



National Statistics

Annual Report 2006/07

Presented to Parliament by
the Financial Secretary to the Treasury
by Command of Her Majesty, July 2007

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Foreword by the National Statistician

This is the seventh National Statistics Annual Report. Once again, it gives details of the excellent progress that has been made by the statisticians and analysts working across the Government Statistical Service (GSS) and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) towards meeting the plans set out in the *National Statistics Work Programme 2005/06–2007/08*.

One of the developments in which I and my GSS colleagues have been closely involved is the work to support independence for statistics including ONS Independence. In November 2005 the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced his intention to make ONS independent from the Government and to make the governance and publication of official statistics the responsibility of a wholly separate body at arm's length from the Government and fully independent of it. Over the period of this report, a small team drawn from ONS and the wider GSS has been working closely with HM Treasury officials to support the Statistics and Registration Service Bill during its passage through Parliament. This work is extremely important as the proposal to make statistics more independent has provided us with a once in a generation opportunity to evaluate critically the current statistical system and put forward proposals to deliver a 21st century Statistical Service with a sound statutory base.

One of the biggest potential benefits to come from independence for statistics will be the ability for government departments to share administrative data more easily than they are currently able to do. This helps to reduce the burden which individuals and businesses face in responding to government surveys. Chapter 6 gives more details of the work that ONS has been doing to reduce its compliance burden.

Over the last few years, GSS statisticians have made increasing use of administrative data – that is, data collected as part as an administrative system rather than a dedicated survey. This has allowed statisticians to link datasets in ways that would not previously have been possible to produce new statistical outputs. This data linkage has been particularly useful in producing small area statistics, and Neighbourhood Statistics is a great example of what can be achieved, with the public now able to get an increasing variety of data for their local area, including in the past year data on crime and fire incidence. Chapter 10 gives more details of how the GSS is making more use of administrative data and how confidentiality is being safeguarded.

The ONS Modernisation Programme, now known as Odyssey, has brought together all of ONS's statistical



modernisation efforts into a single programme. Progress in the last 12 months will deliver benefits that can be extended more widely than originally envisaged and will lead to a more efficient and improved statistical capability. Chapter 7 gives more details on the Programme's achievements and future direction.

The Census of Population is the UK's biggest statistical operation. It is the only time that the majority of the UK population directly interacts with the GSS. It is extremely important that the Census is conducted as efficiently and effectively as possible and that it delivers an accurate and timely count of the UK population. Statisticians in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are already hard at work planning for the next Census in 2011 and in the past 12 months have begun to consult with the public on the type of questions which should be included. Chapter 8 gives more details of the work that has been done in the last year and the preparations for the upcoming Census tests in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The UK Centre for the Measurement of Government Activity (UKCeMGA) has continued its groundbreaking work to improve estimates of government productivity. This type of statistical analysis is crucial and it is an area where the UK is leading the field and exporting its knowledge and expertise to the rest of the world. Chapter 11 gives details of the latest developments.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Dunnell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Dunnell
National Statistician
Director of the Office for National Statistics
Head of the Government Statistical Service

About this Report

This report summarises work carried out across the Government Statistical Service (GSS) during the last financial year against the plan set out in the preceding National Statistics three-year Work Programme.

Publication of this report also meets one of the key responsibilities assigned to the National Statistician in the *Framework for National Statistics*, namely:

‘to prepare an annual report on the performance of National Statistics to the Chancellor, as Minister for National Statistics’.

This year’s report describes progress against the Work Programme during 2006/07, across three main areas of work:

- major developments that cut across departmental or Theme boundaries
- work carried out under the aegis of the 12 National Statistics Theme Working Groups (TWGs), and
- quality improvements carried out in the context of the National Statistics Quality Review Programme

Throughout this report readers will come across references to a number of inter-related terms and concepts, and these are explained more fully below.

What are official statistics?

Official statistics embrace a range of numerical information and cover all those statistics that fall within the managerial responsibility of any official working for the state. They include:

- collected statistics – any statistics gathered by government through formal censuses, statistical surveys and statistical inquiries, either directly or through sponsorship or contractual/outsourcing arrangements
- administrative or management statistics – any statistics generated as a by-product of any operational, management or administrative system established, for example, to collect taxes, provide benefits or deliver services
- other statistics – statistics generated to help the work of government, for example internal operational figures relating to personnel and performance

Official statistics are either managed or produced by any of the following:

- any civil servant working within central government – made up of government departments, devolved administrations, and their agencies, also known as ‘Central Government Statistics’
- any official working in local government and its agencies, also known as ‘Local Government Statistics’
- any official working in any one of the many thousands of public bodies – this category includes quasi-government organisations, such as non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), quasi-autonomous non-government organisations (quangos) and any other public body funded by central or local government

Framework for National Statistics

The *Framework for National Statistics* was published in June 2000 and describes the governance and administration arrangements for National Statistics. It sets out the aims and objectives of National Statistics, outlining the roles and responsibilities of the major participants – ministers, the Statistics Commission, the National Statistician, and Heads of Profession for Statistics (HoPs). The Framework also describes the equivalent governance arrangements for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Government Statistical Service

The GSS is a decentralised body spread across more than 30 government departments, agencies and devolved administrations. The National Statistician, as well as being the Director of the Office for National Statistics (ONS), is the Head of the GSS. There are more than 7,000 civil servants working in the GSS, whether in ONS, in other government departments and organisations, or the devolved administrations. Their primary function is to collect, analyse and disseminate statistics. The GSS works closely with the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), which is not formally part of the GSS, to ensure, as far as possible, the coherence and compatibility of statistical activities. GSS staff operate within an ONS-administered personnel framework that sets standards for recruitment, qualifications, competence and training. They come under the managerial authority of a designated HoP. Appendix B of this report shows all those organisations in which members of the GSS work.

For the purposes of this report, where the term GSS is used it also encompasses the activities of NISRA.

