was extended to embrace the work of other COI divisions at home and overseas. Research Unit is thus in its fifteenth year of work.

## Aims and Techniques

A major function of Government publicity is, as noted above, to inform people of matters that affect them in terms of new legislation, benefits, entitlements, rights and duties. An additional function is to attempt to persuade people to change their behaviour in some way for the improvement of their own lives and the improvement of society. Various road safety campaigns, undertaken during the last few years, illustrate this point. The social and economic cost of road accidents is appalling, and alongside work on vehicle design and the roads themselves (developing new surfaces, layouts, signposting etc) a succession of governments has invested in research-based advertising to discourage drink-driving, to encourage 'safe' pedestrian behaviour, to encourage drivers to keep a safe distance between vehicles, and so on.

Similarly, crime prevention has been a major theme, encouraging the use of window locks, reminding people to lock car doors and keep valuables out of sight. Various energy conservation campaigns, both domestic and commercial, have also involved a great deal of COI work. Fire prevention too has been important, with the domestic use of smoke alarms currently being encouraged. Above all however, the AIDS campaign is one of the most significant information and social persuasion exercises ever undertaken.

What types of research does COI use? There are three main uses for survey research within COI's work. The **planning** element of our work involves target market studies. These are undertaken into the attitudes, experience, and behaviour of the target group to aid publicity planning: in other words, we help

to define the problem

to identify those who are most affected by it

to understand the terms and language they use when talking about it.

When it comes to campaign **execution** we work on creative development. Publicity material in a near-finished form (for example, drafts or mock-ups of leaflets, animatics, television commercial scripts or story-boards) is subjected to small-scale research, carried out amongst groups or individuals, to ensure

that the material is achieving its objectives

that it is understood

that it is free of ambiguities

that the important points are communicated most clearly.

The third and final stage of the process is the **evaluation**, - data collection by observation or, more likely, interview to establish how well the campaign is remembered and understood, whether it has changed attitudes and whether - perhaps - it has changed behaviour. A variety of qualitative and quantitative research techniques are available, and some combination of them will be used, depending on the nature of the publicity objective. It is necessary to have a clear statement of the objectives of the advertising before the objectives of the research can be agreed: only then can the relevant research programme be designed.

There is one further point that I should make in this summary of COI's work. It is the problem we face in undertaking 'pure' campaign evaluation. There is an increasing number of areas, including many of those mentioned above, in which the government advertising campaign is only one part of the message that the public receives. This is not a new problem, nor is it a problem unique to government, and it does not affect all COI's clients. But in the more difficult areas (for examples, campaigns such as Drink and Drive, fire prevention and AIDS) the public is subjected to news and editorial

coverage as well as to advertising. Some of this additional material is, these days, an integral part of the government's efforts and additional coverage is normally welcome. It follows however that separate evaluation of the advertising campaign becomes difficult and, in some cases, virtually impossible. It remains important however to monitor the public's knowledge, attitudes and (claimed) behaviour as a whole, within which the impact and effects of the advertising campaign will be a key element.

## Case studies

1. **AIDS** In the mid-1980s COI was closely involved with the Department of Health and Social Security in developing and evaluating the AIDS public education campaign. The Research Unit's work fell into three main categories.

### i. Creative development

This initial research established a starting point in terms of public awareness and knowledge, attitudes and beliefs, prejudices and misconceptions. It was also used to try out a range of possible advertising approaches, to gauge which ones were likely to work best. The first study covered a range of groups within the general population including homosexuals. It became clear that a youth campaign would be necessary, so a similar project was carried out with young people specifically concentrating on those most at risk.

### ii. Fast feedback

New ground was being broken all the time, both politically and in publicity terms. Not surprisingly, there was a certain nervousness in government and it was essential to know very quickly, step by step, how the campaign was working. The right note of urgency and personal relevance had to be struck in the campaign advertisements without engendering undue alarm or panic. The COI therefore commissioned omnibus surveys, with questions being asked at roughly monthly intervals through the relevant period.

### iii. Main evaluation

Extensive evaluation work was carried out by placing matched surveys before and after the waves of publicity. The general population was surveyed, and surveys were also carried out in gay pubs and clubs, the overall aim being to obtain comparable samples over time, in order to evaluate the changes taking place.

A detailed structured questionnaire took respondents through questions covering awareness, knowledge and attitudes related to AIDS. At the end, questions were added about personal sexual behaviour. Spoken questions and answers were kept to a minimum (by the use of self-completion techniques and coded responses) in an attempt to reduce embarrassment and inhibition, and thus obtain more valid data.

This work was carried out for COI by British Market Research Bureau: full details of the study can be obtained from the Journal of the Market Research Society, Vol 30 no. 1, January 1988.

2. **HEROIN ABUSE** From about 1979 there was a serious rise in heroin misuse in the UK. This caused concern among social agencies, in the media, the public and the government. In February 1985 the Minister of Health announced a number of measures relating to prevention and treatment which included using the mass media to publicise the specific dangers of heroin.

These proposals aroused some controversy. A starting point for the research programme was therefore to establish whether a basis could be found for an effective campaign and, if so, how it might be developed. This involved a large scale qualitative study, including young people, parents and professionals (social workers, doctors etc.). The decision to advertise having been taken, there then followed further qualitative research to develop and test advertising material from concepts through to finished material.

The campaign itself was evaluated via a series of quantitative surveys at six-monthly intervals amongst samples of young people, covering their beliefs, attitudes and behaviour in relation to drugs. Further qualitative research examined responses in more depth and included samples of heroin users. A parallel set of surveys examined the exposure to publicity and attitudes of parents of the target age group tracked via an omnibus survey.

#### i. Use of research data

It is worth noting that a number of decisions, all taken at government minister level, were based on direct reference to the research:

- a. The decision whether to use advertising at all was based upon the initial qualitative research.
- b. The general nature of the campaign: here, research findings on recommended developments were built into the brief given to agencies pitching for the campaign.
- c. The go-ahead to use particular advertising ideas was again based on qualitative research.
- d. Acceptance of the final campaign content was based on qualitative pretesting.
- e. The decision to extend the campaign beyond its initial trial period was taken following quantitative and qualitative evaluation.

- f. A decision to publicise the initial success of the campaign was based on qualitative and quantitative evaluation.
- g. The direction of new advertising was based on the same qualitative and quantitative work.
- h. Decisions on future directions of the campaign overall depended on quantitative evaluation.

#### ii. Data access

The work was, in many ways, contentious. There was, for example, disagreement about whether such a campaign could ever be successful, about how success might be judged, and about whether money would be better spent on direct action. It was therefore agreed that government should contribute fully to this debate by a completely open policy on the research. All interested parties, including the press, had access to all the reports produced, even print-out. This occasionally generated some somewhat baffling questions, but paid off in convincing that nothing was being hidden. As part of the open access approach presentations of the findings were given to press conferences and meetings of various health advisory bodies. This was much appreciated, leading even a critic to express the wish that more government health and public service campaigns were evaluated in this way. The survival of research findings in a variety of critical environments in this context has probably set a precedent for future policy in relation to other high profile public service campaigns.

#### Conclusion

The case studies above concentrate on the more 'public' and problematic areas of our work: the majority of COI's studies are neither as complex nor as contentious. All our studies, however, large or small, have several things in common. They need to be done on time, they need to make best use of our client's money, and - since we are involved in applied research - they need to answer our client's questions.

#### Suggested further reading

1. 'Evaluating Social Persuasion Campaigns', J A Samuels ESOMAR Seminar on Social Research, November 1977.
2. 'Testing Government Publicity', N H Phillips, Advertising Age, EURAM 2 Conference, November 1977.
3. 'The Role of Research and Politics in Social Policy Making', T Bowles and N H Phillips, Market Research Society Conference, April 1979.
4. 'From Information to Understanding and Action In Social Research', J Caffyn and P Mills, Market Research Society Conference, March 1980.
5. 'Recruiting Soldiers: Optimising Recruitment Literature', Ednell Sharpe and John Caffyn, Market Research Society Conference, March 1984.
6. 'The Effects of Publicity Against Heroin Abuse: A Case History of Research for Decision Making', Fenella Taylor and Tony Twyman, ESOMAR Congress, September 1987.

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## Microcomputers in the Government Statistical Service

Phillip Rose, Statistician, Central Statistical Office (CSO)

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There can be few government statisticians whose work has not been affected by the arrival of microcomputers. The number of these (usually) grey boxes has risen to the extent that there are now nearly twice as many microcomputers as there are members of the statistician group; or put another way, there is one microcomputer for every four members of the wider Government Statistical Service including support staff. The explosion in microcomputer usage has been so rapid that individual statisticians often do not have the opportunity to take stock of how microcomputing has changed their work. What is often surprising is that microcomputers have not merely replaced existing mainframe computing facilities, but have caused a fundamental shift in the organisation of statistical work — quite simply, these new tools of the trade have brought analytical work back to the statisticians's desk.

As with other aspects of statistical work, the decentralised nature of the Government Statistical Service has both good and bad points for statistical microcomputing — it has certainly resulted in a bewilderingly wide range of machines and programs. I was recently asked by the Hungarian delegate to a United Nations meeting on statistical computing whether I had a list of hardware and software being used in the UK. I jokingly explained that this would be unnecessary (in actual fact we do have such a list) because, quite simply, if hardware and software exists then it is being used somewhere in the UK Government Statistical Service. While this may overstate the case somewhat, it is true that any list of machines and programs would read like a retailer's catalogue.

Unfortunately, the delivery date of the first microcomputer for government statistical work was not recorded for posterity. Indeed, if it had been, it would only have led to arguments between purists about what actually constitutes a microcomputer. An educated guess at the delivery date of the first box which most statisticians would recognise as a microcomputer would be 1978 or 1979. Developments over the past 10 years have mirrored (but occasionally lagged) developments outside the civil service, the most important turning point being the development by IBM of their 'personal computer' (PC) in the early 1980s. The majority of microcomputers being used in the Government Statistical Service today are IBM PCs or close 'compatibles'.

### Why use microcomputers?

The reasons why microcomputers have become so important for statistical work are difficult to detail. It is possible that some microcomputer installations have been the result of persistent lobbying by an 'enthusiast' statistician who can't wait to get his or her hands on the latest offering to be seen on *Tomorrow's World*. It is equally possible that some installations have been imposed on unsuspecting statisticians by the vagaries of 'departmental IT strategy'. What is clear

is that the Government Statistical Service has certain characteristics which make it ripe for wide-scale use of microcomputers. Statistical work is already heavily decentralised and is organised into distinct and identifiable blocks of work. Although the work is co-ordinated, and data are often shared between departments, in many areas there is no requirement to bring all the component parts together to form one large integrated computerised dataset. Because the volume of data handled for each application can be relatively small, there is an encouraging climate for using microcomputers.

In the pre-micro days, many statistical divisions had to share departmental mainframe computers with administrative applications. Although it may be unfair to stereotype these applications, experience has shown the basic contradiction that statistical applications need general purpose, interactive and flexible tools whereas administrative applications run standard, regular and purpose written jobs. Moving statistical applications onto dedicated microcomputers is one way of removing this conflict.

It should also be remembered that using computers has been a necessity for a large number of government statisticians for a considerable length of time. As microcomputing is just the latest direction to be taken by the wider information technology world, it is not surprising that government statisticians, who have been quick to assess and realise the benefits of previous computer developments, have been enthusiastic, innovative and sympathetic to the arrival of microcomputers. Knowledge and awareness of the functionality and capability of microcomputer software have rapidly become widespread amongst statistician users. There is evidence that informed users have begun to drive, rather than be led by, computer divisions.

These corporate reasons why the Government Statistical Service has adopted microcomputers on a grand scale do not explain the benefits to individual statisticians. Most importantly, the statistician has regained control of the data. To the uninitiated, it may not seem to matter whether the data are physically located in a small box upon which the screen you are looking at, is resting, or in a large air conditioned room somewhere in the basement. However, in practice, this can be important. The statistician can be confident that no other priorities will override his or her work, there will be no delays in obtaining output, and the computer will not close down for 'essential system maintenance' two hours before the final tables for the budget briefing are required.

It must be emphasised that a microcomputer on its own is less than useless — like all other computers it only becomes useful when it is provided with instructions, a program, a software package. Because microcomputers were always



intended to be used by inexperienced users, much of the software which has been written is easy to use and is often termed 'user friendly'. In particular, microcomputer spreadsheet and database management packages allow flexible analysis and assessment of data and improve the visibility that statisticians have of their data. Many departments have reported improvements in data quality resulting from these improvements in visibility, and the closer day to day involvement which statisticians can maintain with the data.

As one might expect, the introduction of microcomputers has not been without problems. Although greater independence has been a benefit of using microcomputers, there are inevitably costs to pay. Data security is the chief problem. If a statistician is to enjoy the benefits of using a microcomputer, someone must ensure that the data are regularly backed-up so that they can be restored to the microcomputer in the event of serious problems. Unfortunately, experience has shown that statisticians (and it must be said, microcomputer users in general) often neglect this aspect of microcomputing. There is a tendency for statisticians to develop their own applications (ie write their own programs, design their own spreadsheets and databases) rather than rely on professional ADP staff. While there is no doubt that this means that applications can be developed very quickly, they are often developed haphazardly with little attention paid to documentation.

#### **What is being used?**

The majority microcomputers being used in the Government Statistical Service are IBM PC compatibles running the Microsoft Disk Operating System (MS-DOS). Most departments have standardised on a particular machine or range of machines. IBM PC XT and AT compatibles are most common, but some departments are beginning to buy more powerful machines based on the 80386 microprocessor.

Some departments (Home Office and Business Statistics Office for example) initially invested in ICL microcomputers to maintain compatibility with their existing mainframes. However, as the IBM PC becomes more of a worldwide standard, and as more of the problems of communicating between different manufacturers' machines are solved, even these departments are using IBM PC compatibles more and more. Some departments (Office of Population Censuses and Surveys and Central Statistical Office for example) are using small numbers of the Apple Macintosh microcomputer. This machine, although not IBM PC compatible, is particularly suited to producing publications — this is usually referred to as desk-top publishing. Increasingly, departments are linking microcomputers together, and to mini and mainframe computers, in local area networks (LANs). This arrangement can be very important for statistical work. The network can be used to 'download' files from mini and mainframe computers — this can be useful where the sheer volume of data dictates that more powerful computing facilities are required for initial data processing and reduction. Tables and subsets of data can be processed on powerful central facilities and be downloaded to microcomputers for further detailed analysis.

Networks provide for very fast transfer of data between machines. Because of this, they are ideally suited to providing back-up storage facilities. A number of microcomputers with large capacity hard disks can be connected to the network for storage purposes. If the network and software are designed correctly, back-up can be made to be very simple, very quick, and virtually automatic.

Finally, networks can be used to share data. Where departments have a central core of data which are needed by a number of different statistical branches, it is better to maintain one central, consistent, secure and update version of the data rather than provide each branch with their own copy. Individual branches can use the fast data transfer facilities of the network to move data to their own microcomputers for so-called local processing with confidence in the integrity of the data.

Table 1 shows the results of a recent telephone survey of government departments. It is becoming increasingly difficult to separately identify those microcomputers which are being used solely for statistical work. Although the figures may not be strictly accurate, they do give a broad overview of the number of microcomputers being used in the Government Statistical Service, and how the position has changed since March 1986.

The difficulties in measuring the number of microcomputers are multiplied many times over when trying to measure the number of software packages. However, at the last count, over 225 different software packages and programming languages were reported as being used for statistical and related purposes. What often surprises non-statisticians is that the vast majority of these are not statistical packages. Wide use is made of spreadsheet, database management and word processing software. This means that government statisticians should be seen as being 'mainstream' microcomputer users rather than as a separate specialised class of users.

#### **The Future**

The most definite thing that can be said about the future is that there will be continued growth in the use of microcomputers by the Government Statistical Service. Microcomputers will continue to become more powerful and this is likely to mean that it will be possible to move more and more mainframe applications onto microcomputers. The most immediate effects will be felt from the wider availability of machines based on the powerful 32 bit 80386 microprocessor. The enormous influence which IBM have on microcomputer market will be felt when the new Personal System 2 (PS/2) range of machines become more widely available and the more powerful OS/2 operating system is fully developed. Other powerful machines will be the so-called reduced instruction set computers (RISC) which are extremely fast and are particularly suited to manipulating large volumes of data.

Software companies will continue to develop new spreadsheet, database management and word processor packages, but these are unlikely to be any more suited to statistical applications than existing packages. Two areas where there will be new software developments and where the Government Statistical Service are likely to take advantage, are desk-top publishing and expert systems. Around half a dozen statistical divisions have already invested in desk-top publishing systems based around a microcomputer and desk-top laser printer. An increasing number of publications will be produced from these systems.

Expert systems can be loosely defined as computer programs which can emulate the behaviour of a human expert in a narrowly defined area of expertise. Development of statistical expert systems is not yet very advanced. However, there are a number of interesting research projects in this field and it is likely that expert systems will have influence on the work of government statisticians in the future.

With these pointers to the future and with the widespread use of microcomputers in the Government Statistical Service today, it is safe to say that as far as the government statistician is concerned, microcomputers are here and are here to stay.

**Table 1 — Number of Microcomputers in the Government Statistical Service**

	March 1986	March 1988
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	32	35
Central Statistical Office	10	70
HM Customs and Excise	1	4
Ministry of Defence	18	96
Department of Education and Science	3	13
Department of Employment	20	34
Department of Energy	7	10
Department of the Environment	5	15
General Register Office for Scotland	7	18
Health and Safety Executive	2	3
Department of Health and Social Security	61	122
Home Office	47	67
Department of Trade and Industry	51	77
Inland Revenue	8	28
Lord Chancellor's Department	8	6
Manpower Services Commission	15	23
Office of Population Censuses and Surveys	77	380
Overseas Development Administration	5	7
Scottish Office	13	13
Department of Transport	4	17
HM Treasury	24	57
Welsh Office	12	22
TOTAL	430	1117

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## Standard Occupational Classification (SOC)

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The Institute for Employment Research (IER) at the University of Warwick has developed proposals for a Standard Occupational Classification for the Government Statistical Service. These proposals have been developed under contract from the Manpower Services Commission (MSC). Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS), MSC and other Government Departments have contributed to the development of these proposals.

This new classification (SOC) has been designed as a single up-to-date classification to replace CODOT (Classification of Occupations and Directory of Occupational Titles) and the 1980 version of the OPCS *Classification of Occupations*. It groups occupations of similar competence and skill level together. Consideration has been given to continuity in the development of SOC, particularly as regards the OPCS classification and care has been taken to make sure that it closely aligns with the new International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO 88).

OPCS has integrated its decennial review of the *Classification of Occupations* with the production of these draft proposals to ensure that the modifications are feasible for coding occupations recorded in the 1991 Census.

The SOC classification in its draft form identifies three levels of aggregation:

- i. nine Major Groups;
- ii. 76 Minor Groups (sub-divisions of Major Groups);
- iii. 364 Unit Groups (sub-divisions of Minor Groups).

The diagram, on page 81.19, shows how employment in England and Wales in 1981 splits between the nine major groups.

The central feature of the SOC is its structured approach to classification. Occupations are identified and aggregated with reference to the complexity of jobs and the responsibilities required of persons for the *competent performance* of tasks. The SOC also yields more information about occupational structure. Previously, less than 80 per cent of all employment was allocated to distinct occupational categories with the remainder being allocated to heterogeneous 'not elsewhere classified' categories. The SOC will reduce this residual to about five to seven per cent. At the same time the SOC takes account of the lack of differentiation in those occupational categories in which women are predominant, eg new occupational categories are proposed for clerks, secretaries, nurses and teachers and a new group of 'childcare occupations' has been identified. The SOC identifies occupations such as 'general manager' and 'company director' in large and medium-sized trading organisations where previously these occupations were placed with production managers or into a 'managers not elsewhere classified' category. Account is taken of modern usage of job titles, particularly with respect to areas of rapid technological change and the new structure will enable a better alignment to be achieved with ISCO 88 than would be the case with prevailing classifications.

Since the beginning of March 1988, extensive consultations have been undertaken on the proposals to ensure their widespread acceptability. An article appeared in the April 1988 *Employment Gazette*. The researchers at IER and OPCS are now considering the comments that have been made with a view to refining the classifications.

It is now intended to finalise the classification by August 1988. Manuals should be available early in 1989 to allow plenty of time for introducing new classifications into the main Government series in the early 1990s.

Further information on the classification can be obtained from:

Mr Graeme R Penman  
Manpower Services Commission  
LM5  
Room W828  
Moorfoot  
Sheffield S1 4PQ

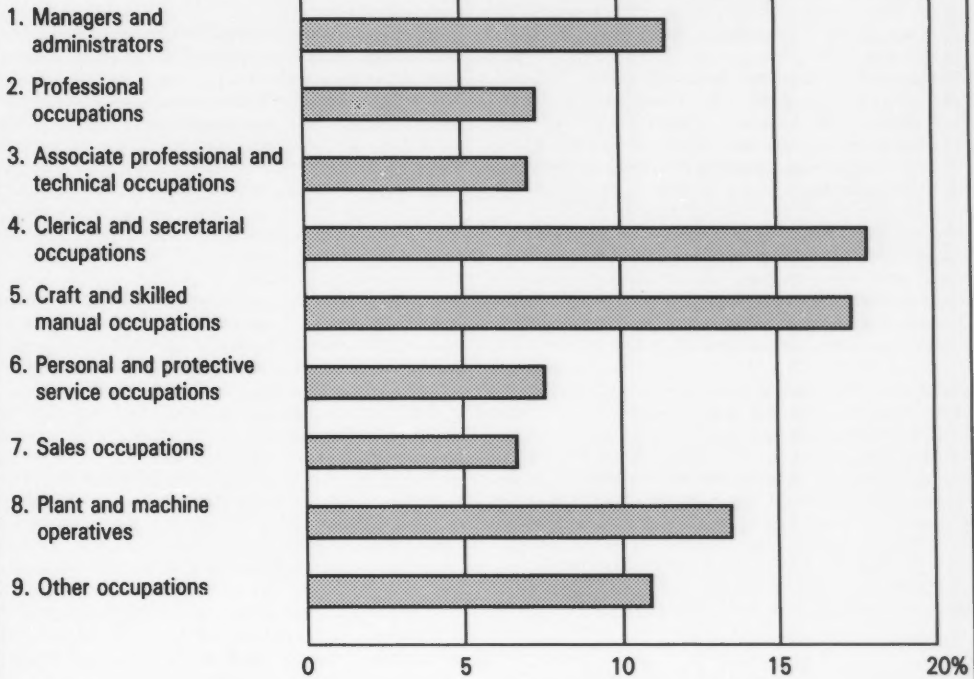
Telephone: 0742-704019



Percentage of people in employment in England and Wales in 1981 by occupational classification

SOC Major Groups

Percentages of People in Employment



Source: 1981 Census of Population, England and Wales, OPCS (10% Sample)

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## Second Instalment - Winter Budgets for the Ministry of Labour

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*Denis Down, a Statistician in the Department of the Environment was going through some family papers when he came across a newspaper cutting (reproduced below) from The Manchester Guardian of January 25, 1938\*. The article was written by a helper for the 'Enquiry into the Weekly Expenditure of Working-Class Households in the United Kingdom in 1937-38'. The survey is described in The Ministry of Labour Gazette of December 1940. Its purpose was to update the weights for the cost-of-living index, which had not been revised since the index was instituted in 1914. The survey also recorded amounts of food, to provide information on nutrition. Visits to the selected households were organised by Ministry of Labour Employment Exchanges, assisted by informal local advisory committees and by groups of voluntary helpers: In all there were four rounds of data collection and 9,000 households stayed the course through all four.*

Aware of the fact that household expenditure, especially on food, varies from season to season, the Minister of Labour, when asking certain householders to supply information and voluntary helpers to direct and collect it during last October, warned everyone concerned that there would be further inquiries after an interval of three months. Last Sunday most of those who painstakingly completed the imposing budget booklets set to work on others similar, except that this time they are white instead of pinkish brown; and this time, in addition to the common items, there is a line asking expressly for details about unemployment and National Health Insurance payments.

Neither of the two forms, curiously enough, includes football pool payments amongst 'other items', although it seems that in most ordinary households such represent one of the steadiest items of weekly expenditure. 'Of course there's the pool', a housewife tells her visitor, 'and you'd better put down about the threepenny sweep'.

I made a preliminary visit to a young woman who took an intelligent interest in giving required particulars last autumn. The total income of her family (herself, husband, and child of three) is well under 50s. As we discussed the forthcoming undertaking I was amazed to learn what changes three months could bring in domestic circumstances, altogether apart from variations in food prices. I had scarcely sat down before she told me proudly that the hire-purchase payments were now at an end. In October she had shown me a wireless set for which they had paid fourteen guineas, less a discount of 12s 6d for 'paying it off' within twelve months. That had been apart from the payments of 7s a week that she was making at the time.

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### Food and Fuel

Another change that she would have to record would be the fact that her husband now came home to dinner instead of having it in the canteen of the works. It came cheaper, she said, cooking for all the family at once; she was stewing steak and cowheel that day. She grumbled about the price of milk, but it was with some pride that she told me she paid 4½d a pint for sterilised milk for the child; coupons were given with it, a fact which surprised me, and when she had collected the coupons given with 48 pints she would get two shillings' worth of groceries. I count the tuberculin-tested milk that I buy dear at 4d a pint, and consider it the best obtainable. But it was obviously a cause of satisfaction to her to know that her child was having safe milk. We glanced through some of the listed articles on which her weekly expenditure was fairly steady and for which we could enter the amounts in advance. Rent was one; and coal, for instance, was still 4s a week. 'Firewood', I asked, 'is that still 6d?' I had thought it a lot in October, especially as I rarely pay for any firewood because so many tradesmen deliver things in large boxes and other pieces of firewood seem to come my way. 'Oh, no!' she replied. 'Only 3d now. After what you said in October I found I could get boxes sometimes from the shops, so I only need to buy one bundle a week.' She still paid a knocker-up regularly, and when I suggested setting the merits of a cheap alarm clock against a cost of more than £1 a year she answered apologetically, 'Well, it's his living, you know.' Those with the lowest incomes, I suddenly perceived, have none of the ruthlessness of more fortunate spenders. In the same spirit she still bought at the corner shop things that she knew would be coppers cheaper on the main road not far away. She had saved something, she assured me, by our joint discovery in October that the sixpenny boxes of cheese she had been buying contained only a quarter of a pound.

Her payments to the doctor of 1s 6d a week continued. With one thing and another, her own ailments and the child's, she had been paying him that amount without a break for a year. I thought of the number of well-to-do people I know who believe that the poor never pay anything for medical attention and grumble about their own bills.

### Coloured Photograph

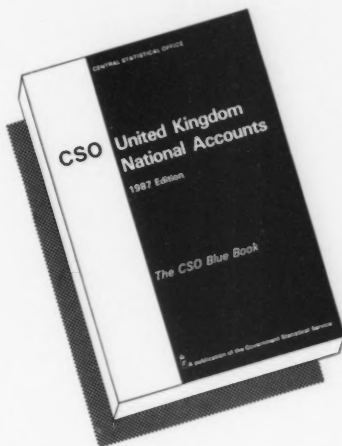
Other regular expenses, for burial clubs (three separate clubs because she likes to help different agents), newspapers, hospital, and church were entered, and I rose to go, handing the booklet into her keeping. 'How do you like Beryl's photograph?' she asked me, indicating a large highly coloured picture on the wall. It was about one foot by one and a half feet and was transferred to the back of a thick piece of frameless glass in the shape of one of the cheap unframed mirrors so often seen. It hung from a chain and had a metal

medallion at the centre top. 'Twenty-five shillings,' she said, 'done from a photo we had. The man came to the door asking about enlargements and he said if we only paid 1s a week it would be 35s. It seemed rather mean that they didn't send the picture till we paid the last half-crown last week; but isn't it lovely?' I agreed that it was, and tried to argue myself into believing that it was worth 25s to Beryl's mother. I could not have believed that anyone would venture into such a street to ask such a price for a 'novelty'.

At the end of this week I shall go through the form with her, checking the various entries and looking for possible omissions. I expect to note some differences in the kinds and quantities of food bought during the cold months, some sign

of the risen prices of food, and some effect of deflected hire-purchase payments. But I feel that even before she begins to book things down I am the wiser by a great deal of information that Government officials are unlikely to read between the lines of the documents returned to them. Will they, I wonder, see beyond apparent improvidence the kindness that inspires so much of what seems to us the foolish expenditure of the poor? Will they, in reassessing the cost of living, take into account the fact that the humblest worker regards it as his personal responsibility and privilege to see that partly through his spending, wise or foolish, as many others as possible shall also 'make a living'? In their apparent thriftlessness the poor can make us ashamed of the motives that prompt our own economies.

## United Kingdom National Accounts



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## New Surveys notified to the Survey Control Unit December 1987 to February 1988

For further information on the surveys listed, the appropriate departmental contact may be obtained from Miss J Dinehart (01-270 5963), Survey Control Unit, Central Statistical Office, Great George Street, London SW1P 3AQ

*New Surveys notified December 1987 to February 1988*

Title	Department	Those approached	Approximate number approached	Location	Frequency
<b>Business and Local Authority Surveys</b>					
Small Farms Survey	DAFS	Farms	100	S	AH
Follow-up of 1985 Small Firms Study	DEM		298	GB	AH
Loan Guarantee Scheme telephone Survey	DEM		300	UK	A
Survey of information technology in schools 1988	DES	Local Education Authorities	1300	E	AH
Employers' attitudes to GCSE follow-up Quantitative Research	DES/COI	Employers	1000	GB	AH
An inquiry into the supply of and demand for designers	DES	Employers	3000	GB	AH
Survey of topping-up expenditure	DES	Local Education Authorities	NK	E	AH
Survey of children and young persons on the child protection register	DHSS	Social Services	109	E	A
Registration activity related to the Registered Home Act 1984	DHSS	Social Services	109	E	A
Survey of Occupational Sick Pay 1988	DHSS	Employers	800	GB	AH
Disabled Adults in institutions	DHSS/OPCS	Social Services	4000	GB	AH
Group Homes	DHSS	Social Services	109	E	A
Day provision for adults	DHSS	Social Services	109	E	A
Tenants' Choice (Housing Associations and Private Landlords)	DOE	Housing Associations	30	E	AH
Barriers to Trade in construction services	DOE/DTI	Construction	190	GB	AH
Fire Science Abstracts Readership Survey	DOE	Fire Services	467	UK	AH
Cost-Effective management of derelict sites	DOE	Local Planning Authorities	70	E	AH
Evaluation of garden festivals (local firms)	DOE	Horticulturists	190	ES	AH
Evaluation of garden festivals (local suppliers)	DOE	Retailers	125	ES	AH
The selection, planting and maintenance of urban trees	DOE	Local Planning Authorities	250	EW	AH
Design magazine readership survey	DTI		14000	UK	AH
A study on the Relationship between EDI and X400	DTI		NK	UK	AH
DTI Relaunch Campaign Tracking Research	DTI	Employers	800	GB	AH
Implementation of quality assurance systems - post completion monitoring	DTI	Exporters	400	UK	AH
Assessment of the potential for system integration in the Manufacturing Environment	DTI	Manufacturers	2876	UK	AH
National Physical Laboratory measurement services - Acoustics	DTI	Manufacturers	50	GB	AH
A study of VADS interworking	DTI		NK	UK	AH
British software industry: Research on perceptions of Japan	DTI	Exporters	75	UK	AH
NAMAS priorities	DTI	Professional	200	UK	AH
ITTC software questionnaire for NAMAS accredited laboratories	DTI	Professional	600	UK	AH
BOTB survey of industry: Japan Campaign	DTI	Manufacturers	400	UK	AH
Study on advanced computational engineering	DTI	Engineering	NK	UK	AH
Evaluation of BTAS-Quality and Quality Assurance Support Scheme (QASS)	DTI	Manufacturers	310	GB	AH
Survey of technology trends in investment casting	DTI	Foundries	50	GB	AH
Channel Tunnel: Regional Impact of Construction Programme	DTI	Manufacturers	360	UK	A
Channel Tunnel: Effectiveness of steps taken to promote awareness of contract opportunities	DTI	Manufacturers	200	UK	AH
Appraisal of Action for Cities breakfast meetings	DTI	Manufacturers	390	GB	AH
Product Research-Export Intelligence Service (EIS)	DTI	Exporters	130	UK	AH
International Exhaustion of Intellectual Property Rights	DTI	Exporters	NK	UK	AH
Telephone survey of Employers' views on job centres	ES	Employers	1000	UK	AH
Health & Safety Executive Publications/Information sourcing expectations	HSE	Employers	4000	GB	AH
Technology Training Strategy	IDS	Manufacturers	50	S	AH
Scottish Crafts Industry Monitor	IDS/SDA	Manufacturers	45	S	HY
Personal Equity Plan: Interim Claim Form	IR	Financiers	NK	UK	C
Personal Equity Plan: Annual Return	IR	Financiers	170	UK	A
Personal pensions/additional voluntary contribution schemes: Interim Claim Form	IR	Financiers	NK	UK	C
Personal pensions/additional voluntary contributions: Annual Return	IR	Financiers	NK	UK	A
Profit-related Pay Scheme: Application for registration	IR	Employers	NK	UK	C
Profit-related Pay Scheme: Annual Return	IR	Employers	NK	UK	A
Survey of Offshore Personnel	IR	Oil Industry	38	UK	A
Corporation Tax working Sheet part 6 (Capital Allowances and Balancing Charges)	IR	Companies	600000	UK	A
Monopolies and Mergers Commission Image Study	M&M/COI		120	UK	AH
Survey of Grain Stocks at Ports in the United Kingdom	MAFF	Importers & Dealers	30	Q	AH
Farmers' attitudes to ADAS: Quantitative Survey	MAFF	Farms	475	EW	AH
Farmers' and growers' attitudes to ADAS: Qualitative Study	MAFF	Farms	70	EW	AH
Enquiry into use of ADAS information on Prestel Farmlink	MAFF	Farms	505	EW	AH
Factors influencing the choice & uptake of voluntary instruments by farmers	MAFF	Farms	240	UK	AH
Nutrient Contents of Eggs	MAFF	Farms	88	GB	AH
Survey of herbicide resistance of black-grass	MAFF	Farms	70	EA	AH