Statistical Heads of Profession

Every government department or agency with a significant GSS presence, in terms of either its production or use of GSS statistics, has its own HoP, and each of the three devolved administrations has a Chief Statistician who performs the same

functions. The National Statistician, along with her other roles, is the HoP for ONS, but delegates some of her HoP responsibilities, in equal shares, to the Heads of ONS's Statistical Directorates. Appendix B shows those organisations with a statistical Head of Profession.

National Statistics Theme Working Groups

One of the key aims of the *Framework for National Statistics* is to improve the coherence and relevance of the statistics produced by the more than 30 departments, agencies and administrations from which the GSS is formed. One way of achieving this is through the 12 National Statistics Theme Working Groups. Each TWG has responsibility for a specific area of national life – such as 'Crime and Justice', the 'Economy' and 'Health and Care' – bringing together statistical representatives from each of the government departments, agencies and devolved administrations. Their role is to develop and implement coherent work plans for those National Statistics and official statistics that fall within their remit. These are then collated and published in the *National Statistics Work Programme*. TWGs play a key role in generating and monitoring Quality Reviews of key outputs within their remit, which they do under the auspices of the National Statistics Quality Review Programme. Appendix B shows the links between each of the organisations that make up the GSS and each of the TWGs.

National Statistics

The term 'National Statistics' covers a designated set of official statistics under the managerial control of statisticians working in the GSS. National Statistics are produced in accordance with the *Framework for National Statistics*, and are expected to meet the high professional standards set out in the *National Statistics Code of Practice* and its supporting Protocols. National Statistics are also subject to regular quality assurance reviews and are free from any political influence.

To obtain this identity, official statistics must meet National Statistics standards for quality and integrity, and one of the long-term aims behind the launch of the concept in June 2000 was to expand the total set of official statistics that can be called 'National Statistics'.

National Statistics Code of Practice – Statement of Principles

The *National Statistics Code of Practice* sets out the high-level standards, and key principles and practices that all producers of National Statistics across government are expected to follow and uphold. The Code is supplemented by 12 separate Protocols providing producers with practical guidance on how to apply the principles of the Code to a range of statistical activities. The National Statistician is the final authority on the interpretation of the Code of Practice.

Scope of National Statistics

The *Framework for National Statistics* gives government ministers the responsibility for deciding the scope of National Statistics:

'Ministers will take decisions about the coverage of National Statistics in the light of the costs and benefits involved'.

In practice, the decision on whether or not to designate any particular output as a 'National Statistic' is usually arrived at through negotiation. The HoPs in each government department, or the Chief Statisticians in each of the three devolved administrations, can initiate the process and, in so doing, will involve the National Statistician. The latter has to ensure that the statistics are of the right quality and generated in accordance with the *National Statistics Code of Practice*. However, the minister of the relevant department has the final authority, when the standards are met, to

determine designation. The long-term aim is that all GSS statistics will qualify to become National Statistics.

Over time, statistics can also have their National Statistics designation withdrawn. This can occur, for instance, because of statisticians' concerns about quality, or where a minister finds the operational constraints of the Code of Practice too restrictive. Appendix D gives details of those statistics that have been included within, or withdrawn from, the scope of National Statistics in the last year.

By the launch of National Statistics in June 2000, most government departments had categorised the majority of their key GSS statistics as National Statistics. In the case of ONS, all its outputs were automatically designated National Statistics.

Ministry of Justice

A new Ministry of Justice (MoJ) was created in May 2007, bringing together the responsibilities of the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) and subsuming some of the responsibilities of the Home Office, including those relating to the Prison and Probation Services. The MoJ is responsible for policy on the overall criminal, civil, family and administrative justice systems, as well as the courts, tribunals, legal aid and constitutional reform. The Home Office has retained its other responsibilities, including those for policing, anti-social behaviour, drugs, crime reduction, immigration, asylum and identity management (identity cards and passports). In general, when this report deals with statistical matters which were the responsibility of the DCA but that are now the responsibility of the new MoJ, it refers to the arrangements in place in 2006/07, but contact details have been updated to take account of the change.

An Introductory Note on Statistical Legislation

On 21 November 2006 the Government introduced its Statistics and Registration Service Bill into the House of Commons. The Bill is designed to build on the far-reaching reforms introduced in the *Framework for National Statistics*, published in June 2000, by entrenching statistical independence in legislation. Further details are available on the Bill home page of the Parliament website:

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/pabills/200607/statistics_and_registration_service.htm

The Bill provides for the creation of a Statistics Board which will provide oversight for the Office for National Statistics and operate at arm's length from ministers as a non-ministerial department. The new Board will have a statutory responsibility to promote and safeguard: the production and publication of official statistics that serve the public good, wherever produced in government; the comprehensiveness and quality of official statistics; and good statistical practice. All of the responsibilities currently assigned to ONS, with the exception of certain civil registration functions,

will transfer to the new Board. The Statistics Commission will cease to exist and its functions will be subsumed by the Board, and placed on a statutory footing.

The statistical legislation, and associated reform programme will play a major role in shaping governance, structures and activities across the official statistical system in the coming months and years.

As a consequence, some of the detailed proposals and plans articulated in previous versions of the *National Statistics Work Programme* have been reviewed in order to ensure that they continue to complement the Government's overall objectives for the new statistical system; reflect the new governance arrangements; and match the likely requirements of the new Statistics Board. In some cases this has meant putting planned developments on hold, while in other cases it has meant giving them a different emphasis.

Chapter 13 gives more information on the work that has been done over the last 12 months to support statistical independence.



strategic developments



National Statistics Strategy

Background

A number of key clauses in the Statistics and Registration Service Bill, published on 21 November 2006, provide for the creation of a Statistics Board with a set of objectives that bear close comparison with the strategic objectives set out in the *National Statistics Work Programme 2005/06–2007/08*.