Title	Department	Those approached	Approximate number approached	Location	Frequency
<b>Business and Local Authorities Surveys (Cont'd)</b>					
Industry cash profiles	MOD	Manufacturers	156	UK	FM
Slogan and logo research	MOD/COI		76	E	AH
Construction ITB-London Survey of Unemployed and Young People	MSC/ITB	Schools and the Construction Industry	500	SE	AH
Occupational Structures Survey: Stage 2	MSC/ITB	Construction	30	GB	AH
National Training Award Awareness Study	MSC/COI	Manufacturers	600	GB	AH
Evaluation of working with YTS video	MSC	Local Education Authorities	100	GB	AH
CITB Survey of training needs in production management & supervision	MSC/ITB	Construction	2106	GB	AH
Evaluation of the non-advanced further education (NAFE) Central Reserve	MSC	Local Education Authorities	164	EW	AH
The requirements for staff competences of YTS and Adult Training providers ....	MSC	Employers	50	GB	AH
Employer involvement in Adult Training initiatives	MSC	Employers	40	GB	AH
Census of Population: England and Wales: Survey of Geographical Requirements	OPCS	Chief Executives	471	EW	AH
Review of Office Market in Edinburgh	SDD/SDA	Miscellaneous Services	230	S	AH
Individual Teacher Return for New Entrants	SED	Local Education Authorities	17	S	M
Freeing for Adoption Statistics	SED	Courts	196	S	Q
Sport and Young People - Schools Questionnaires	SSC	Headteachers	350	S	AH
Sport and Young People - Local Authority Surveys	SSC	Local Authorities	60	S	AH
Persons on mental handicap register	WO	Social Services	8	W	A
Replan - A Measure of Activity	WO	Education	40	W	AH
Mineral Workings Survey 1988	WO	Local Planning Authorities	8	W	AH
Teacher supply survey 1988	WO	Local Education Authorities	234	W	AH
Welsh Office/Welsh Development Agency Survey of derelict land	WO/WDA	Local Planning Authorities	48	W	AH
Child Abuse Register	WO	Social Services	8	W	A
Signposting of Public Rights of way in Wales	WO/DOE	County Councils/National Parks - Highways Departments	11	W	AH
Industrial Training Needs Survey	WDA	Engineering	80	W	AH
<b>Household and Individual Surveys</b>					
Adult Training name research	DEM/COI	Unemployed	170	GB	AH
'Monery News 2' evaluation research	DEN/COI	Adults	70	GB	AH
Public attitudes to renewable energy in UK and reactions to school touring display	DEN/COI	Adults	2250	UK	AH
Mature students' income and expenditure	DES/OPCS	Students	1000	GB	AH
Annual MORI survey of undergraduates' attitudes to careers and teaching	DES/COI	Students	1000	GB	A
Stage 6 of a tracking survey to evaluate the anti-drugs campaigns	DHSS/COI	Youths	700	EW	AH
Prescribing publicity	DHSS/COI	Professional	60	EW	AH
Why children smoke, November 1986, 1987 and 1988	DHSS/OPCS	Children	13500	EW	AH
FES Follow-up survey of disabled adults	DHSS/OPCS	Disabled	7000	GB	AH
Infant feeding 1985	DHSS/OPCS	Mothers	8000	GB	AH
Monitoring attitudes to Social Security	DHSS/COI	Adults	2000	GB	AH
Premium bond poster survey (people in a boat)	DNS	Adults	2400	GB	AH
Corporate national savings poster survey	DNS	Adults	2400	UK	AH
Tenants' choice (local authority)	DOE	Tenants	100	E	AH
Tenants' choice (development corporation housing)	DOE	Tenants	500	E	AH
Evaluation of garden festivals: Survey of visitors to Glasgow Garden Festival	DOE	Visitors	2000	S	AH
Public perceptions of traffic regulations-OMNIMAS survey	DTP	Travellers	2400	GB	AH
Operation, signing and publicity of traffic regulation orders-group discussions	DTP	Travellers	120	E	AH
National Travel Survey 1988	DTP/OPCS	Travellers	5000	GB	AH
1991 Census of population	GROS	Individuals	5000000	S	AH
Crime prevention campaign development: Stage 2 qualitative research	HOME/COI		40	EW	AH
Crime prevention campaign evaluation	HOME/COI	Adults	2000	GB	AH
Drinking in England and Wales 1987	HOME/OPCS	Adults	4000	EW	AH
Training employment grants scheme evaluation: employees	IDS/SDA	Employees	800	S	AH
Territorial Army: Advertising research	MOD/COI	Youths	1500	GB	AH
Public images of the RAF - Quantitative stage	MOD/COI	Adults	1000	GB	AH
University undergraduates - Service officer target market study	MOD/COI		1000	GB	AH
Soldier concept testings	MOD/COI	Youths	60	GB	AH
Community programme omnibus	MSC/COI	Unemployed	450	GB	AH
Training Access Point (TAP) Development Research	MSC/COI	Adults	2500	GB	AH
Funeral Arrangements	OFT/OPCS	Bereaved	800	GB	AH
GHS Sport trailer	OPCS	Adults	12,500	GB	AH
GHS pensions trailer	OPCS/GAD	Employees	12,500	GB	AH
Question wording tests for the 1991 census	OPCS		2000	E	AH
Child pedestrian accidents	SDD	Children	400	S	AH
Sport and Young People - private sector survey	SSC	Private Sector Providers	40	S	AH
Sport and Young People - Survey of governing bodies	SSC	Governing Bodies of Sport	90	S	AH
Sport and Young People - Local sports council survey	SSC	Local Sports Councils	50	S	AH
Sport and Young People - Survey of sports clubs	SSC	Sports Clubs	350	S	AH
Driving experience accident history surveys - Young driver extension	TRRL	Drivers	10000	GB	AH
Drink and driving survey (TRRL/88) - Pilot	TRRL/DTP	Drivers	200	E	AH
Drink and driving survey (TRRL/88) - Main Study	TRRL/DTP	Adults	1600	GB	AH

Title	Department	Those approached	Approximate number approached	Location	Frequency
<b>Household and Individual Surveys (Cont'd)</b>					
Attitudes to road safety countermeasures	TRRL/DTP	Adults	1200	GB	AH
Roadside survey of drinking and driving	TRRL/DTP	Drivers	2500	E	AH
Innovative parking scheme in Bath - Pilot 'After' survey	TRRL/DTP	Drivers	55	SW	AH
Innovative parking scheme in Bath - 'After' survey	TRRL/DTP	Drivers	550	SW	AH
Bethesda bypass public consultation	WO	Householders	1300	W	AH

#### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

##### Location

E	England
EA	East Anglia
ES	England and Scotland
EW	England and Wales
GB	Great Britain
S	Scotland
SE	South East
SW	South West
UK	United Kingdom
W	Wales

##### General

ADAS	Agricultural Development Advisory Service
BOTB	British Overseas Trading Board
BTAS	Business & Technical Advisory Service
EDI	Electronic Data Interchange
FES	Family Expenditure Survey
GHS	General Household Survey
ITTC	Information Technology Technical Committee
MORI	Market Research International
NAMAS	National Measurement System
NK	Not known
VADS	Value Added Data Services
YTS	Youth Training Scheme

##### Frequency

A	Annual
AH	Ad hoc
C	Continuous
FM	Four monthly
HY	Half yearly
M	Monthly
Q	Quarterly

##### Departments

COI	Central Office of Information	IDS	Industry Department for Scotland
DAFS	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland	IR	Inland Revenue
DEM	Department of Employment	ITB	Industry Training Board
DEN	Department of Energy	MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
DES	Department of Education and Science	M&MC	Monopolies and Mergers Commission
DHSS	Department of Health and Social Security	MOD	Ministry of Defence
DNS	Department of National Savings	MSC	Manpower Services Commission
DOE	Department of the Environment	OFT	Office of Fair Trading
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry	OPCS	Office of Population Censuses and Surveys
DTP	Department of Transport	SDA	Scottish Development Agency
DVLC	Driver Vehicle Licensing Centre	SDD	Scottish Development Department
ES	Employment Service	SED	Scottish Education Department
GROS	General Register Office for Scotland	SSC	Scottish Sports Council
HOME	Home Office	TRRL	Transport and Road Research Laboratory
HSE	Health and Safety Executive	WDA	Welsh Development Agency
		WO	Welsh Office



## Recently available statistical series and publications

The following publications containing social statistics have recently, or will soon become available during the April to June quarter of 1988. Unless otherwise specified, copies can be purchased from Her Majesty's Stationery Office. A list of release dates of economic series is published monthly in *Economic Trends*.

### Department of Health and Social Security

The Department of Health and Social Security produce regular monthly and quarterly statistical series on such topics as unemployment benefit, child benefit and sickness and invalidity benefits. Extracts and summaries for these series are published in *Social Security Statistics*. Further information can be obtained from:

Mr W J Graham  
Department of Health and Social Security  
Room A2215  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE98 1YX  
Telephone: Tyneside (091) 2797373 (GTN 2622)

The following statistical series and publications are available:

- Bulletin 2/2/88 *Mental illness hospitals and units in England: Results from the Mental Health Enquiry 1986*, published January 1988, price £2
- Bulletin 2/3/88 *Mental handicap hospitals and units in England: Results from the Mental Health Enquiry 1986*, published January 1988, price £2
- Bulletin 3/5/88 *Personal Social Services for Elderly and Younger Disabled Persons — England 1976-1986*  
*Children in care in England and Wales March 1985*, price £3

The following Booklets in the series 'Mental Health Statistics for England 1986', giving National and Regional data for 1986, were published in December 1987:

- No. 1 *Mental illness hospitals and units: Trends in admissions, discharges and residents*, price £0.90
- No. 2 *Mental handicap hospitals and units: Trends in admissions, discharges and residents*, price £0.80
- No. 3 *Mental illness hospitals and units: Resident patients*, price £0.60
- No. 4 *Mental handicap hospitals and units: Resident patients*, price £0.50

- No. 5 *Mental illness hospitals and units: Duration of stay of patients*, price £0.80
- No. 6 *Mental handicap hospitals and units: Duration of stay of patients*, price £0.50
- No. 7 *Mental illness hospitals and units: Regional data*, price £0.80
- No. 8 *Mental handicap hospitals and units: Regional data*, price £0.50
- No. 9 *Mental illness hospitals and units: Facilities and services*, price £0.80
- No. 10 *Mental handicap hospitals and units: Facilities and services*, price £0.90
- No. 11 *Mental illness and mental handicap hospitals and units: Legal status*, price £0.60
- No. 12 *Mental illness hospitals and units: Diagnostic data*, price £0.90

The DHSS Booklets, Statistical Bulletins and the other publication referred to above may be purchased from:

DHSS Information Division  
PO Box 21  
Canons Park  
Government Buildings  
Honeypot Lane  
Stanmore  
Middlesex HA7 1AY  
Telephone: 01-952 2311

### Scottish Education Department

Scottish Education Department Statistical Bulletins on the following subjects:

*The National Certificate: 1985-86*  
*Pupils and Teachers in Education Authority Primary and Secondary Schools*

The Social Work Service Group of the Scottish Education Department have published the following bulletins:

*Referrals of children to Reporter's and Children's Hearings 1986*  
*Staff of Social Work Departments 1986*

Copies of the above bulletins may be purchased (price 75p net) from:

The Library  
Official Publication Sales  
Scottish Office  
Room 2/65  
New St Andrew's House  
Edinburgh EH1 3TG  
Telephone: 031-244 4806 (GTN 2688)

### Industry Department for Scotland

The following additional Bulletin is now available (price 75p):

C1.2 *The electronics industry in Scotland*

### Research Papers

The following Research Paper has now been published (price £5):

*Review of the Highlands and Islands Development Board: Economic and Social change in the Highlands and Islands* (Research Paper No. 13).

Copies of the Statistical Bulletins and Research Papers may be obtained from:

Scottish Office Library  
Official Publications Sales  
Room 2/66A  
New St Andrew's House  
Edinburgh EH1 3TA  
Telephone: 031-244 4806 (GTN 7031 etc.)

### Office of Population Censuses and Surveys

*Population Trends* 52 Summer (HMSO 1988)(Price approx £5 net)

#### — OPCS Monitors —

(available from OPCS Information Branch, St Catherines House, 10 Kingsway, London WC2B 6JP.

Telephone enquiries 01-242 0262 ext. 2243)

*Mid 1985-based population projections for local authority areas in England* (PP3 88/1)(Price £2.00 net)

*Mid 1985-based population projections for health authority areas in England* (PP3 88/2)(Price £1.50 net)

*Cigarette smoking 1972 to 1986* (SS 88/1)(Price £2.00 net)

#### — Annual reference volumes —

*Birth Statistics 1986* (FM1 No. 15)

*Population and Vital Statistics for local and health authority areas 1986* (VS No. 13/PP1 No. 9)

*Electoral Statistics 1987* (EL No. 14)

*Cancer Registrations 1984* (MBI No. 16)

#### — Longitudinal Study —

*Social Distribution of Cancer 1971 - 1975* (LS No. 3)

*Census 1971 - 1981, Longitudinal Study* (CEN 81 LS)

### Welsh Office

*Residential Accommodation for the Elderly, Younger Physically Handicapped and Blind: Year Ended 31 March 1987*

*1985 Based Population Projections for the Counties of Wales Health and Personal Social Services Statistics for Wales, No.14, 1987*

*Welsh Hospital Waiting List Bulletin 1988: No. 1*

The above publications are available from:

Publications Unit  
Economic and Statistical Services Division  
Welsh Office  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff CF1 3NQ  
Telephone: 0222-82 5054 (GTN 2408)

### Department of the Environment

*Housing and Construction Statistics, Great Britain, 1976-1986*

*Housing and Construction Statistics, Part 1 No. 32 December*

*Quarter 1987 and Part 2 No. 31 September Quarter 1987*

*Local Housing Statistics, England and Wales, No. 84*

*January 1988 — figures for third quarter 1987*

*Digest of Environmental Protection and Water Statistics,*

*No. 10 1987 (HMSO 1988)*

*Local Government Financial Statistics England 1985-1986*

The above publications are available from Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

Statistical Bulletin (88)1: *Air Quality*

Statistical Bulletin (88)2: *Water Quality*

Statistical Bulletin (88)3: *Radioactivity*

Statistical Bulletin (88)4: *Noise, Waste, Landscape and Nature Conservation, and Supplementary*

The above annual bulletins provide additional detailed tables for most of the Chapter topics in the Department's *Digest of Environmental Protection and Water Statistics* published recently by HMSO.

*Development Control Statistics: England 1983/84-84/85-85/86 Development Control Statistics: England 1979/80-80/81-81/82-82/83* (reprint)

*Land Use Change in England*, Statistical Bulletin (87)7 figures for 1986

*1985 Based Estimates of Numbers of Households in England, The Regions, Counties, Metropolitan Districts and London Boroughs 1985-2001*

The above publications are available from:

Department of the Environment

Publication Sales Unit

Victoria Road

Ruislip

Middlesex HA4 0NZ

Telephone: 01-841 3425

The following information is issued in press notices or bulletins on a regular basis:

Monthly: *Housebuilding, construction new orders, building new orders, building materials and components, brick production, and new orders by type of work.*

Quarterly: *Construction output and employment, planning applications and decisions, renovations and homeless households.*

Annually: *Slum clearance.*

Further information is available from:

Department of the Environment

LGS, Room P1/001

2 Marsham Street

London SW1P 3EB

Telephone: 01-212 5985



### Scottish Home and Health Department

The following statistical bulletins are available:

- No. 4/1986 *Criminal Proceedings in Scottish Courts 1984*
- No. 5/1986 *Prison Statistics Scotland 1985*
- No. 1/1987 *Crimes and Offences involving Firearms, Scotland 1985*
- No. 2/1987 *Children and Crime, Scotland 1983-1985*
- No. 3/1987 *Criminal Proceedings in Scottish Courts, 1985*
- No. 4/1987 *Recorded Crimes Scotland 1986*
- No. 5/1987 *Motor Vehicle Offences in Scotland 1985*
- No. 6/1987 *Prison Statistics Scotland 1986*
- No. 7/1987 *Children and Crimes, Scotland 1986*
- No. 8/1987 *Homicide in Scotland 1981-1985*
- No. 9/1987 *Criminal Proceedings in Scottish Courts, 1986*
- No. 1/1988 *Recorded Crimes and Offences Involving Firearms, Scotland 1986*

Copies of the above bulletins may be purchased (price 75p post paid) from:

The Library  
Official Publication Sales  
Scottish Office  
Room 2/65  
New St Andrew's House  
Edinburgh EH1 3TG  
Telephone: 031-556 8400 Ext 4806 (GTN 2688)

### Scottish Development Department

The following statistical bulletins are available:

- HSIU No. 26 — *Annual Estimates of Households*
- HSIU No. 27 — Q2(86) — *Housing Trends in Scotland: Quarter ended 30/6/86*
- HSIU No. 28 — Q3(86) — *Housing Trends in Scotland: Quarter ended 30/9/86*
- HSIU No. 29 — *Public Sector Rents in Scotland: 1986 - 1987*
- HSIU No. 30 — Q4(86) — *Housing Trends in Scotland: Quarter ended 31/12/86*
- HSIU No. 31 — Q1(87) — *Housing Trends in Scotland: Quarter ended 31/3/87*
- HSIU No. 32 — Q2(87) — *Housing Trends in Scotland: Quarter ended 30/6/87*
- HSIU No. 33 — Q3(87) — *Housing Trends in Scotland: Quarter ended 30/9/87*

Copies of the above bulletins may be purchased (price 75p net) from:

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Official Publication Sales,  
Scottish Office,  
Room 2/65  
New St. Andrew's House  
Edinburgh EH1 3TG  
Telephone: 031-244 4806 (GTN 2688)

### Department of Education and Science

The following Statistical Bulletins are now available:

- 1/88 *Education Statistics for the United Kingdom, 1987 Edition*
- 2/88 *Pupil/Teacher Ratios for each Local Education Authority in England — January 1987*
- 3/88 *Student Awards in England and Wales, 1985-86*
- 4/88 *Pupils under 5 years in each Local Education Authority in England — January 1987*
- 5/88 *English School Leavers, 1985-86*
- 6/88 *Statistics of Schools in England — January 1987*
- 7/88 *Student/Staff Ratios at Polytechnics and other Higher and Further Education Establishments in England*

Copies of these publications may be obtained from:

The Department of Education and Science  
Statistics Branch  
Room 1/28  
Elizabeth House  
York Road  
London SE1 7PH

The following annual publications are announced:

*Statistics of Education: Further Education - November 1986*  
*Statistics of Education: School Leavers, CSE and GCE — 1986*

Copies (priced £12.00) may be obtained from:

Department of Education and Science  
Room 337  
Mowden Hall  
Staindrop Road  
Darlington DL3 9BG

### Home Office

The following statistical publications are announced:

- for March --  
*Fire statistics United Kingdom, 1986*
- for April --  
*Election expenses, June 1987 (House of Commons Paper)*

The following statistical bulletins are announced:

- for April --  
*Statistics of deaths reported to Coroners, 1987*  
*Statistics on the operation of the prevention of terrorism legislation, 1st quarter 1988*  
*Citizens statistics, 1987*  
*Criminal careers of those born in 1953, 1958 and 1963: sequence of sentencing*

-- for May --

*The sentencing of those arrested in connection with incidents of serious public disorder, September-October 1985, final report*

-- for June --

*Refugee statistics, 1987*  
*Immigration from the Indian sub-continent, 1987*  
*Control of immigration statistics, 1st quarter 1988*  
*Notifiable offences recorded by the police in England and Wales, 1st quarter 1988*  
*Cautions, court proceedings and sentencing, provisional estimates for 1987*  
*Statistics of breath tests, 1987*

Statistical Bulletins are available from:

The Home Office  
Statistical Department  
Lunar House  
40 Wellesley Road  
Croydon  
Surrey CRO 9YD

#### Department of Employment

*Employment Gazette*, which is published on Thursday towards the beginning of each month, regularly contains recent data and time-series on employment, unemployment, earnings, prices, family expenditure, tourism and other indicators. In recent months there were special features on 'Labour Force Outlook for 1995', '1987 Labour Force Survey preliminary results', 'Revised employment estimates for 1986 and 1987', 'Ethnic origins and the labour market', 'RPI annual article' and 'Revision of weights to RPI'. *Employment Gazette* is published monthly by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, price £3.40 per issue. Annual subscription inclusive of postage is £35.

#### Department of Transport

Recent Statistical Publications by the Department of Transport:

##### *National Travel Survey: 1985/86*

Part 1, An Analysis of Personal Travel (HMSO 1988, price £8.80)

Part 2, Technical Guide (HMSO June 1988, price not available)

##### *National Road Maintenance Condition Survey: Report of the 1987 Survey (Annual, price £4.75)*

This is jointly published by the Department and the Local Authority Associations and is available from the Publication Sales Unit at the address below.

##### *Description of Vehicles for Traffic Counting Purposes* (statistical bulletin (88)32, price £5.00)

*Road Lengths in Great Britain 1986-87*  
(statistical bulletin (88)35, price £16.00)

*Annual Vehicle Census, December 1987*  
(statistical bulletin (88)37, price £3.00)

The following statistical bulletins are issued on a regular basis:

Monthly: *New Motor Vehicle Registrations, Great Britain*  
(price £3.00 per copy, annual subscription £30.00)

Quarterly: *Road Goods Vehicles on Roll-on Roll-off ferries to Mainland Europe* (price £5.00 per copy)  
*Road Casualties Great Britain* (price £4.00 per copy)

*Quarterly Transport Statistics* (price £5.00 per copy, annual subscription £12.00)

*Traffic in Great Britain* (price £8.00 per copy, annual subscription £27.00)

Department of Transport statistical publications are available from:

Publication Sales Unit  
Building 1, Victoria Road  
South Ruislip  
Middlesex HA4 0NZ  
Telephone: 01-841 3425

The Department of Transport is often prepared to sell unpublished data. Further information can be obtained from:

Directorate of Statistics  
Department of Transport  
Romney House  
43 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 3PY  
Telephone: 01-212 6843

#### Central Statistical Office

*United Kingdom in Figures 1988* (April)

*A Brief Guide to Sources 1988* (April)

Both of the above publications are free. They are obtainable from:

The Cabinet Office  
Information Services Division  
Room 58/G, Government Offices  
Great George Street  
London SW1P 3AL  
Telephone: 01-270 6363/6364

## Notes on current developments

### POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

#### Population Trends

The latest edition of *Population Trends*, the quarterly journal of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS), was published in March and contains the following articles:

#### *Latest estimates of ethnic minority populations*

This article gives new estimates of the size and characteristics of the ethnic minority populations of Great Britain derived from the results of the Labour Force Surveys of 1984, 1985 and 1986. Averaged over this period, the size of the ethnic minority population is estimated to have been 2.43 million or 4.5 per cent of the total population of Great Britain. The author is Chris Shaw of Population Statistics Division, OPCS.

#### *Changes in social class between 1971 and 1981: could these affect mortality differences among men of working ages?*

For men of working age, differences in mortality between the Registrar General's social classes are well established. Traditionally these are measured decennially by comparing numbers of deaths occurring around the time of a census to the population at census. However, concern about the validity of this cross-sectional approach, particularly in making comparisons between time periods, has resulted in an increased use of both occupational mobility and mortality data from the Longitudinal Study.

In this article by Peter Goldblatt, Social Statistics Research Unit, The City University, the composition of the Registrar General's social classes in 1971 and 1981 are compared. For example, it is found that in England and Wales 44 per cent of men aged 45-64 in the LS in 1981 were affected by some form of change in class; several causes of this are quantified. The likely impact of these changes on the traditional decennial supplement measure of health inequality is discussed. A future article will show how these changes affect the comparisons of mortality.

#### *Fertility trends in the UK and in thirteen other developed countries, 1966-86*

Most developed countries experienced a sharp decline in fertility between the 'births boom' era of the 1960s and the mid 1970s. Since then, however, trends in different countries have been substantially different with modest recoveries occurring in some countries and steep declines occurring in others. In this article, by Barry Werner of Population Statistics Division, OPCS, the trends in overall and age-specific fertility rates and in the proportion of births occurring outside marriage in the United Kingdom, during the twenty-year period 1966 to 1986, are compared with the equivalent trends in the constituent countries of the United Kingdom, in nine of the larger countries of Western Europe and in the USA, Japan, Canada and Australia.

#### *Birth intervals: results from the OPCS Longitudinal Study 1972-84*

Details of successive registrations of births to women in the OPCS Longitudinal Study sample have been linked and therefore provide information about the lengths of intervals between births to women in the sample. Using these LS sample data, together with information from all birth registrations, this article, by Barry Werner, discusses trends during the period 1972-84 in the intervals from marriage to first births within marriage and from first to second and from second to third births within marriage. Further analyses illustrate the differences in these birth intervals for women married to men in different social classes. To validate the results from the LS sample, comparisons are made wherever possible with results from all birth registrations.

#### *Local authority urban-rural indicators compared*

In this article by John Craig, Population Statistics Division, OPCS, four different ways of distinguishing between the urban-rural differences for the local authority districts of England and Wales are compared. The results help to clarify why it is impossible to reduce the complex urban-rural differences between authorities unequivocally to a single measure. The extent of, and reasons for, similarities and differences between the four measures are pointed out and are illuminating.

#### Reference

*Population Trends* 51, Spring 1988 (HMSO) (Price £5.00 net) ISBN 011 691193 X

#### Birth Statistics for 1986

During 1986, 661,018 live births occurred in England and Wales, about 5 thousand (1 per cent) more than during 1985. The proportion of all births which occurred outside marriage rose to 21 per cent. The number of such births was 141,345, the highest level ever recorded and 12 per cent more than in 1985 when the number was 126,250. This increase more than offset the decline in the number of legitimate births which fell by 10,494 (2 per cent) to 519,673.

These and other fertility statistics for 1986 in England and Wales can be found in *Birth Statistics 1986* published recently by OPCS.

After allowing for changes in the size and age-structure of the female population of childbearing age, the total period fertility rate (TPFR) — the average number of children per woman if current rates of fertility persisted — for 1986 was 1.77, similar to the 1985 value of 1.78. In common with many other developed countries the TPFR for England and Wales for the last ten years has been below the level of 2.1, required for the long term replacement of the population.

Fertility rates for women in their twenties fell again during 1986. The rate for women aged 20-24 was about 2 per cent lower than in 1985 at 93 births per thousand women, the lowest level for more than forty years. For women aged 25-29 the rate of 124 births per thousand women was about 3 per cent lower than in 1985. However, rates for women in their

thirties continued to rise with increases of about 2 per cent between 1985 and 1986 in the rates for the 30-34 age group to 78 births per thousand women and for the 35-39 age group to 25 births per thousand women. The fertility rate for teenage girls also increased from 29.5 to 30.1 births per thousand, the third consecutive annual increase. The effect of these changes was that the average age of mothers at childbirth in 1986 was 27.0 years, the same as in 1985.

**Reference**

*Birth Statistics for 1986* (Series FMI no.15) (HMSO) (£8.60 net) ISBN 0 11 691216 2

**1986 Population and Vital Statistics for Local and Health Authority Areas**

In 1986 almost 36 per cent (18 million) of the estimated population of England and Wales were resident in Greater London or in metropolitan districts. Seven per cent of the population (3.5 million) were resident in resort and retirement areas.

Further breakdowns of the structure of the population for every local authority and health authority area in England and Wales were published earlier this year by OPCS in *Key population and vital statistics* which brings together in one volume a wealth of recent information for local areas on population, births, deaths and migration. Examples of some of the interesting facts to be found include:

- a. The crude birth rate ranged from 19.8 births per 1,000 total population in Newham in Greater London to a rate of 8.4 in Rother in East Sussex.
- b. Tower Hamlets in Greater London had a total period fertility rate (the average number of children per woman if current age specific fertility rates persist) of 2.38 whereas Oxford had a rate of 1.23.
- c. Lambeth in Greater London had an illegitimacy ratio of 453 illegitimate births per 1,000 total live births. Chiltern in Buckinghamshire had a ratio of 78.
- d. Castle Morpeth in Northumberland had a standardised mortality ratio of 135 (England and Wales value = 100) and Wealden in East Sussex a ratio of 75.

**Reference**

*1986 Population and Vital Statistics for Local and Health Authority Areas* (Series VS no. 13/PP1 no.9) (HMSO) (£8.60 net) ISBN 0 11 691217 0

**Census 1971 - 1981. The Longitudinal Study**

Linkage of data from the 1971 and 1981 Censuses has provided new information on changes in the population and the households in which they lived. These results were published recently in an OPCS report containing detailed tables based on a sample of half a million people in England and Wales (approximately one per cent).

This linkage of the two sets of Census data provides information on whether and in what way the circumstances of the population has changed between 1971 and 1981. This could not be obtained from analysing the Censuses separately. The results show, for example, that of the people enumerated in both censuses and living in one parent families in 1971, only 18 per cent were still in a one parent family in 1981.

Other examples of the changes revealed by this new form of analysis are that, for those in the sample who were enumerated in both Censuses:

- a. one third of persons recorded as divorced in 1971 were remarried at the time of the 1981 Census. For those aged between 25 and 34 (in 1971) almost 60 per cent of those who were divorced at the time of the 1971 Census were remarried in 1981.
- b. of those aged between 6 and 15 (in 1971) whose fathers were in manual occupations in 1971, 29 per cent were in non-manual occupations in 1981; but there was a clear difference between boys and girls — 17 per cent for boys and 41 per cent for girls.
- c. half of economically active males who were unemployed in 1971 were employed in 1981, a further quarter were not economically active in 1981 (primarily due to retirement).
- d. children of highly qualified parents also tended to become highly qualified. Thirty five per cent of persons aged 8 - 25 (in 1971 whose parents both had higher educational qualifications in 1971), themselves had higher qualifications in 1981. Where only one parent had a higher qualification in 1971, the proportion of highly qualified children fell to 26 per cent. Less than 10 per cent of children of unqualified parents attained higher qualifications by 1981.
- e. just over one half of the sample had changed address over the ten year period, although most had only moved a relatively short distance. Only ten per cent had moved to a different region and a further six per cent had moved to a different county within the same region.
- f. almost three quarters of the people in the sample had the same type of tenure (owner occupied, rented from a council, etc) in 1971 and 1981. The main change in tenure that did occur was movement from the private rented (unfurnished) sector. That sector shrank in size by over one third. Just over one half of this movement was to the owner occupied sector, and 40 per cent to the council rented sector.

Other topics included in the report are household composition, household amenities, use of car, and Welsh language. The introduction explains the method used to link the two sets of data and how this affects the resulting comparisons.

**Reference**

*Census 1971-1981. The Longitudinal Study* (Series CEN 81 LS) (HMSO) (£10.70 net) ISBN 0 11 691214 4

## SOCIAL

### UK Electoral Statistics for 1987

Statistics on parliamentary and local government electors on the 1987 UK electoral register have recently been published by OPCS. They show that for that year the Isle of Wight had the largest parliamentary electorate in the United Kingdom (99,760), over 43 per cent above the English electoral quota of 69,585. The next largest, Milton Keynes (98,215), had the largest absolute and percentage increase in England between 1986 and 1987 (4.7 thousand or 5 per cent). The smallest constituency in the UK was the Western Isles (23,685) and the constituency with the greatest absolute and percentage decrease between 1986 and 1987 was Westminster North (6

thousand or 9 per cent). Surbiton was the smallest English constituency (45,482) and, although recording a small decrease, was 34 per cent below the electoral quota.

The number of electors for each of the four countries within the United Kingdom increased between 1986 and 1987. The increase for the United Kingdom was 275 thousand (0.6 per cent) reflecting the trend in the size of the population aged 17 years and over. Increases in the number of electors for England was 235 thousand (0.6 per cent), Wales 16 thousand (0.7 per cent), Scotland 8 thousand (0.2 per cent) and Northern Ireland 16 thousand (1.4 per cent).

Included for the first time in this publication are statistics on overseas electors of whom there were 11 thousand on the 1987 register of the United Kingdom as a whole.