The Board's objectives will be to promote and safeguard:

- the production and publication of official statistics that serve the public good
- the quality of official statistics (including their impartiality, accuracy, relevance and coherence with other official statistics)
- good practice in relation to official statistics (including the accessibility of official statistics), and
- the comprehensiveness of official statistics

In parallel, ONS officials, working with colleagues from across the Government Statistical Service (GSS), have developed a strategy to address the low level of public confidence in official statistics. This strategy complements the aims of legislation and is centred around:

- improving the quality and coherence of statistical outputs
- improving the method by which statistics are communicated, and
- making statistics more accessible

In view of these provisions, the National Statistician's strategic approach to the UK statistical system has been to press ahead with the overall strategy formulated in the Work Programme, but to keep its detail and implementation under review and to adapt the whole in the light of legislative developments.

Additional changes to the National Statistics Strategy may be necessary once the Bill has completed its passage through both Houses of Parliament and received Royal Assent.

Building trust

The strategic aims and objectives that underpin

the production of National Statistics within the current statistical system are set out in the *Framework for National Statistics* (2000) and can be summarised in one word – 'trust'.

If a statistical service is to be effective, the community that it serves must have a high degree of confidence not only in the statistics that it produces but also in the principles and practices that it espouses. Put simply, if stakeholders cannot place their trust in official statistics then they are unlikely to base their decisions on those figures. To be fully effective, however, a statistical service needs to be trusted for more than just the reliability of the figures it produces. It needs to be trusted, as well, for the integrity of its people and processes, its freedom from political interference, and its ability to maintain the security of the information that data providers entrust to it.

Building a reputation based on trust can take a relatively long time. Conversely, trust in official statistics can be eroded very quickly because of simple mistakes in compilation, perceptions of political interference in professional decisions, or suspicions about the way that statistical results are presented.

The National Statistics Strategy is based around building trust in official statistics throughout every stage in the statistical value chain. Every process – from deciding work programmes, to collecting and analysing data, to the presentation of results – must be conducted in a manner that reinforces and enhances trust. The following sections describe, in different ways, how ONS and all the other departments and administrations that are affiliated to the GSS, as well as the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), are working to this end.

Becoming world class

The main focus of the National Statistics Strategy is to lay the foundations of trust by encouraging all staff involved in the production of National Statistics to emulate international best practice and become recognised as world leaders through

the integrity of their methods, practices, systems and statistics.

A world-class statistical system is one which does the following:

- provides a vital contribution to the effective and efficient management and development of the Government's knowledge base
- provides relevant and timely advice to help form evidence-based policy
- produces comprehensive National Statistics accessible to all
- delivers every statistic on time with reliability, coherence and accessibility
- is an exemplar of good statistical practice
- provides leadership and support to the rest of the UK's public sector statistical service, through the development of statistical infrastructure, methodology and practice
- plays a leading role in the international statistics community
- continually seeks to improve its products and processes, and
- provides a framework for its members to make full use of their talents and develop their skills

To achieve this aim, all those involved in the production of National Statistics are expected to base all their statistical activities on the five key principles outlined below:

Relevance

If statistical data are to meet the needs of government, business and the community, they must be timely, reliable, easily accessible, based on transparent and effective consultation with stakeholders, and fit for purpose.

Integrity

The cost of accessing and analysing data is significantly reduced when data providers trust the statistical service to handle their personal and business information fairly, legally and sensitively, and with an absolute guarantee of confidentiality. The benefits of published statistics

can be absorbed more rapidly, and their impact and value increased when users can depend on the independence and impartiality of the producers and place their trust in the information that they produce.

Quality

The desire to improve the quality of official statistics lies at the heart of the National Statistics Strategy. At a practical level, it gives purpose to the National Statistics Quality Review Programme, but it also underpins the aims of:

- developing a modern technical infrastructure
- focusing on integrated, documented systems and processes
- developing a human resources programme to ensure that staff of the right calibre are recruited and retained, and which encourages their further professional development, and
- improving the communications strategy

The GSS and NISRA will be judged not only on the more technical quality attributes of their statistical processes, but also on the quality of their people and all that they do, from the development of professional competence to effective management and the fostering of an open, dynamic culture.

Accessibility

National Statistics is committed to timely, fair and open access. It means that those involved in producing National Statistics need to consider how to present information in a way that will ensure its widest use. Privileged access, where it occurs, must be plainly justified, transparent and rigorously controlled. All information should be adequately described, explained and documented.

Efficiency

Another key objective of the Strategy is to operate efficiently by improving value for money in the production of outputs and by minimising the contribution of time and effort required from data providers.

Measuring achievement

Success in achieving world-class status will be measured across three sets of criteria:

- the extent to which National Statistics products and services are commonly perceived to embody the values set out in the *National Statistics Code of Practice* and its complement, the *European Statistics Code of Practice*
- the extent to which official statistics help decision-makers to engage in a timely and decisive way on key political and strategic issues, such as:
 - globalisation
 - devolution and regionalisation
 - modernising government and e-government
 - developing the knowledge economy
 - demographic change
 - neighbourhood renewal
 - sustainable development
 - data protection and freedom of information
 - public services delivery
- the degree to which statistical products are ‘fit for purpose’ and meet the needs of the whole user community

Putting the strategy into effect

The key components listed below will support the implementation of the National Statistics Strategy. Included is a programme of modernisation that initially affects only ONS, but which will eventually deliver benefits for the UK statistical system as a whole:

- **Code of Practice** – the *National Statistics Code of Practice* and its 12 supporting Protocols provide the GSS and NISRA with a detailed and codified framework of principles and practices designed to ensure the quality and credibility of their outputs. For further information see chapter 2
- **Communication** – an e-dissemination strategy designed to encourage the best and widest use of the mass of statistics and related data generated as National Statistics
- **Quality and methodology** – a re-engineered programme of monitoring and improvement designed to bring GSS and NISRA products up

to world-class standards. For further information see chapter 3

- **International engagement** – a strategy for promoting international co-operation and harmonisation with the aim of embedding international ‘best practice’ both in the UK and partner countries. For further information see chapter 4
- **People** – a human resources programme capable of attracting and retaining the best people and enhancing their expertise, experience and employability. For further information see chapter 5
- **Customers** – a system for strengthening links with the customer base. For further information see chapter 6

A modernisation programme led from within ONS will supplement the six government-wide initiatives detailed above and will have long-term implications for National Statistics as a whole. The modernisation of ONS will provide those involved in the production of official statistics in the UK with an information management platform that will underpin methodological advances, and allow rapid access to statistical measures and statistical sources. For further information see chapter 7.

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National Statistics Code of Practice and Supporting Protocols

Introduction

The *National Statistics Code of Practice* and its 12 supporting Protocols provide the professional and procedural backdrop to the progress reports described elsewhere in this volume.

Background – the existing Code and Protocols

The launch of National Statistics in June 2000 signalled the commitment of both the UK Government and the devolved administrations to improving public trust and confidence in the integrity and quality of official statistics. The new arrangements were set out in the *Framework for National Statistics* and were designed to:

- safeguard the professional independence of official statisticians by introducing the necessary distance between ministers and statistical operations
- encourage greater transparency and accountability in the statistical process
- establish a statistical service that is open and responsive to the public agenda, and to the needs of providers and users, and
- deliver better and more reliable official statistics that command public confidence

Improving public confidence

To further these aims, the GSS:

- introduced more rigorous professional standards for official statistics, particularly those designated as National Statistics
- implemented a government-wide quality improvement programme, and
- continued to invest in better statistical methods and systems to improve operational efficiency and to minimise the burden on respondents

The implementation of a professional *Code of Practice for National Statistics* was central to this effort.

National Statistics Code of Practice

The *National Statistics Code of Practice* was formally launched at the National Statistics Open Day on 11 October 2002 under the title *National Statistics Code of Practice – Statement of Principles*.

National Statistics Protocols

Two supporting Protocols were published alongside the Code in October 2002: one relating to *Release Practices* and the other to *Consultation Arrangements between the National Statistician and UK Government Ministers*. A further ten Protocols were published over the next two years and by the end of 2004/05 all 12 Protocols were published on the National Statistics website.

Additional policy formulation – third-tier documentation

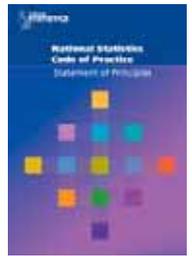
Some of the Protocols placed an obligation on departments to publish further statements or policies giving additional information on the way that the Code and Protocols will be implemented. These supporting third-tier documents form the core of the National Statistics Compliance Statements that have been published by each department.

Developments in 2006/07

European Statistics Code of Practice

In November 2005 Eurostat launched the *European Statistics Code of Practice*. The Code is based on 15 principles covering the institutional environment, statistical processes and outputs. A set of indicators of good practice for each of the 15 principles has been developed and each country has completed a self-assessment questionnaire to determine its compliance with the Code.

In the last year, a small team of statisticians from ONS has worked with statisticians from other European countries and Eurostat to carry out peer reviews of compliance with the Code. These peer reviews result in a report published at country level, focusing on the principles reviewed. The report also includes a set of improvement actions covering all principles of the Code which are also used to inform the process of monitoring the implementation of the Code across the European Statistical System (ESS). Peer reviews contribute to a more complete picture of adherence to the Code at ESS level, identifying any common difficulties or gaps with regard to compliance with the Code and helping to identify and promulgate best practice.





Revised Protocol on Statistical Integration

The National Statistician has been considering plans to publish a revised version of the *Protocol on Statistical Integration* to cover, in addition, the application of National Statistics standards to the development and management of statistical classifications. Among other matters, the revamped *Protocol on Statistical Integration and Classification* will address issues raised by sectoral classification, and the classification of transactions, within the UK National Accounts. The new Protocol will be presented for public consultation in 2007/08.

Code of Conduct

One key provision in the Statistics and Registration Service Bill will require the Statistics Board to prepare, adopt and publish a Code of Practice for National Statistics. This new Code of Practice is likely to apply to the organisations producing official statistics as well as to the statistics they produce. To complement this new Code, the National Statistician has been considering the possible format and content of a separate 'Code of Conduct for the GSS', which will set out the values and principles to which government statisticians themselves will be expected to adhere.

Compliance with, and enforcement of, the Code

Responsibility for complying with the *National Statistics Code of Practice* lies with the Statistical Heads of Profession (HoPs) in each of the departments or agencies responsible for producing National Statistics and with each of the Chief Statisticians in the devolved administrations.

HoPs and Chief Statisticians document their operational compliance with the Code in their departmental compliance statements. These are published on their departmental websites and can also be viewed via a portal on the National Statistics website.

Monitoring and reporting

The National Statistician considers any breach of the Code to be a serious matter and she requires all HoPs and Chief Statisticians to monitor compliance

with the Code in their own department, administration or agency, and to report any instance of non-compliance as and when it happens. These reports detail instances either of 'exceptions' to or 'breaches' of the Code:

- **Exceptions** to the Code or Protocols occur when a decision is made in advance not to adhere to normal practice, for example, when additional early access to a release is granted, or a pre-announced release date is changed at late notice. Exceptions must be agreed by HoPs or Chief Statisticians and reported to the National Statistician as they occur
- **Breaches** of the Code or Protocols occur in situations where a non-observance of the Code was not approved by the National Statistician or HoP/Chief Statistician in advance of its happening. An example would be a 'leak' to the media, whether deliberate or accidental

Each breach report contains full details of the circumstances surrounding the breach and details any remedial action taken by the department at the time of the breach. It also sets out steps to prevent any recurrence. Once the National Statistician is satisfied with the action that the department has taken, a copy of this report is passed to the Statistics Commission.