#### Reference

UK Electoral Statistics for 1987 (Series EL no.14) (HMSO) (£4.10 net) ISBN 0 11 69196 4

### Social Trends 18: erratum

Readers are asked to note that Table 8.19 on page 140 of *Social Trends 18* (published January 1988) is incorrect. A corrected version of this table is given below, and will also be circulated with *Social Trends 19* in due course in a form which will enable it to be pasted over the incorrect version. The Central Statistical Office apologises for any inconvenience caused.

## 8.19 Expenditure on housing: by tenure and economic activity of head of household, 1985

United Kingdom

£s per week and numbers

	Economic activity of head of household					All households
	Employed	Employee out of a job		Retired or unoccupied		
		For up to 1 year	For over 1 year	Under pension age	Pension age or over	
<b>In process of purchase (£s per week)</b>						
Mortgage payments (net of tax relief)	32.39	27.40	19.18	19.11	15.05	31.21
Rates and water charges <sup>1</sup>	8.64	7.43	4.68	6.71	6.95	8.43
Maintenance and insurance of structure	8.14	8.99	3.14	6.85	5.07	8.00
Ground rent	0.20	0.23	0.03	0.40	0.02	0.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>49.37</b>	<b>44.05</b>	<b>27.03</b>	<b>33.07</b>	<b>27.09</b>	<b>47.84</b>
<b>Owned outright (£s per week)</b>						
Rates and water charges <sup>1</sup>	8.13	6.54	4.99	7.01	6.43	7.08
Maintenance and insurance of structure	7.43	4.37	11.88	4.66	5.92	6.36
Ground rent	0.18	0.10	0.10	0.23	0.27	0.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>15.74</b>	<b>11.01</b>	<b>16.97</b>	<b>11.90</b>	<b>12.62</b>	<b>13.67</b>
<b>Local authority tenants (£s per week)</b>						
Rent, rates, and water charges <sup>1</sup>	21.33	11.19	3.27	7.44	9.37	12.70
Maintenance and insurance of structure	3.17	1.31	0.65	0.73	1.11	1.71
<b>Total</b>	<b>24.50</b>	<b>12.50</b>	<b>3.92</b>	<b>8.17</b>	<b>10.48</b>	<b>14.41</b>
<b>Privately rented unfurnished (£s per week)</b>						
Rent, rates, and water charges <sup>1</sup>	19.68	11.87	4.91	12.23	11.42	14.56
Maintenance and insurance of structure	1.47	0.63	0.00	0.31	0.47	0.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>21.15</b>	<b>12.50</b>	<b>4.91</b>	<b>12.54</b>	<b>11.89</b>	<b>15.40</b>
<b>Privately rented furnished (£s per week)</b>						
Rent, rates, and water charges <sup>1</sup>	27.66	19.87	8.37	25.58	10.28	24.02
Maintenance and insurance of structure	0.62	0.47	0.47	0.90	2.18	0.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>28.28</b>	<b>20.34</b>	<b>8.84</b>	<b>26.48</b>	<b>12.46</b>	<b>24.72</b>
<b>Number of households in sample</b>	<b>3,865</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>1,801</b>	<b>6,866</b>

<sup>1</sup> Net of rebate.

Source: Central Statistical Office, from Family Expenditure Survey



### DHSS low income statistics

On 29 March 1988 the Government published the report of a technical review into the 'Low Income Families' statistics which are published every 2 years by DHSS. The tables themselves (covering 1981, 1983 and 1985) will follow.

The current Low Income Families statistics show the numbers receiving supplementary benefit, and the numbers not receiving supplementary benefit but with incomes below 110 per cent, 120 per cent or 140 per cent of the scale rates. The proposed new series — to be entitled, *Households below average income: a statistical analysis*, will provide a more extensive range of data.

The review was conducted by a team of DHSS officials, with representation from the Central Statistical Office. Copies of the report are available from DHSS, telephone: 01-831 6111 ext 2554.

Reference  
DHSS Press Release 88/103

### Housing and Construction Statistics, Great Britain

The quarterly publication *Housing and Construction Statistics* is produced in two parts each quarter. Part 1 which contains regular tables on housebuilding performance, housing finance and building materials is published in March, June, September and December each year. Part 2 is published in April, July, October and January contains regular tables on construction activity and employment, local authority housing loans and sales. It also contains *ad hoc* tables on construction and housing topics and any figures for tables in Part 1 which missed its publication deadline.

Figures for the last 11 years for the tables in this quarterly publication and for many more tables dealing with construction activity, housebuilding, building materials, employment, the private contractors' construction census and many other topics are published in the annual volume *Housing and Construction Statistics 1976-1986* published by HMSO and available from them and leading bookshops.

Detailed notes on the tables in the annual and quarterly publications, including definitions of the terms used are given in the annual volume, together with a subject index.

Unless otherwise stated all tables relate to Great Britain.

Reference  
*Housing and Construction Statistics, Great Britain Part 2 No.31*, (HMSO) (Price £3.90 net).

### Housing trends in Scotland

This Bulletin (HSIU No.33) summarises housing activity in Scotland during the third quarter of 1987, as reported to the Scottish Development Department by the various housing authorities. Topics covered include new house building, improvement of existing houses, and sales of public sector dwellings.

The following main points emerge:

- a. Sales to sitting tenants at 4,540 increased by 37 per cent compared with the same period in 1986.

Following the introduction of increased discounts on the sale of flats, applications to buy went up by almost 49 per cent.

- b. The number of houses completed in both sectors increased slightly compared with the corresponding quarter of 1986. The private sector figure fell by over 4 per cent while the public sector increased by more than 18 per cent.
- c. New dwellings started decreased by almost 23 per cent compared with the corresponding quarter of 1986. Within this total, private sector starts fell by almost 25 per cent and public sector starts fell by almost 15 per cent.

This bulletin was compiled by the Housing Statistics and Intelligence Unit (HSIU). Enquiries regarding details in the bulletin should be addressed to:

Housing Statistics and Intelligence Unit  
Scottish Development Department  
Room 327 St Andrew's House  
Edinburgh EH1 3DD  
Telephone: 031-244 2684 (GTN - same number)

Copies of the bulletin (price 75p) are available from:  
Scottish Office Library  
Publications Sales  
Room 2/65  
New St Andrew's House  
Edinburgh EH1 3TG  
Telephone: 031-244 4806 (GTN - same number)

### HEALTH

OPCS is responsible for providing a wide range of medical statistics which are used by Government, the National Health Service, the medical profession and researchers to monitor the public health, to evaluate the treatment of patients and to plan the management of health services.

As was the case 150 years ago the foundation is the collection, analysis and publication of mortality statistics derived from death registration. To these have been added statistics derived from:

- infectious disease notifications;
- cancer registrations; hospital episodes;
- congenital malformation registrations;
- abortion notifications;
- *ad hoc* studies of morbidity in general practice;
- regular and *ad hoc* surveys such as the General Household Survey and the Survey of Adult Drinking;
- *ad hoc* studies based on the NHS Central Register.

The Registrar General's Medical Advisory Committee is being reconstituted to advise OPCS, particularly on the development of strategy and priorities for its work in the medical statistics field. The membership of the Registrar General's Medical Advisory Committee and the terms of reference will be announced in due course.

### Statistics on prescriptions dispensed in England 1976-1986

Details of prescriptions dispensed by the pharmaceutical services of the Family Practitioner Service were published on 7 March 1988.

The latest statistics, and major trends in prescribing during the period 1976-1986 are presented in a DHSS Statistical Bulletin.

The bulletin includes information on the number of pharmacies, the number and cost of prescriptions dispensed, whether they were subject to a charge or exempt from charges, and the number of prescriptions in each exemption category (such as the elderly or children aged under 16).

The bulletin also analyses prescriptions by therapeutic group and shows the proportion that are prescribed generically.

Some of the key changes during 1976 - 1986 were:

- the number of pharmacies increased by 9 per cent, while the average number of prescriptions dispensed per pharmacy fell to the 1976 level of 33,000 after peaking in 1973 at 35,000;
- the total number of items on prescription forms dispensed, rose by 10 per cent from 293 million in 1976 to 323 million in 1986;
- the proportion of items on prescription forms which GPs wrote generically increased from 21 per cent in 1976 to 39 per cent in 1986;
- the net ingredient cost (basic price) of drugs dispensed rose from £343 million in 1976 to £1366 million in 1986, about 5 per cent per annum in real terms;
- between 1977 and 1986 the number of prescriptions for the elderly rose by 38 per cent while that for all other people fell by 5 per cent. (Prescription statistics for the elderly and other exempt groups are only available from 1977.)

#### Reference

*Prescriptions dispensed by pharmacy and appliance contractors in England 1976-1986*, DHSS Statistical Bulletin 4/4/88, price £2.00 from the Department of Health and Social Security, Information Division, Canons Park, Government Buildings, Honeyot Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex. HA7 1AY.

### Cancer Registrations for 1984

Statistics published recently by OPCS on cancer patients first diagnosed in 1984 and registered at OPCS by September 1987 reveal that the most common malignant site for males was lung cancer with 26,203 new registrations of patients (26 per cent of males), and for females breast cancer with 21,363 new registrations (22 per cent of females). When adjusted for age, lung cancer registrations have decreased for males but increased for females over the period 1975-1984. Registrations for breast cancer have remained fairly stable over this period.

The total number of registrations for 1984 was 217,782 (105,519 males and 122,263 females) an increase of 5,669 (2.7 per cent) compared with 1983. Trends for the period 1975 to 1984 include a decrease in stomach cancer, although for females the decrease may be levelling off; an increase in cancer of the testis and upward trends for bladder and kidney in females.

#### Reference

*Cancer Registrations for 1984 (Series MBI no.16)* (HMSO) (£8 net) ISBN 0 11 691218 9

### AIDS - quarterly figures

The Department of Health and Social Security published on 11 April 1988, the fifth of its series of quarterly reports on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and Human Immune Deficiency Virus (HIV) infection. Although there has been the expected increase in the numbers, analyses by transmission category and by region show that the overall picture of the epidemic is virtually unchanged since the last quarterly report at the end of 1987.

Up to the end of March 1988 there were 1429 cases of AIDS, of whom 782 have died. The comparable figures at the end of February were 1344 and 749.

It should be noted that in view of the long interval between infection with HIV and the development of AIDS, trends of AIDS cases and deaths and their distribution between risk groups are not indicators of the current progress of spread of HIV infection.

Clinicians in England, Wales and Northern Ireland report cases of clinical AIDS in strict confidence to the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (CDSC) indicating whether the person belongs to any of the known high risk groups such as male homosexuals or intravenous drug abusers.

In Scotland similar reports are made to the Communicable Diseases (Scotland) Unit (CD(S)U). Clinicians also report death from AIDS to the centres. Completeness of reporting of fatal cases is increased by co-operation with the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS) which also sends, in confidence, copies of death entries mentioning AIDS.

#### Reference

DHSS Press Release 88/15

### Scottish Health Statistics

#### *Scottish Hospital Activity Statistics, 31 March 1987*

Scottish Hospital Activity Statistics is a new publication, the first to be produced using ISD's desktop publishing system. It contains 47 pages of tables relating to inpatient, outpatient and day cases, together with a short commentary on major trends. Data, shown at Scotland, Health Board and individual hospital level, include waiting list and indicators such as throughput and bed occupancy. (March 1988), price £2.50.

**Other publications:**

*Scottish Health Statistics Advance Tables 1988*  
— newly-available Scottish data (June 1988) price £2

*Scottish Health Authorities' Revenue Equalisation (SHARE) Tables 1988/89* (April 1988), price £2

**These publications are available from:**

ISD Publications  
Trinity Park House  
Edinburgh  
EH5 3SQ  
Telephone: 031-552 6255 ext. 2707 (GTN 7167 2707)

**EDUCATION**

**Education Statistics for the United Kingdom, 1987 Edition**  
*Education Statistics for the United Kingdom, 1987 Edition* is the title of a recent Statistical Bulletin (no. 1/88) which summarises the statistical tables published in a separate annual volume with the same name (price £7.95 HMSO, available from Government Bookshops or through booksellers): Basic statistics for the whole of the United Kingdom illustrate the size and nature of education in the United Kingdom and facilitate international comparisons, providing data on pupil and student enrolments and examination achievements, teachers and expenditure. Most of the figures relate to the academic/financial year 1985-86, but two-thirds of the tables in the volume provide time series tables, usually spanning twenty years.

Statistics for the education systems in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are collected and processed separately in accordance with the particular needs of the responsible Departments (the Department of Education and Science, the Welsh Office Education Department, the Scottish Education Department and the Department of Education Northern Ireland). Each Department makes available a selection of statistics concerning the education services for which it is responsible.

Enquiries about the contents of the Bulletin should be referred to Mr C L Woods, Room 2/46, at the address below. (Telephone: 01-934 9109). Copies of the Bulletin are available, free of charge, from:

Statistics Branch  
Department of Education and Science  
Room 1/28  
Elizabeth House  
York Road  
London SE1 7PH  
Telephone: 01-934 9038 (GTN 2914)

**Education Facts and Figures: new facts card**

The Department of Education and Science has recently published a new facts card, available free of charge, entitled *Education Facts and Figures*, to replace the short series of priced Digests of Statistics. The facts card contains summary information on selected aspects of education; maintained schools, pupils and teachers; independent schools; post-

compulsory education; student: staff ratios; and expenditure. The data relate to England, except for the section on higher education (Great Britain), and compares 1978-79 with 1985-86 and, where possible, 1986-87. Where available, provisional data are shown.

The facts card is to be produced annually and will be available in January.

**Copies of the current facts card may be obtained from:**

Department of Education and Science,  
Room 1/28  
Elizabeth House  
York Road  
London SE1 7PH  
Telephone: 01-939 9038

Enquiries about the figures shown on the card should be addressed to Room 2/46 at the same address (Telephone: 01-934 9109).

**Survey of Information Technology in Schools**

The Department of Education and Science has recently conducted a survey on the uses of information technology in maintained primary and secondary schools. This survey is designed to follow up the similar survey undertaken in November 1985 and will provide an up-to-date picture of the range and extent of hardware and software in schools and their contribution to different parts of the curriculum. It will provide a valuable baseline against which to assess the Department's Information Technology in Schools strategy. The survey will also give limited information on the administrative uses of microcomputers in schools.

The survey forms were sent to 800 primary schools and 500 secondary schools in January. The samples were designed to give a national picture. The analysis of the survey is progressing and results will be published in due course.

Results of the survey of Microcomputers in schools undertaken in 1985 were summarised in Statistical Bulletin No 18/86.

Details of availability are given in the 'Recently available' section.

**Training in Britain: key statistics**

An article in *Employment Gazette*, March 1988, presents key statistics on training and related topics, derived from various official sources. The summary results are taken from an abstract prepared by a Department of Employment-led working group on training statistics.

The number of individuals attending education or training courses continues to show an upward trend. In a four-week period in spring 1986 an estimated 4.8 million people of working age in Great Britain attended a course of education or training. Within this total, 2.6 million economically active people received job-related training. These estimates compare with 4.6 and 2.1 million respectively in spring 1984.



The number of individuals without formal qualifications continues to decline. In spring 1986 an estimated 33 per cent of economically active people of working age in Great Britain had no qualifications compared with 45 per cent in spring 1979. Between 1970-71 and 1985-86 the proportion of school leavers without at least one GCE O-level (graded A-C) or equivalent qualification fell from some 53 per cent to about 44 per cent.

**Reference**

*Employment Gazette*, March 1988, (HMSO) (Price £3.40 net)

**Scottish Education Statistics**

*The National Certificate: 1985-86*

The publication of *16-18s in Scotland: An Action Plan* (SED 1983) led to an extensive reform of non-advanced further education and pre-vocational education. New modular curricula were introduced to replace previous courses and a new National Certificate awarded by the Scottish Vocational Education Council was introduced. This bulletin gives analyses of the National Certificate for session 1985-86 which was the first full year of implementation so far as Further Education colleges were concerned.

*Pupils and Teachers in Education Authority Primary and Secondary Schools*

This bulletin gives the number of pupils and teachers in education authority primary and secondary schools and the number of schools at September 1986 and September 1987 (provisional). Information is given for Scotland as a whole, for Regions and Islands Authorities and for administrative divisions of Strathclyde.

**MANPOWER, EARNINGS AND PRICES**

**1987 Labour Force Survey preliminary results**

The 1987 Labour Force Survey shows further strong growth in employment, especially self-employment, and a fall in the number of unemployed people looking for work, compared with 1986. An article in *Employment Gazette*, March 1988, presents further results and comparisons with earlier years.