Compliance in 2006/07

During the year some HoPs and Chief Statisticians reported to the National Statistician that they had deliberately permitted a number of exceptions to the principles embodied in the *Protocol on Release Practices*, while others reported a few instances of perceived or actual breaches. On a few occasions, and as a result of normal monitoring of media reports, the National Statistician felt compelled to approach a few HoPs with her own concerns about perceived breaches.

Notifications of actual or perceived non-compliance tended to focus on the *Protocol on Release Practices* and involved cases that compromised the principles of 'equality of access', 'orderly release', and documented early access, for example:

- third parties accidentally disclosing the figures before their formal release
- ‘trailing’ statistics to the media before their formal release
- releasing departmental statements about the figures prior to the release of the statistics themselves, and
- extending pre-release access to undocumented officials

Investigations and enquiries suggested that one of the main causes of such breaches was a lack of familiarity with the finer points of the Code and Protocols among non-statistical officials and policy advisers. Their early access to statistics, either for briefing purposes or, in the case of management or administrative statistics, their early and close involvement in the compilation and analysis of such statistics, places them in a position where they can compromise, often unwittingly, the strict requirements of the Code.

In most cases, HoPs and Chief Statisticians have been able to address the situation by engaging with their department’s policy officials, explaining the rationale behind the Code and seeking greater acceptance of its provisions.

Application of the Code

Formally, the *Code of Practice* applies only to those statistics designated as National Statistics. However, the National Statistician is working with HoPs and Chief Statisticians to extend the use of the Code as a best practice model for all government statistical work. From the outset, the intention was that all statistics produced by the GSS, regardless of their designation, should follow, at the very least, the Code’s standards covering:

- confidentiality and access
- methodology
- quality assurance, and
- value for money

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Quality and Methodology

Introduction

This chapter describes the work undertaken in 2006/07 to improve quality and methodology across National Statistics. The theme chapters contain detailed information on the work being undertaken on specific topics within each theme.

The need for quality standards for official statistics was given further prominence during the year with the introduction of the Statistics and Registration Service Bill. The objective of the Statistics Board, which will be established by the Bill, is 'promoting and safeguarding the quality of official statistics, good practice in relation to official statistics, and the comprehensiveness of official statistics'. A new statutory Code of Practice will provide the underlying set of principles and standards against which all National Statistics will be expected to comply.

The six main elements of the quality work are set out below.

Setting standards for quality

The *European Statistics Code of Practice*, promulgated in the European Commission recommendation of 25 May 2005, aims to establish the independence, integrity and accountability of the national and Community statistical institutes. The Code is based on 15 principles covering the institutional environment, statistical processes and outputs. In 2006/07 ONS has also worked with key Government Statistical Service (GSS) departments that supply European statistics to produce a compliance statement for UK statistics. A process of external reviews for European National Statistical Institutes against the Code of Practice started in 2006/07 and ONS staff have participated in this process as reviewers. UK statistics will be assessed in September 2007.

Building sound methodologies and tools into statistical sources and outputs

The National Statistics Methodology Advisory Committee is a forum designed to allow interested and experienced professional statisticians from outside government to provide peer reviews on

methodological issues. The Advisory Committee met twice in 2006/07, holding one-day meetings in May and November. Nine papers were discussed, including papers on methodologies for the 2007 Census Test design and on a discussion of the modifiable area unit problem.

This forum also provides an opportunity to build and strengthen links between the GSS and the rest of the statistical profession by openly discussing National Statistics methods and allowing statisticians outside the GSS to gain a better insight into the range of interesting and challenging problems that government statisticians face.

A cross-departmental steer on issues around quality management is provided by the National Statistics Quality and Methodology Programme Board. The Board is made up of Heads of Profession who are responsible for progressing the quality strategy, sharing best practice and supporting the uptake of good statistical methods across National Statistics.

The eleventh GSS Methodology Conference was held in 2006. This event brings together people from across the GSS who are working on methodological developments and applications, in order to share experiences and provide a forum for learning about different methods and techniques. The conference was titled 'Statistics for Funding Allocation' and 21 papers were presented. The conference included speakers from Imperial College, London, and Mathematica Policy Research from the United States.

Effective management: project management, risk management and skills development

The new GSS framework for Continuing Professional Development was implemented during this reporting year. This framework is aligned with the frameworks for other professional groups and is part of the wider Professional Skills for Government Programme. It requires all statistical professionals to maintain a level of professional development and this requirement was also emphasised as part of the Royal Statistical Society's Professional

Development Programme. There are many opportunities open to GSS statisticians to continue their professional development and ONS supports the MSc in Official Statistics through the University of Southampton. Other courses are also available, with the ONS Statistical Training unit delivering a course that supports the RSS Ordinary Certificate, and ONS also provides Methodology Workshops for GSS staff.

GSS departments continue to provide staff with skills training in project and risk management. For significant programme work this is evaluated through the Office of Government Commerce Gateway Review process.

Comprehensive and accessible documentation

ONS has made good progress on providing users with increased documentation on its statistical products. A standard Quality Report has been developed by ONS as a means of documenting the strengths and limitations of its data and these provide a clear and up-to-date documentation of surveys, outputs and processes. They will facilitate effective use of the statistics and support continued improvement in the processes.

Twelve reports were introduced in 2006/07 to add to the four developed in 2005/06. The new reports covered statistics including Consumer Prices Index, Public Sector Finances, UK Trade, Monthly Wages and Salaries, Annual Business Inquiry, Producer Price Index, Labour Disputes, e-commerce, Mergers and Acquisitions, Foreign Direct Investment, and International Migration. Further quality reports are being developed for other statistical outputs.