The preliminary results of the 1987 Labour Force Survey show an estimated 24.3 million people in employment and 2.9 million unemployed among the GB private household population aged 16 and over in spring 1987. Compared with the 1984 survey results this represents an increase in employment of 870,000 and a fall in unemployment of 210,000 over three years. The increase in employment was particularly marked among the self-employed, whose number grew by an estimated 378,000 (14 per cent) between spring 1984 and 1987 compared with the overall growth in employment of about 4 per cent.

The 1987 Labour Force Survey estimates in this article are based on interviews with members of about 60,000 private households throughout Great Britain during March, April and May 1987 (that is about one in every 350 private households in Great Britain). The results of the Labour Force Survey are based on information provided voluntarily and in strict

confidence by members of the public. Information is only released in a form which makes it impossible to identify individuals or their households or addresses.

**Reference**

*Employment Gazette*, March 1988, (HMSO) (Price £3.40 net)

**Revised employment estimates for 1986 and 1987**

An article in *Employment Gazette*, March 1988, describes revisions which have been made to the employment estimates — both of employees and of the self-employed — to take account of the preliminary results of the 1987 Labour Force Survey which are now available.

The Labour Force Surveys (LFS) have been used since July 1984 to help derive the estimates of employees in employment. The LFS data enable the Department of Employment to make allowance for the persistent tendency for the figures derived from the regular sample survey inquiries of employers to underestimate the number of employees. The LFS also provides the estimates of annual change in the number of self-employed which are used to update the benchmark figure provided by the Census of Population.

**Reference**

*Employment Gazette*, March 1988 (HMSO) (Price £3.40 net)

**Labour force outlook to 1995**

This article in *Employment Gazette*, March 1988, presents new projections of the labour force in Great Britain up to 1995. It incorporates preliminary information from the 1987 Labour Force Survey and a revised projection methodology. Trends in the size of the labour force and the level of activity rates are reviewed, and the likely effects on the labour force of different assumptions about the future pressure of labour market demand are illustrated.

The civilian labour force in Great Britain, which consists of people aged 16 or over in civilian employment or seeking work in a reference week, is estimated to have risen by over 0.4 million between mid-1986 and mid-1987, to reach 27.2 million. It is projected, on the conventional assumption of an unchanging level of unemployment, to rise by a further 0.9 million to stand at 28.1 million in 1995. The vast majority of this rise is projected to occur in the female labour force, rising by 0.8 million to 12.3 million.

The civilian labour force includes people in employment (employees, employers and self-employed people — but excluding those in the Armed Forces), together with unemployed people. The latter are conventionally defined in Great Britain labour force estimates as people without a job and seeking work in a reference week (or prevented from seeking work by temporary sickness or holiday, or waiting for the results of a job application or waiting to start a job they had already obtained).

**Reference**

*Employment Gazette*, March 1988 (HMSO) (Price £3.40 net)

**Ethnic origins and the labour market**

An article in *Employment Gazette*, March 1988, is the latest in a series presenting data from the Labour Force Survey on the position of different ethnic groups in the labour market

in Great Britain. Drawing on data from surveys in recent years, it identifies similarities and differences between ethnic minority groups, and compares them with the white population.

The Labour Force Survey shows that 4.6 per cent of the population of working age, or some 1.54 million people in Great Britain were from ethnic minority groups, and that, for demographic reasons, this proportion is likely to increase gradually in the coming years. Each of the main ethnic minority groups had a distinctive level of participation and pattern of involvement in the labour market, and particular ethnic groups tend to be clustered in certain regions, occupations or industries. Overall, unemployment rates for ethnic minorities were about double those for whites, and between 1983 and 1986 unemployment rates fell slightly for ethnic minorities, in a similar proportion to the fall for whites.

This article is based on analysing results mainly of the 1984, 1985 and 1986 Labour Force Surveys, carried out in the spring of each year.

**Reference**  
*Employment Gazette*, March 1988, (HMSO) (Price £3.40 net)

#### **Vacancies and recruitment in Great Britain**

In *Employment Gazette*, April 1988 there was an article on vacancies and recruitment in Great Britain, written by Edwin Smith, Managing Director of IFF Research Limited.

The White Paper *Training for Employment* (Cm 316) published in February 1988 quoted data on vacancies in the economy derived from a recent survey by IFF Research Limited. This article describes how the research was done and reports some of the main findings.

The survey suggests that, in a typical month, there are currently over 700,000 unfilled vacancies in the economy. This confirms earlier estimates that, on average, the official statistics on the number of vacancies at job centres at any one point in time represent about one-third of total unfilled vacancies. Furthermore, the survey suggests that, in the country as a whole, employers took on about 7½ million new recruits in 1987. Two-thirds of this recruitment was outside the South East — 38 per cent in the Midlands, East Anglia, South West and Wales, and 29 per cent in the North, Yorkshire and Humberside, North West and Scotland.

The research on vacancies was undertaken at the request of the Department of Employment. Its aims were to determine the number and nature of job vacancies in Great Britain, jobcentres' share of those vacancies, other channels' share of recruitment and employers' views on jobcentre services. The first of those topics is described here.

The survey, which was conducted by telephone in January 1988, involved about 1,400 interviews covering all sizes and types of employer in both the private and public sectors. Vacancies were defined as positions for which employers were 'looking for recruits from outside their company to fill any full-time, part-time or temporary vacancies at the moment.' This definition excluded positions for which only internal promotions or transfers were being considered at the time

of the survey interview.

The survey covered 1,155 private sector establishments sampled from British Telecom's Business Subscriber files and the IFF Master File — an establishment-based sampling frame concentrating on establishments with 50 + employees.

**Reference**  
*Employment Gazette*, April 1988 (HMSO) (Price £3.40 net)

#### **Registered disabled people in the public sector**

An article in *Employment Gazette*, February 1988 gives the latest figures for a wide cross-section of public sector employers whose individual quota positions have been disclosed with their agreement. It contains the latest in a series of tables produced annually since 1976. As the number of people who choose to register has steadily declined in recent years, the figures quoted should not be treated as a complete guide to the employment of people with disabilities.

Figures for Government Departments were prepared by HM Treasury and relate to 1 June 1987. The other public sector figures were obtained during a annual enquiry by the Employment Service (formerly Manpower Services Commission) and relate to May 1987.

**Reference**  
*Employment Gazette*, February 1988 (HMSO) (Price £3.40 net)

#### **Careers and training in tourism and leisure**

An article in *Employment Gazette*, February 1988 gives details from a recently completed study by the Institute of Manpower Studies (IMS).

The study of the employment structure of the tourism and leisure industry is based on a survey of 400 establishments. The article summarises the main findings relating to careers and training in the industry.

**References**  
*Employment Gazette*, February 1988 (HMSO) (Price £3.40 net)  
*Employment Structures in Tourism and Leisure*, by Hilary Metcalf, IMS Report no. 143 (Institute of Manpower Studies 1987).

#### **Temporary workers in Britain**

This article by Suzanne King appeared in the April 1988 *Employment Gazette*.

It compares and contrasts contract workers with seasonal, casual and other temporary workers, and compares both of these groups with permanent workers, using results from the 1986 Labour Force Survey. It demonstrates that the temporary workforce as a whole is more diverse than is generally thought.

From spring 1983 onwards, the Labour Force Survey (LFS) began to collect information on temporary work, identifying two types — 'seasonal, temporary or casual' jobs and jobs 'done under contract or for a fixed period of time' separately from 'permanent' jobs. The form of one of the questions asked by the Survey allows these two groups to be compared with permanent workers.

Further research is being undertaken to obtain a fuller picture of the varied reasons for taking jobs of limited duration. Given the continuing expansion of temporary jobs, it may well be that recruits to the temporary workforce, and reasons for taking this work, are changing.

**Reference**

*Employment Gazette*, April 1988, (HMSO) (Price £3.40 net).

**Trends in the distribution of earnings, 1973 to 1986**

This article in *Employment Gazette*, February 1988 considers the trends within the average earnings figures from The New Earnings Survey. The article was written by Mark Adams, Ruth Maybury and William Smith of the Employment Market Research Unit.

Figures are presented for the average earnings of full-time adult male and female employees, and measures for the distribution of earnings.

Real earnings grew between 1973 and 1986 by — on average — one-fifth for males and two-fifths for females.

**Reference**

*Employment Gazette*, February 1988 (HMSO) (Price £3.40 net)

**Earnings and hours of manual employees in October 1987**

This article in *Employment Gazette*, April 1988, presents the results of the 1987 survey on earnings and hours of manual employees, a survey which, in various forms, has been undertaken periodically since 1886.

In October 1987, the average weekly earnings of full-time manual employees, both male and female, on adult rates in major production and transport industries in the UK were £184.10 for some 43.1 hours, an increase of 7.6 per cent on the corresponding earnings in October 1986.

This survey, as a source of information on the average earnings and hours of manual employees, has been carried out periodically since 1886 and annually since 1970. It provides the most detailed analysis of manual earnings by industry. It does not attempt to provide information for particular occupations or to show the main components of gross earnings such as overtime pay. These subjects are covered in the *New Earnings Survey*, the latest report of which relates to April 1987 and is published by HMSO.

**Reference**

*Employment Gazette*, April 1988 (HMSO) (Price £3.40 net)

**Retail prices in 1987**

This article in *Employment Gazette*, April 1988, describes what happened to retail prices during 1987. It provides a summary of the changes in prices which took place last year and the relative contributions of individual categories of goods and services to the overall movement in the retail prices index.

UK retail prices, as measured by the retail prices index, rose on average by 3.3 per cent between January 1987 and January 1988 — less than the rate for the previous year (3.9 per cent) and the lowest increase over any calendar year since 1967.

Most households are covered by the retail prices index, the exceptions being pensioner households which are mainly dependent on state benefits and high income households,

defined as those which have total gross income falling within the top 4 per cent (approximately) of the distribution.

**Reference**

*Employment Gazette*, April 1988 (HMSO) (Price £3.40 net)

**Retail prices index: revision of weights**

Every year the weighting of the retail prices index is updated in the light of the latest results of the Family Expenditure Survey. This article in *Employment Gazette*, April 1988, describes the latest revision and gives the weights to be used for the general index in 1988.

The retail prices index measures the change from month to month in the cost of a representative 'basket' of goods and services of the sort bought by a typical household. The 'weight' attached to each of the items in the basket is revised every year using the latest available results of the Family Expenditure Survey.

The Department of Employment will publish indices for all categories of expenditure which are thought to be of general interest in 1988 as in 1987. Individuals users may also have an interest in component indices at a more disaggregated level and the Department is prepared to consider releasing these. For further information, write to Statistics Division D1, Department of Employment, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NF.

**Reference**

*Employment Gazette*, April 1988 (HMSO) (Price £3.40 net)

**AGRICULTURE AND FOOD**

**Annual Review of Agriculture 1988**

The White Paper, *Annual Review of Agriculture 1988*, published in January sets out the economic conditions and prospects of the United Kingdom agricultural industry in 1987.

There are three sections commenting on the state of the industry, general developments and commodity trends together with a statistical appendix. The thirty-five tables of the appendix cover the output and productivity of the agricultural industry and the number, size and assets of agricultural holdings. There is also a general table showing agriculture in the national economy and one showing commodity price trends.

A separate booklet published simultaneously with the Annual Review White Paper is the Departmental Net Income Calculation Annual Review 1988 (1978-87). This contains more detailed statistical information than the White Paper over a range of years and includes tables showing agricultural inputs in some detail.

The forecasts for 1987 generally reflect the position up to the end of the year as seen at November 1987.

**References**

*Annual Review of Agriculture 1988*, Cm 299 (HMSO) (Price £7.40 net) ISBN 0 10 102992 6  
*Departmental Net Income Calculation (annual Review 1988)* is available from:

Statistics (AC) Division, MAFF  
Room 500A, Great Westminster House,  
Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AE

### National Food Survey

Summarised results from the National Food Survey for the fourth quarter of 1987 were published in March 1988. More detailed monthly, quarterly and annual data from the survey are available on a subscription basis. For details contact:

National Food Survey Branch  
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
Room 419  
Whitehall Place (West Block)  
London SW1A 2HH

### Agricultural censuses and Surveys

#### *Grain Fed to Livestock 1987/88 - England and Wales*

The results of the monthly sample surveys of straight grain fed to livestock were published as follows:

July-October 1987 MAFF Statistics 327/87 on 17 December 1987

July-November 1987 MAFF Statistics 15/88 on 20 January 1988

July-December 1987 MAFF Statistics 51/88 on 3 March 1988

#### *1987 Harvest: Estimates of Cereal Production in England and Wales*

The results of the November 1987 Cereals Production Survey for England and Wales were given in MAFF Statistics 8/88 published on 12 January 1988.

Harvest estimates of production and estimated average yields for minor crops in England and Wales were given in MAFF statistics 1/88 published on 6 January 1988.

#### *Cereal Stocks Survey - England and Wales*

The results of the monthly sample surveys of on-farm stocks and disposals of home grown wheat and barley were published as follows:

October 1987 MAFF Statistics 14/88 on 19 January 1988

November 1987 MAFF Statistics 25/88 on 4 February 1988

December 1987 MAFF Statistics 63/88 on 10 March 1988

January 1988 MAFF 70/88 on 21 March 1988

#### *Straw Survey 1987 - England and Wales*

Results giving details of straw harvested, ploughed in or burned from a controlled sample of cereal growing farms with comparative figures for 1986. Published in MAFF Statistics notice 325/87 on 15 December 1987.

#### *June 1987 Agricultural Returns for England*

The final results of the June 1987 agricultural and horticultural census covering 155,785 main holdings and including estimates for minor holdings were published in MAFF Statistics 4/88 on 7 January 1988.

#### *Turkey Survey - 2 November 1987*

Results of this annual survey based on data provided by occupiers of agricultural holdings in England and Wales who rear turkeys were published in MAFF Statistics 29/88 on 11 February 1988.

#### *Orchard Fruit Census March 1987 England and Wales Final Results*

The final results of this census for England and Wales showing areas, production, density of planting and age of trees by varieties were published in MAFF Statistics 39/88 on 18 February 1988.

#### *December Agricultural Census 1987*

The results of the December 1987 Agricultural Census for England and the United Kingdom were published in MAFF Press Release 88/38 on 10 March 1988.

MAFF Statistics Notices are available free from:

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
Publications Section  
Room A615, Epsom Road  
Guildford GU1 2LD

### INDUSTRIAL AND RETAIL STATISTICS

#### **Economic Classifications: The Revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) and the European Communities' Industrial Classification (NACE)**

The February issue of *Statistical News* (page 80.38) referred to developments in the production of new activity classifications to replace those at present in use for world and European Community reporting.

Since that report two further meetings of the NACE Working Party have taken place when discussion centred on the way in which the new World and European classifications could be brought as close together as possible and on the detail of certain parts of the draft NACE. Representatives of the European trade associations for textiles (COMITEXTIL), knitting (Mailleurop) and clothing (AEIH) attended for the detailed discussion of the textiles and clothing sections.

The structure of the new industrial activity classification to be introduced for use within the European community is now reaching its final form and should be confirmed within a few months following the completion by the United Nations Statistical Office of the draft activity and product classifications that will be submitted to the United Nations Statistical Commission early next year.

Watch these columns for news of further developments.

#### **DTI retailing inquiry for 1986**

This article in *British Business*, 18 March 1988, presents summary provisional results for the retailing inquiry for 1986. These show that there were an estimated 244,000 retail businesses in that year, with a total turnover of over £96bn.

The 1986 inquiry was a 'full' inquiry which provided information on a range of variables such as the number of businesses and outlets, persons engaged, turnover, purchases, stocks, gross margins and capital expenditure. In recent years 'full' inquiries have alternated with 'slimline' inquiries, which



collect data only on total turnover, stocks and capital expenditure. However, the pattern of inquiries has now changed and the next full inquiry will be conducted in respect of 1990, with so-called 'intermediate' inquiries in the intervening years.

Users should note that, following a review of the retailing inquiry, certain aspects of the methodology used in the inquiry have been amended. The main change is that more emphasis is now placed on data relating to retail businesses, that is businesses whose main activity is retailing, and only a limited range of information is collected from businesses engaged in retailing as a subsidiary activity. This has led to a discontinuity in the figures, so that the 1984 results have been re-worked onto the same basis as those for 1986 for comparison purposes. The changes to the methodology of the inquiry are explained below.

The final results of the full retailing inquiry for 1984 were published in *British Business*, 11 July 1986 and in Business Monitor SD025. The 1985 slimline inquiry results were published in *British Business*, 17 July 1987. The final results of the 1986 inquiry will be published this autumn in Business Monitor SDA25, with a summary appearing beforehand in *British Business*. These will be based on a slightly higher response rate than the provisional results presented in this article, and also reflect a further scrutiny of the detail of the returns. Any inquiries on this subject should be made to:

Business Statistics Office  
DSI Section  
Government Buildings  
Cardiff Road  
Newport  
Gwent NPG 1XG  
Telephone: (0633) 222710

**Reference**

*British Business* (Department of Trade and Industry) (Price £1.25 net)

**Motor vehicle production and assembly in 1987**

An article in *British Business*, dated 5 February 1988 states that car production was 1.14 million in 1987, 19.8 per cent of them being exported. Of the 246.7 thousand commercial vehicles produced just under a quarter of them were exported. Figures going back to 1977 are published, unadjusted and seasonably adjusted.

Inquiries regarding this subject should be made to:

Department of Trade and Industry  
Statistics Division 1A  
Room 1918  
Millbank Tower  
Millbank  
London SW1P 4QU  
Telephone 01-211 4515

**Reference**

*British Business* (Department of Trade and Industry) (Price £1.25 each Friday).

## TRANSPORT

### National Travel Survey

Results of the 1985/86 National Travel Survey were published in April. This survey is the fifth in a series of household sample surveys of personal travel which began in 1965. The 1985/86 Survey was carried out for the Department of Transport by Social Survey Division of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, between July 1985 and June 1986. It collected data from over 10,000 households each of which provided details of all its journeys undertaken in a pre-assigned sample week. These households were randomly selected from the Postcode Address File to give a representative sample for Great Britain as a whole, and the travel weeks were allocated to give uniform coverage over the whole 12 month fieldwork period. Details of journeys recorded included their lengths, start-time and travel time, modes of transport used and journey purposes. Other data collected included the personal characteristics of household numbers (age and sex, working status, marital status and relationship to the head of household, driving licences held, and travelcards, passes, or season tickets for public transport); characteristics of the household (its income, type of accommodation and tenure) and of the local area (urban or rural, region, accessibility of shops, services, and public transport), and details of vehicles available to the household. The 1985/86 NTS also included, for the first time, questions on disability or health-related problems experienced in using different modes to transport.

The Report is published in 2 parts. Part 1, *An Analysis of Personal Travel*, gives the main results from the survey together with a commentary setting them against the background of the rapid increase in personal travel between 1965 and 1985, and emphasising those characteristics of people and their households that were most strongly related to their extent of travel. The growth in travel is associated particularly with increased car-ownership and use. The report discusses how the distances people travel vary according to the degree of access to a household car, and the factors found to be associated with car-ownership. Other sections describe differences in travel patterns of people in urban and rural areas, use of local buses, cycling, walking, and rail travel. Part 2, *Technical Guide* (to be released shortly), is designed mainly for the serious research user of the survey who needs details of the survey design, response characteristics, and guidance on data quality, with a description of the derived variables available for analysis. Anyone wishing to order tabulations from the NTS database, in order to extract further results not available from the Report, should first refer to Part 2, where instructions and advice on specifying requirements are given.

**References**

*An Analysis of Personal Travel*, National Travel Survey: 1985/86 Report - Part 1, (HMSO 1988) (Price £8.80) ISBN 0 11 550855 4  
*Technical Guide*, National Travel Survey: 1985/86 Report - Part 2, (HMSO 1988) (Price not available)

### Road Haulage

The results of a survey of the activity of goods vehicles in 'restricted' tax classes have recently been published. Vehicles in these classes are exempt from the examination and testing regulations applying to other goods vehicles because, generally speaking, they are either vehicles which have been adapted for some other use than carrying goods (eg mobile workshops and generators, TV outside broadcast equipment, etc) or for which carrying goods is a secondary activity - eg, landrovers.

However, a small group (about 400) of vehicles covered by the survey were used to carry 'abnormal indivisible loads' (ie very heavy, wide, or long) which could not be moved under the normal regulations covering the size and weight of goods vehicles. It was found that these vehicles travelled further than expected — often moving very heavy loads. Since the Vehicle Excise Duty rate in these classes was £130 per year, it was unlikely that the taxes levied on the vehicles covered the costs they imposed on the roads. An adjustment was made to the tax rates in the recent budget.

The survey results cover annual mileages, fuel consumption, type of use made of the vehicle, and other operating characteristics for 1986. For the vehicles moving abnormal loads there are further analyses of mileage by the on-road weight of the lorries and of average axle weights on loaded journeys.

#### Reference

*Goods vehicles in restricted tax classes: 1986* (Department of Transport), Statistical Bulletin (88) 33, February 1988, Price £2.50

The publication is obtainable from:

Department of Transport, Publication Sales Unit,  
Building 1, Victoria Road,  
South Ruislip HA4 ONZ  
Telephone: 01-841 3425

### Description of Vehicles for Traffic Counting Purposes

Statistics Bulletin (88) 32: *Description of Vehicles for Traffic Counting Purposes* was published in February 1988. It provides definitions of the vehicle classifications used by the Department of Transport in the collection and analysis of traffic flows and has been prepared primarily for parties involved in those activities.

The bulletin details the vehicle classes used in both the Departments manual and automatic traffic counting systems and supplies a comparison between the two. It also gives information on the accuracies required for the automatic classification equipment.

Copies can be obtained, price £5.00 from:

Department of the Environment/Department of Transport  
Publication Sales Unit  
Building 1  
Victoria Road  
South Ruislip  
Middlesex HA4 ONZ  
Telephone: 01-841 3425

Further information is available from:

Department of Transport  
STC2  
Room A6/17  
Romney House  
43 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 3PY  
Telephone: 01-212 6643

### Road Lengths in Great Britain

Statistics Bulletin (88)35: *Road Lengths in Great Britain 1986-1987* was published in February 1988. Providing data for 1986 and 1987 it is the third bulletin in the series, the first two, bulletins (86)20 and (87)32 giving road lengths from 1973 to 1985 and 1981 to 1986 respectively.

For each English and Welsh county, Scottish region, London Borough and Metropolitan District, the total road length is subdivided by road class (motorway, truck, principal, B, C and unclassified roads) and by speed restriction — built-up roads, having a limit of 40 mph or less, — and non built-up roads. Tables are also given providing road lengths analysed by country, Economic Planning and Department of Transport Regions.

Further tables include data for slip roads, link roads, non-motorway dual carriageways and other public passageways, data for Metropolitan District Councils aggregated to the abolished Metropolitan County Councils and a table of roads by local authority as a percentage of the 1987 Great Britain total.

Copies can be obtained, price £16.00 from:

Department of the Environment/Department of Transport  
Publications Sales Unit  
Building 1  
Victoria Road  
South Ruislip  
Middlesex HA4 ONZ  
Telephone: 01-841 3425

The data in the Bulletin are occasionally revised following remeasurement of their roads by local highway authorities.

Information is available from:

Department of Transport  
STC2  
Room A6/15  
Romney House  
43 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 3PY  
Telephone 01-212 5810

## ENVIRONMENT

### Environmental Protection

The latest issue of the *Digest of Environmental Protection and Water Statistics*, published in March, is the 10th in an annual series which highlights trends in some of the main aspects of environmental quality and protection, and of water supply. In this issue there are chapters on air quality, water quality, radioactivity, noise, blood lead concentrations, waste, landscape and nature conservation, and water supply and use. A calendar of events is included for the first time.



Sets of additional tables are published by the Department of the Environment separately as Statistical Bulletins and details of these are given in the Digest. This publication package is intended to provide a wide-ranging set of statistics on broad trends in the Digest, while allowing users with an interest in particular areas to purchase sets of more detailed tables.

#### References

*Digest of Environmental Protection and Water Statistics*, No 10 1987 (HMSO, 1988)  
Statistical Bulletins (88) 1-4 (Department of the Environment, 1988).  
See 'Recently available' section for availability.

### NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

#### Rebasing the national accounts

The United Kingdom national accounts are to be rebased this year on 1985. An article in the March 1988 edition of *Economic Trends* explains the need for rebasing, describes the processes involved and gives preliminary estimates of the likely effects on the published figures.

The rebased annual estimates will be published in September in *United Kingdom National Accounts, 1988 edition* and the corresponding quarterly estimates will be published later that month in the gross domestic product (GDP) press notice issued by CSO and in the October edition of *Economic Trends*. At around the same time, the full set of rebased statistics will be made available on the CSO Databank in computer-readable form.

The rebasing will affect growth patterns only as far back as 1983; prior to that year, existing growth patterns will be maintained (except for any data revisions made for other reasons). Preliminary calculations suggest that rebasing will have only a small downward effect on the overall estimates of recent movements in the volume of GDP. This effect may well be less than those which normally result from new information or improvements to methodology.

#### References

*Economic Trends* (HMSO monthly) No 413, March 1988 (Price £9.25 net, annual subscription including supplement £110)

#### Financial Statement and Budget Report 1988-89

The *Financial Statement and Budget Report 1988-89* (FSBR) published on 15 March 1988, supplements the Chancellor's Budget Statement. It describes the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS); outlines developments in the economy over the past year; provides forecasts to mid-1989; details the government's tax proposals and brings together financial position of the public sector.

Chapter 1, 'The Budget', summarises the contents of the following Chapters. It also contains summary tables of the Government's economic policy and outlines the Budget measures and of the finances of the public sector.

Chapter 2, 'The Medium Term Financial Strategy', provides the framework for all economic policy decisions. Comment, charts and tables cover: objectives and the framework of policy; monetary policy; fiscal policy; public expenditure; revenue; and public sector borrowing. An annex gives changes since the 1987 MTFS.

Chapter 3, 'The economy': recent developments and prospects to mid-1989; deals with financial conditions, world economy, UK trade and balance of payments, demand and activity, company income and expenditure, inflation, productivity and the labour market, forecast and outturn (compares the main elements of the forecast published in the 1988 FSBR with outturn or latest estimate); and ends with risks and uncertainties. A table shows forecasts to first half 1989 of output, imports, exports and the balance of payments current account at 1980 prices seasonally adjusted.

Chapter 4, 'The Budget tax proposals', sets out the tax proposals. A table shows the direct revenue effects in 1988-89 and 1990-91 of the changes in taxation and an annex explains how the figures in the table are calculated.

Chapter 5, 'Public expenditure', summarises the public spending plans and compares estimated outturn for 1987-88 with earlier plans.

Chapter 6, 'The public sector's finances', brings together the complete financial picture for the public sector. It elaborates the more rounded and summary figures shown in other chapters. The forecasts for 1988-89 take account of the effects of Budget measures. The basis of the tables and the relationship between them is outlined in an annex.

#### References

*Financial Statement and Budget Report 1988-89* HC 361 (HMSO March 1988) (Price £7.20 net) ISBN 0 10 236188 6  
*Financial Statement and Budget Report 1987-88* HC 194 (HMSO March 1987) (Price £6.50 net) ISBN 0 10 219487 4

#### Supply Estimates 1988-89 Summary and Guide

Supply Estimates are the means by which the Government seeks from Parliament sufficient funds and fresh Parliamentary authority for the bulk of its own expenditure each year. The Estimates are presented to Parliament, usually on Budget Day. One or more Estimates are presented, by the Treasury, for each government department.

The government expenditure for which authority is sought in these Estimates is consistent with the Government's plans for public expenditure as a whole, described in detail in the latest public expenditure White Paper, *The Government's Expenditure Plans 1988-89 to 1990-91*, Cm 288, published on 20 January 1988.

The Summary and Guide to the Supply Estimates for 1988-89 was published on 15 March 1988. It has a number of objectives:

- i. it summarises the expenditure in the Estimates and shows the relationship between Estimates and the public expenditure plans;
- ii. it announces cash limits, limits on running costs, and manpower plans for central government departments in 1988-89;
- iii. it describes the Estimates themselves and how Parliament considers and votes on them.

The Summary and Guide includes, for the first time in 1988-89, details of non-voted cash limits. These were published previously by way of a Parliamentary written answer on Budget Day.

For users interested in a particular area of expenditure, a separate document, the Index to the Supply Estimates, is available. This indicates in which Class and Vote details of particular areas of expenditure can be found. The Supply Estimates themselves are available in nineteen separate booklets.

#### References

Supply Estimates 1988-89 Summary and Guide Cm 328 (HMSO 1988) (Price £7.50 net)  
ISBN 0 10 03282X

Supply Estimates 1988-89 Index HC 339-IND (HMSO 1988) (Price £5.60 net)

## COMPANY FINANCE

### Business Monitor MO3 'Finance of Top Companies'

The first issue of this new Monitor is due for publication by HMSO during May. The new Monitor will contain standardised and aggregated balance sheets, income and appropriation accounts and statements of sources and uses of funds together with main accounting ratios for a panel of companies defined as the 500 largest ('top') GB-registered industrial and commercial company groups and independent companies in accounting year 1981 (ie inclusive of any accounting period ending between 1 April 1981 and 31 March 1982). All figures will be based on the Department of Trade and Industry's regular analysis of companies' published annual accounts. Information about the selection of large and small companies for the DIT's new sample was published in *Statistical News* Nos 76 and 77 respectively for February and May 1987.

DTI has it in mind that HMSO will publish MO3 certainly in the spring and autumn of each year and possibly also at other times if enough worthwhile information is available. In 1988, the publication schedule is for issues in May (results for accounting years 1983 to 1986) and in October (further results for 1986 and some results for 1987). The 19th Issue of MA3 'Company Finance' is scheduled for publication by HMSO in June. This annual Monitor will this year contain full results for the 3,500 companies of all sizes in DIT's new sample for accounting years 1982 to 1985 and it will also have results based on some large companies for 1986. Accordingly, MA3 will provide a point of comparison with MO3 in respect of large companies. To underline the relationship between the two Monitor series, MO3 will only be available as part of an annual subscription which also includes MA3. For 1988, the price of this subscription is £16. However, the 19th Issue of MA3 will be available separately from HMSO, price £8.

#### References

Business Monitor MO3, *Finance of Top Companies, 1983-1986*  
Business Monitor MA3, *Company Finance, 9th Issue, 1982-1986*  
*Statistical News*, No. 76, February 1987, 'Top Companies in the DIT Company Accounts Analysis'  
*Statistical News*, No. 77, May 1987, 'Smaller Companies in the DIT Company Accounts Analysis'

## OVERSEAS FINANCE

### Overseas direct investment: 1986

An article in *British Business* dated 11 March 1988 gives the main results of the Department of Trade and Industry's detailed inquiry into annual flows of overseas direct investment and the earnings on it in 1986. Detailed results giving figures for each main country and activity will be published in Business Monitor MA4 'Overseas Transactions 1986' later this year. Copies of the publication can be obtained from HMSO bookshops.

Estimates of the book value of overseas direct investment at end 1984 were published in *British Business* 22 May 1987 and in Business Monitor MO4 'Census of Overseas Assets 1984'.

Quarterly estimates of overseas direct investment and earnings are given in the balance of payments accounts published in the March/June/September and December editions of *Economic Trends*.

The department expresses its appreciation for the co-operation of respondent companies.

Total net direct investment abroad by UK companies in 1986 was £11.6bn whilst net direct investment in the UK by overseas companies was £4.2bn.

Net earnings by UK companies on their stock of overseas direct investments were £7.7bn whilst overseas companies earned £5.3bn on their corresponding stock of overseas direct investment in the UK.

Inquiries regarding this subject should be addressed to:

Department of Trade and Industry  
Room 2/3  
20 Victoria Street  
London SW1H 0NF  
Telephone: 01-215 3004 (outward investment)  
01-215 3345 (inward investment)

#### Reference

*British Business* (Department of Trade and Industry) (Price £1.25net)

### International publications

The following have recently been published and are available from HMSO:

**United Nations. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. Statistical Office.**

*Studies in methods, series F, 44, Energy statistics: definitions, units of measure and conversion factors*, price £5.50 net.

**United Nations. Economic Commission for Europe.**

*Annual bulletin of electrical energy statistics for Europe, vol. 32, 1986*, price £15 net.

**UNESCO.**

*Statistical yearbook 1987*, price £55 net.

**Customs Co-operation Council**

*Alphabetical index to the Harmonized System and its explanatory notes*, (2 volumes in ring binder, not to be sold separately), price £100 net.

**European Communities Commission**

*A social survey in maritime transport: preparatory study on the employment and social impact of international and*

national provisions regarding working hours in maritime transport: and distortions affecting both employment and competitiveness of Community nationals: final report: collation and analysis of seafarers conditions in the European Community. Maritime Economic Research Centre, Rotterdam, by F M Van Poelgeest, price £7.50 net.

*Explanatory notes to the combined nomenclature of the European Communities*, price £17.50 net.

*Programme for research and actions on the development of the labour market: new forms and new areas of employment growth: final report for France*, by Henri Nadel and Laurent Schwab, price £8 net.

#### **Eurostat.**

*A study of the future of the census of population: alternative approaches*, by Philip Redfern, price £9.10 net.

*Agricultural prices 1977-1986*, price £13 net.

*Definition of registered unemployed*, price £5.80 net.

*Demographic and labour force analysis based on Eurostat data banks*, price £4 net.