Quality measurement

The ONS *Guidelines for Measuring Statistical Quality* have been further refined and a third version published. They now include quality measures as they relate to administrative data. These Guidelines provide a set of standards for measuring and reporting on quality of survey data. The Guidelines contain a wide range of quality

measures and indicators, grouped together in stages of the statistical production process. They also record the dimension of quality being measured in each case, using the six European Statistical System dimensions of quality.

Quality assurance, monitoring and improving quality

The National Statistics Quality Review programme was put on hold at the start of 2006, as a result of the announcement to introduce statistical legislation. This decision related to the proposal to have an assessment function as part of the legislation. The programme was a key requirement of the *Framework for National Statistics*, providing for a review of key statistics every five years. By the end of March 2007, 49 reviews had been published (see Appendix C).

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4

International Activity

Introduction

This chapter sets out how the Government Statistical Service (GSS) met its international objectives and aspirations for 2006/07, as set out in the *National Statistics Work Programme 2005/06–2007/08*.

Strategic influences and policy drivers

The most significant policy drivers for 2006/07 were the continuing development of the global statistical systems and the need to influence the European Union (EU) agenda by promoting the reduction of direct costs, as well as reducing the compliance burden (especially on businesses) of statistical surveys.

Other influences and policy drivers included: the continued development of statistical capacity across the world and resourcing technical assistance in support of this to be able to monitor progress against the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and national development plans; the need to be accountable for the UK aid provided to countries; and to support the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS).

Aims and objectives

The objectives set for statistics in the field of international activity were to:

- strengthen the governance of the European Statistical System (ESS)
- reprioritise the statistical agenda in the EU, and
- reach agreement on proposed new statistical regulations

Other objectives were to continue implementation of MAPS and to create the right mechanism to build sustainable capacity to effectively monitor the MDGs.

Strengthening governance

The aim of this objective was to ensure effective adherence to the *European Statistics Code of Practice* through active participation in the peer review process, promoting the creation of a High Level European Statistical Governance Advisory

Board and a reformed Advisory Committee on Community Statistical Information Policy. In addition, importance was placed on maximising burden reduction through influencing the development of the European Community Statistical Programme 2008–2012 and building effective bilateral working relationships with Eurostat and leading EU National Statistical Institutes (NSIs).

Statistical reprioritisation

The aim was twofold:

- with resources for statistics limited in most other member states, as well as the UK, demands for new statistics, for example of services and the new economy, can only be met by cutting back on resources elsewhere, such as detailed statistics on manufacturing – ONS has been instrumental in ensuring this approach remains on the EU agenda by promoting the reduction of direct costs, and
- to support the UK's Better Regulation agenda by reducing the compliance burden (especially on businesses) of statistical surveys

New regulations

ONS continues to represent the UK at the EU Council Working Party on Statistics. The key objective is to argue UK policy in order to influence the European Commission and other member states in the formulation of new statistical legislative proposals.

Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics

MAPS calls for a number of actions to enable substantial improvements in the operation of national statistical systems across the world and in the quality of data available for monitoring development outcomes. The actions fall broadly into two groups: those directed at improving national statistical systems and those directed at the activities of international statistical agencies, the multilateral development banks, and bilateral donors. The UK role is to support these developments through provision of resources, both financial and technical, to national statistical systems, and to work with the international agencies to create the right infrastructure for making the improvements.

Work in 2006/07

With increasing international integration, it is becoming ever more important to consider UK statistical performance in the context of the rest of the world. This requires ONS to play an active role in the development of statistics internationally. ONS has achieved this in a number of ways: determining standards for data collection; providing comparable, timely data to international organisations; and ensuring statistics are disseminated in an efficient and user-friendly fashion. ONS's involvement in the adoption of international standards helps safeguard public confidence in the integrity of official statistics.

More generally, ONS has continued to play a leading part in the development of the European and global statistical systems. ONS has contributed to the peer review process supporting the implementation of the *European Statistics Code of Practice*, is an active partner in a series of working groups helping to improve the operation of the ESS, and contributed to a high-level seminar at the United Nations, on the evolution of national statistical systems. In addition, ONS experts have continued to provide input to international work to revise the System of National Accounts.

During 2006/07 good progress was made towards meeting international objectives including:

- obtaining agreement at the UN Statistical Commission on National Accounts measurement
- continuing to support statistical capacity building in Ukraine and the International Comparison Programme (ICP) work in Africa
- ONS and Department for International Development (DFID), working jointly with the EU, to develop a strategy for supporting capacity building in Africa, resulting in the establishment of an Advisory Board
- building bilateral relationships with other NSIs
- strengthening relationships with other bilateral donors and with the United Nations on resourcing for capacity building to monitor the MDGs

- continuing support to the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS 21)
- over 80 countries either have or are developing National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)
- co-ordinating the ONS Executive Management Group International Committee and the GSS International Committee

In 2006/07 at the EU Council Working Party on Statistics, agreement was reached on new EU regulations concerning:

- statistical classification of economic activities
- European system of integrated social protection statistics
- Community statistics on the structure and activity of foreign affiliates
- Community statistics on migration and international protection
- amendment of the European System of Accounts (ESA) transmission programme
- Statistics on Education and Lifelong Learning
- Purchasing Power Parities
- Structural Business Statistics

Outcomes and outputs realised

Increased financial resources and increased demand for improved statistics for monitoring the MDGs are raising the profile of, and awareness for, the need for statistical capacity building. DFID is developing a new statistics strategy for addressing the needs and sourcing the expertise for this work.

ONS will also look to develop a strategy, working with partners in the ESS, for a more joined-up approach to statistical capacity building, especially in Africa.

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Introduction

The Government Statistical Service Human Resources Committee (GSS HRC) acts on behalf of the National Statistician and Heads of Profession for Statistics (HoPs), and takes the lead in developing and implementing the GSS Human Resources Strategy to attract, recruit, develop and retain sufficient numbers of people to meet current and future statistical workforce needs.

Each year the National Statistician and HoPs agree a programme of work for GSS HRC. GSS HRC volunteers take the lead for individual projects within the Work Programme, supported by the Statisticians in Government Team (SiGT). SiGT is the central unit in ONS that sets standards and manages GSS schemes to recruit professional staff. It also manages GSS induction training and other continuing professional development activities; provides career management advice; and maintains StatNet, the GSS intranet.

SiGT meets regularly with its analytical support team counterparts (economists, social researchers and operational researchers) to share good practice, and meets annually with European counterparts at the European Statistical Training Programme and the Human Resource Management Working Group chaired by Eurostat.

Work Programme for 2006/07

GSS HRC's Work Programme had three themes:

- Recruitment and Careers
- Professional Development, and
- Breaking down barriers and building networks

Overall GSS HRC had a successful year in 2006/07. Despite the Work Programme being ambitious, good progress was made on all priority areas of the Programme.

Recruitment and Careers

In 2006/07 there was a decline in central recruitment activity across both the fast stream Assistant Statistician (AS) and mainstream Statistical Officer (StO) schemes. This was due, in part, to head count restrictions across the Civil Service and

reduced demand for statistical staff from departments. In addition, the number of successful candidates was down on previous years and work will be done to arrest this decline in future.

The processes and procedures associated with the StO scheme were assessed by the Civil Service Commissioners and were given a rating of 'low risk'. In addition, the pool of AS assessors was refreshed, making it more diverse, with a better gender mix, and more interchangeable with the pool of StO assessors.

Statistical Officer – regional recruitment

The central StO recruitment scheme has now been split into three regional schemes:

- South – covering London, Portsmouth, Southend and High Wycombe
- West – covering Cardiff and Bath, and
- North – covering Leeds, Sheffield, Darlington, York and Newcastle upon Tyne

This new initiative means that the number of candidates invited to interview can now be tailored to the bids in that region. Interview boards are also taking place regionally with help from departments.

Recruitment and promotion standards for the GSS Statistician Group

A set of guidance to drive recruitment and promotion standards for the GSS Statistician Group has been developed and circulated to HoPs for comment. The guidance defines the means by which the GSS Statistician Group is recruited, promoted and professionally developed, and in effect defines the Statistician Group. It focuses on the following areas:

- harmonising the approach to achieving the principles of the *Protocol on Professional Competence*
- standards for internal and external recruitment
- how to become an accredited member of the Statistician Group
- standards for assessors
- continuing professional development (including the *Statistician Competence Framework*)

This guidance will be introduced to the rest of the GSS later in 2007/08.

Professional development

Continuing Professional Development policy

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) policy for the Statistician Group was launched in March 2006, and endorsed by HoPs as a vital tool to ensure that statistical staff acquire and retain the range of skills necessary to perform effectively throughout their careers.

The policy is defined broadly and embraces both 'statistical' and 'non-statistical' skills. A log book is used to record annual achievements and will provide a useful record of development throughout a statistician's career. From 1 April 2007 statisticians will be required to provide CPD evidence to GSS boards, as part of the selection process.

A number of activities were undertaken throughout 2006/07 in order to communicate the strategy to the GSS. These included:

- CPD sessions at two key GSS conferences
- CPD sessions on GSS induction courses
- departmental CPD sessions
- further development of the CPD micro site on StatNet, the GSS intranet
- a 'first impressions' CPD survey
- guidance for using CPD evidence at GSS selection boards
- early development work with statistical learning providers

Professional Skills for Government – Analysis and Use of Evidence

Professional Skills for Government (PSG) is a programme intended to enable civil servants to develop the skills and experience needed to design and deliver 21st century services. PSG is made up of a number of elements, including a set of six core competences. 'Analysis and Use of Evidence' (A&UoE) is included in the set and statisticians, along with the other analytical professions, are joint custodians of this particular core competence,

and so have an important part to play in helping non-analytical staff across government to develop in this area. With this in mind, the focus for 2006/07 was on the following activities:

- early development of a diagnostic tool for the Senior Civil Service, in collaboration with analytical counterparts
- development and delivery of a seminar for Senior Civil Service policymakers
- developing materials for A&UoE learning activities
- development of a Conference for Analytical Heads of Profession, in collaboration with analytical counterparts, and
- carrying out some analysis across the GSS to identify how statisticians are supporting the A&UoE core competence within their departments

GSS Induction Programme

The main aim of the GSS Induction Programme is to introduce participants to the GSS community and make them aware of developments in National Statistics. Focusing on a mix of statistical and managerial material, the course offers an insight into the roles of ASs and StOs, expectations in the workplace and opportunities available to support career development. Different styles of learning, the art of communication and an introduction to leadership are also covered. It provides an excellent opportunity to share experiences, exchange ideas and build up strong working relationships with statistical colleagues across the GSS.

A review of the GSS Induction Programme, carried out in 2006/07, found that the programme elements supported the needs of new entrant ASs and StOs very well. Some minor improvements were recommended and the Programme was put out to tender. A contract was awarded in early March 2007.

Breaking down barriers and building networks

Regional sharing

A checklist of possible self-help activities that might be carried out by regional groups has been produced and shared. Following the National

Statistician's visit to the North East, a regional NE group has been set up, and members have considered which themes from the checklist might form common priorities.

NHS Information Centre

Relationships are being built with NHS Information Centre colleagues. Discussion so far has centred around learning and development, competence frameworks and movement of staff between the Information Centre and other government departments.

Links with other professional analytical groups

The GSS continues to build links with professional analytical group counterparts, and outputs from collaboration in 2006/07 include:

- a survey of government analysts
- a conference for analytical HoPs – to be held in April 2007
- collaboration with the Government Economic Service on issues surrounding recruitment

Future work

The focus for 2007/08 will be on revitalising the GSS, and this work will be underpinned by the statistical independence agenda. It will cover four broad themes:

- recruitment and redeployment
- professional development
- careers, and
- breaking down barriers and building networks

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6

Relationships with Stakeholders

Introduction

The Government Statistical Service (GSS) operates within a complex web of contacts encompassing a wide range of individuals and organisations – including the Government, the media, businesses and the public – each of which has an interest (or a ‘stake’) in the service provided.