*External trade: analytical tables, Nimex 1986*, Glossarium, price £3.30 net.

*External trade: statistical yearbook 1987*, price £6.10 net.

*Industry: statistical yearbook 1986*, price £15.60

*Labour costs 1984, Vol. 2, Results by size classes and by regions*, price £5 net.

#### **Food and Agricultural Organization.**

*FAO fertilizer yearbook, vol. 36, 1986*, price £10 net.

*FAO production yearbook, vol. 40, 1986*, price £14.25 net.

*FAO trade yearbook, vol. 40, 1986*, price £17.50 net.

#### **General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade**

*International trade 1986-87*, price £12 net.

#### **International Monetary Fund.**

*Balance of payments statistics, Vol. 38: Yearbook 1987: parts 1 and 2*, (In 2 Vols., not to be sold separately), price £12 net.

*Government finance statistics yearbook, vol. 11, 1987*, price £16.25 net.

*International capital markets: developments and prospects*, by Maxwell Watson et al, price £10 net.

#### **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.**

*Consumer policy in OECD countries 1985-1986*, price £15 net.

*Energy and cleaner air: costs of reducing emissions: summary and analysis*, (Enclair 1986 international symposium on energy and cleaner air), price £6.50 net.

*External debt statistics: the debt and other external liabilities of developing, CMEA and certain other countries and territories: at end-December 1985 and end-December 1986*, price £5 net.

*Geographic distribution of financial flows to developing countries: disbursements, committees, economic indicators: 1983-1986*, price £18.50 net.

*Industrial structure statistics 1985*, price £10.50 net.

*International investment and multinational enterprises — minimizing conflicting requirements: approaches of 'moderation and restraint'*, price £5 net.

#### **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Development Centre.**

*Economic policies and agricultural performance of low-income countries*, by J Lecailon, price £12 net.

*National Accounts: 1960-1986, vol. 1, Main aggregates*,

price £12 net.

*Purchasing power parities and real expenditures, 1985*, price £8.20 net.

#### **World Health Organisation.**

*World health statistics annual 1987*, price £36 net.

Readers should note that publications of international organisations are subject to price changes.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin**

In addition to regular articles providing commentary on recent developments in the UK and world economies and on domestic and international financial markets, the February issue of the Bank's *Quarterly Bulletin* contains the following items:

#### *The equity market crash*

This article describes the principal events of the dramatic fall in equity prices last October as reflected in the London, New York and Tokyo stock markets. It goes on to examine some aspects of trading behaviour and market structure which had a bearing on the collapse in prices in these markets: these include the pattern of buyers and sellers; the role of foreign investors in each of the markets; dealing systems; and the interaction of futures and options markets with the cash market. The article concludes that while the first tentative assessment must be that the international financial structure survived the shock at least passably well, further examination was called for of certain aspects of market arrangements and behaviour in London — including the experience of the retail investor, the role of the account and the feasibility and desirability of rules to limit the speed at which prices move.

#### *Recent developments in the corporate and bulldog sectors of the sterling bond market*

The past five years have witnessed a sustained revival of issues of fixed-rate sterling bonds by companies (British and overseas) and overseas governments and their agencies. This article examines the factors that have contributed to the revival in activity (which in the case of overseas borrowers followed more than three decades of almost total absence from the market) and highlights developments over the last five years, in particular the increased use of eurobond issuing techniques and the associated growth of the sterling swaps market. It notes the importance of the abolition of exchange controls and the improvement in economic conditions in the 1980s in providing the stimulus to the growth of the market, and examines the reasons for the relatively stronger growth of the sterling eurobond sector of the market, which has reflected, in part, more flexible issuing arrangements which have been more suited to the rather volatile market conditions of recent years.

#### *The financial behaviour of industrial and commercial companies, 1970-1986*

Over the past fifteen years there have been rapid and substantial changes in the economic environment faced by industrial and commercial companies, and the sector's financial behaviour can be interpreted as a response to these

changes. This article describes changes in the pattern of company behaviour over this period and discusses the factors underlying their financial decisions, both long-term (such as the choice between equity and debt) and short-term. Among the noteworthy patterns identified are the increased importance of equity finance after 1975, the collapse in the market for long-term corporate debt after 1974 and its subsequent revival since 1983, and the recent build-up in corporate liquidity. The article goes on to examine prospects for company finances in the late 1980s, arguing that conditions remain favourable for the use of long-term debt, while the recent fall in equity prices make equity finance less attractive. The build-up in liquid assets, which in part reflects the financial surplus enjoyed by the company sector in 1980-86 and in part the benefits of innovation in the financial system, shows little sign of abating, and leaves companies much better placed than in the past to respond promptly to unexpected developments.

#### *The net debt of the public sector: end-March 1987*

This note updates statistical tables showing the public sector consolidated debt, and public sector liquid assets and net debt and also presents figures showing the net debt of the three elements of the public sector - central government, local authorities and public corporations.

#### *Other items*

The February *Bulletin* also reprints two speeches by the Governor on prospects for the UK economy following the fall in equity prices and a third on the macroeconomic, prudential and social aspects of the rapid growth of personal credit: and a speech by Mr John Townend, Head of the Bank's Wholesale Markets Supervision Division, on the objectives and rationale of the Bank's proposed regulation of the wholesale money markets and the principal features of the new regime.

The Bank's Quarterly Bulletin may be obtained (at £7.50 per copy, or £27.00 for an annual subscription) from:

Bulletin Group  
Economics Division  
Bank of England  
Threadneedle Street  
London  
EC2R 8AH

#### **National Institute Economic Review**

##### *Productivity and management: the training of foremen*

Following the Institute's previous studies of the training and qualifications of craftsmen in Britain and Germany, this article by S J Prais and Karin Wagner compares foremen in the two countries. It draws attention to the greater numbers qualifying in Germany, the higher standard of qualification required there, and differences in economic incentives.

##### *Exchange-rate targets and wage formation*

In the context of economic management, with final targets for money GDP, wealth and the foreign exchange reserves, the exchange rate can be treated as an intermediate target. Monetary policy is used to keep the exchange rate close to its target and the target itself adjusts in response to information about the final targets. The target exchange rate can be used

with main emphasis on either money GDP or on wealth. The latter is not possible if the wage-price loop is powerful. Two reruns of history are presented in this article by Andrew Blake and Martin Weale. The first uses the exchange rate mainly to look after money GDP with wages following their historical behaviour. The second uses fiscal policy to look after money GDP and the exchange rate to look after national wealth. It requires a reform of wage bargaining to be successful.

##### *World depression and the price level*

The object of this article by A J Brown is to examine the behaviour of the price level in major world depression, mainly for the sake of any light that may be thrown on the process of price formation in general and on the present situation in particular.

##### *Modelling manufacturing imports*

A note by R Anderton and M Desai uses a systematic approach in order to arrive at an imports of manufactures specification which will reveal the differential effects of individual components of aggregate demand upon imports in modelling the UK economy.

#### **Reference**

*National Institute Review* No 123 February 1988, available from The National Institute of Economic and Social Research, 2 Dean Trench Street, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HE (Price: annual subscription £45 net or £12.50 net per single issue).

#### **Labour Market Quarterly Report March 1988**

The March issue of the *Labour Market Quarterly Report* was published by the MSC on 14 March 1988. In addition to the usual commentary on current labour market trends it includes two Special Features. The first article describes how different Forecasters view the future development of the UK Labour market to the year 2000. The second Special Feature carries the results of the third sweep of the England and Wales Youth Cohort Study and looks at the Transition from School to Work.

For further information, or copies of the LMQR please contact:

Darren Howson, MSC, LM5  
Room W815,  
Moorfoot,  
Sheffield S1 4PQ  
Telephone (0742) 7040475.

#### **University of Essex papers**

The Department of Government at the University of Essex has launched a series of 49 academic papers on politics and Government. Prices vary up to £3.50 and includes postage and packing. (Add 60p per paper for postage outside Britain). Orders (with payment please) to Publications Officer, Department of Government, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex CO4 3SQ. Cheques to be made payable to University of Essex. It is important that cheques from abroad are denominated in sterling.

In the Autumn of 1988 the Department of Government will launch the publication of a series of working papers on 'Ideology and Discourse Analysis', whose general editor will be Dr Ernesto Laclau.



### Swedish Journal of Official Statistics

Each year the *Swedish Journal of Official Statistics* (JOS) devotes one of its four issues to a special topic. The next special issue will be on telephone survey methodology and will be published in co-operation with the International Conference and Edited Monograph on Telephone Survey Methodology, held in Charlotte, NC, USA, November 8-11, 1987.

There have been great advances in telephone survey methodology during the past few years. As of yet, there is no work that deals extensively and exclusively with these recent advances, and it is the goal of the conference, the monograph, and this special issue to fill this gap.

The *Journal of Official Statistics* is a refereed scholarly journal published in English. We encourage articles on methodology and policy related to statistics produced by national offices and other statistical organisations. Our major emphasis is on applications. Manuscripts dealing with these topics are sought for other issues. JOS is published quarterly and the current subscription rate is 30 USD. All inquiries should be directed to the Chief Editor at the address below:

Journal of Official Statistics,  
Statistics Sweden  
S - 11581 Stockholm  
Sweden

### CONFERENCE

#### International Statistics: sources for business planning & market research

International statistics is the theme of a forthcoming seminar organised by the University of Warwick Business Information Service. It will take place on Friday, 1st July 1988 at the Arden House Conference Centre.

Information about overseas economic and market conditions is becoming increasingly vital to UK business. 1992 will see the beginning of the free market in the European Community which will increase opportunities in these markets but will also lead to increased competition. Internationally, the introduction of a new harmonised system of classification for imports and exports should pave the way for an improved flow of information to help in identifying market opportunities.

The purpose of the seminar is to review these developments and more specifically to give an overview of the many statistical sources available on overseas markets. Speakers will outline the range of statistics available from both official and non official sources and will also look at the increasing amount of relevant statistical information available on-line. In addition, markets which are of particular current interest will be covered in depth, including Europe and the Middle East.

The fee for the seminar, which includes tea, coffee, lunch and background papers, will be £90 for subscribers to the Business Information Service and £100 for non-subscribers.

Further details from:

Margaret Brittin,  
University of Warwick Business Information Service  
University of Warwick Library,  
Gibbet Hill Road,  
Coventry CV4 7AL.  
Telephone: 0203-523251/523051.

### GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL SERVICE

#### Review of Regular Surveys

Set out below is a list of recently completed quinquennial reviews of surveys to businesses and local authorities. These surveys are subject to a departmental review and a report which is monitored by the Survey Control Unit. Any enquiries concerning a survey or its review should be made to the appropriate departmental contact point given below.

#### I Surveys to businesses

Return of medically qualified staff at universities, medical schools, institutes etc.

Ms F M Borth  
Department of Health & Social Security  
Branch SR7  
Room 108  
Hannibal House  
Elephant and Castle  
London SE1 6TE

#### Composition of Main Livestock Rations

Average Growers Prices for Home Grown Herbage Seed  
Stocks of Cereals and Feedingstuffs held by Importers and Dealers

#### Cereal Disease Survey

Return of Stocks of Cocoa Beans and Cocoa products

#### EC Sugar Import Commitments

Mr B N Downie  
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
Stats 2  
Room 401  
Whitehall Place  
London SW1

#### Census of Employment and the monthly and quarterly employment enquiries (L2/L5 returns)

Mrs J Wells  
Department of Employment  
Stats C2  
Level 4  
Caxton House  
Tothill Street  
London SW1

#### II Surveys to Local Authorities

#### Registration of Blind Persons and Partially-sighted Persons

Mr A S MacDonald  
Scottish Education Department  
Social Work Services Group  
43 Jeffrey Street  
Edinburgh EH1 1DN

**Changes in the stock of maintained Primary and Secondary School Accommodation in Wales**

Mrs M A J Gronow  
Welsh Office  
Economic and Statistical Services  
Cathay's Park  
Cardiff  
CF1 3NQ

Road accidents resulting in Personal Injury ' — The review of the STATS 19 Road Accident Report Form has been issued as a statistical bulletin (DTp Statistics Bulletin (88)31, price £4.00)

Mrs J Akinbolu  
Department of Transport  
Room B2/41  
Romney House  
43 Marsham Street  
London SW1 3PY

**Appointment**

*Dr John Fox*, BSc Phd, has been appointed Chief Medical Statistician at the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, in succession to Dr M R Alderson who left OPCS last September. Dr Fox, currently Professor of Social Statistics and Director of the Social Statistics Research Unit at the City University, will take up his new post on 11 April.

John Fox, aged 41 was educated at Dauntsey's School, Wilts, and at University College and Imperial College of Science and Technology, London University, where he gained degrees in Mathematical Statistics.

After working in the Employment Medical Advisory Service on studies of respiratory disease among cotton, pottery and asbestos workers, he joined OPCS's Medical Statistics Division in 1975 and prepared the 1970-1972 Decennial Supplement on Occupational Mortality. He also worked on medical aspect of the OPCS Longitudinal Study and was responsible for *ad hoc* studies using the NHS Central Register. In 1980 he moved to City University where he became Professor of Social Statistics and, in 1983, founded the Social Statistics Research Unit. His main research interest in the past few years has been in the design and analysis of two national longitudinal studies, the OPCS Longitudinal Study and the National Child Development Study.

As Chief Medical Statistician he will be in charge of OPCS's work on mortality and morbidity statistics for England and Wales. Dr Fox will work closely with the Registrar General's Medical Advisory Committee which is about to be reconstituted to advise OPCS, particularly on the development of strategy and priorities for its work in the medical statistics field. He will continue his link with City University for one day a week in order to help with the next phase of the National Child Development Study.

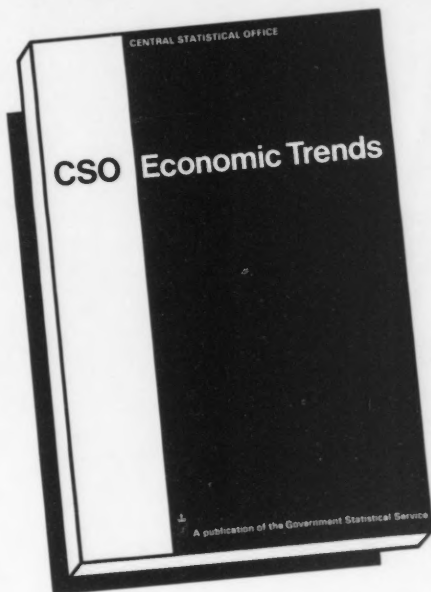
Dr Fox is Vice President of the British Society for Population Studies and is a member of the Councils of the Royal Statistical Society and the Society for Social Medicine.





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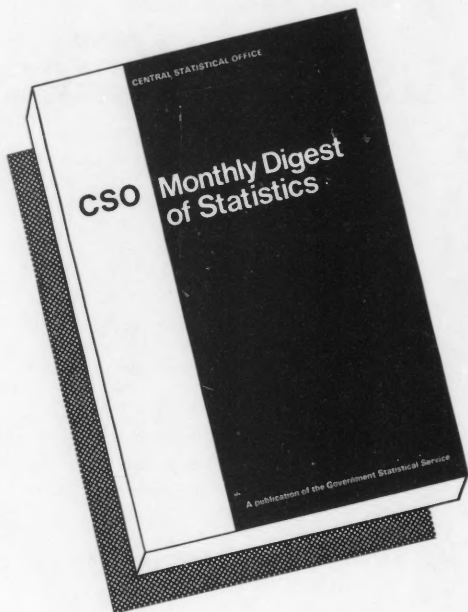
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 United Kingdom Tables  
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 Performance Indicators for the National Health Service  
 The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Archive - The Practice  
 of Data Ecology

Neil Harvey and Peter Stibbard  
 Howard Newby

Robin Lynch  
 Shekhar Nandy  
 Antonia Roberts

Eric Tanenbaum

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 John Knight  
 Arthur Barnett  
 Tom Griffin

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Maurice Wilde, Frank Hutber, Dombey Wallage  
 and John Brant

The puzzle of a Global Balance of Payments Discrepancy  
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 The good, the bad and the ugly: multiple stratified sampling  
 in the 1986 Welsh House Condition Survey

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 Martin Fessey  
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 Ed Swires-Hennessey  
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 comparing Census Characteristics of NFS Respondents and  
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 Passenger Surveys at Major United Kingdom Airports  
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Eric J. Thompson

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 Stephen Nash  
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Copies of the above and earlier articles and also of *Economic Trends* articles may be obtained from: Central Statistical Office, Room 74B/3, Great George Street, London SW1P 3AQ, on payment of £1.50 per copy to cover postage and handling. The appropriate remittance should accompany each order. Cheques, etc., should be made payable to 'The Cabinet Office'.

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