Central to the success of National Statistics is the ability to maintain and enhance mutually beneficial relationships with all these stakeholders, in order to obtain a clear understanding of their needs and to provide them with a timely and authoritative service in which they can trust.

National Statistics Code of Practice

Three of the Protocols that underpin the *National Statistics Code of Practice* focus on the relationships with stakeholders:

- The *Protocol on Managing Respondent Load* builds on the *Prime Minister’s Instructions on the Control of Statistical Surveys*, which currently apply to surveys of businesses and local authorities, and extends the management of the compliance load placed on data providers to a much wider range of surveys, including those for individuals and households
- The *Protocol on Consultation Arrangements between the National Statistician and UK Government Ministers* helps to ensure that ministers will have the information they need to discharge their policy responsibilities as well as their responsibilities for National Statistics
- The *Protocol on Customer Service and User Consultation* provides the producers of National Statistics with guidelines on how they can improve the relevance of their products and services to the wider user community through formal and informal consultation procedures

Data providers

A key aim of National Statistics is to keep the costs of compliance to an acceptable level and to collect data only when the benefits of a statistical survey exceed the cost to providers.

Survey Control Unit

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has responsibility for survey control across all government departments. The Survey Control Unit (SCU) aims to promote necessary surveys of the highest quality, prevent bad or unnecessary surveys and ensure that burdens on data providers are kept to a minimum. It is independent of the areas that conduct the business surveys and it serves to ensure that survey control procedures are followed by all parts of government. Particular emphasis is placed by the unit on ensuring that:

- the compliance load is clearly identified and estimated for at least three years
- new survey proposals are clearly justified and follow recognised guidelines for best practice
- alternative sources are thoroughly examined
- regular surveys are subject to periodic review

In the past year SCU has worked with the GSS to compile a full list of GSS statistical surveys. This list will help SCU to identify where proposed new surveys duplicate existing data sources. SCU needs to do more work to populate the list with full information on all of the survey variables collected and intends to publish it on the National Statistics website in due course.

SCU has also been updating the *Prime Minister’s Instructions on the Control of Statistical Surveys* in order to clarify departmental responsibilities for limiting the burden on respondents. The instructions have been amended to make it easier for departments to understand their roles and responsibilities and to update some of the thresholds, on which the instructions rely, in line with inflation. A full update and public release will need to be evaluated in the context of statistical independence.

SCU has started a rolling programme of peer reviews with other government departments to check compliance with the Prime Minister’s instructions. There have been two visits in 2006/07, to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and Her Majesty’s Revenue &

Customs (HMRC). In both cases survey control processes were found to be robust with the reviews identifying further useful enhancements.

Reducing the administrative burden caused by business surveys

ONS has statutory powers under the 1947 Statistics of Trade Act to oblige businesses to participate in business surveys and it relies on accurate information from businesses to produce a wide range of important economic statistics.

Demand for statistics by government and other users, including the business community, continues to grow, especially for information on the service sector and the new economy. The Government increasingly seeks an evidence base for policymaking, and nearly all business surveys are also required by European Union (EU) regulations and provide comparable economic statistics across the EU.

ONS has a long-term commitment to balancing this ever-increasing demand for improved statistics against the need to reduce the burden on businesses, and is working with the Government's Better Regulation Executive (BRE) to reduce this administrative burden by 25 per cent.

The Better Regulation agenda is about ensuring that the Government engages with stakeholders and delivers its policies in the best possible way. Success for ONS will be achieved if it delivers a net reduction of administrative costs and a real, tangible reduction in the burdens which respondents face that matter most to stakeholders.

Simplification Plan

In December 2006 ONS published *The ONS Simplification Plan* setting out how ONS intends to work with other government departments, the EU and businesses to reduce the administrative burden on business. This plan is part of the cross-government Better Regulation initiative to reduce regulatory burdens on business by 25 per cent by 2015. ONS has a firm target to reduce the load it places on businesses by 19 per cent by 2010, with further reductions dependent on data sharing

with other government departments and lower demands for business statistics from Europe.

This reduction will be achieved through initiatives such as using administrative data more fully, simplifying the requests for data from businesses and increasing the intervals between information requests. The plan also describes the progress already made to reduce the burden on businesses and sets out how ONS will work towards achieving a reduction in the administrative burdens it places on businesses by 25 per cent.

This *Simplification Plan* incorporates the ONS annual Compliance Plan which has helped ONS monitor and control the burden imposed on businesses by ONS surveys since 1994. It therefore includes a number of elements required by the *Prime Minister's Instructions on the Control of Statistical Surveys*, such as reporting on the performance against the published target in the 2005/06 Compliance Plan; a summary of the department's statistical outputs and their use; and details of the reviews of surveys undertaken. The *Simplification Plan* includes all surveys for which ONS has direct responsibility, but not those conducted on behalf of other government departments or agencies. However, ONS works closely with other government departments carrying out statistical surveys to ensure that all National Statistics surveys are of the highest quality and are conducted in line with the *National Statistics Code of Practice*, and that respondent load is kept to a minimum.

The burden on business is formally managed by the ONS Better Regulation Board, which ensures that the year's survey developments are reviewed in the light of their implications for compliance. This Board includes representatives from the Department of Trade and Industry and the Confederation of British Industry, who provide external advice and assess the response of the business community at the time decisions are made. ONS is expanding the membership of the Board to include a representative from the BRE, and is extending its responsibility to include monitoring progress against the *Simplification Plan*.

The *Simplification Plan* is available on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_other/simplificationplan2006.pdf

Stakeholder consultation and involvement

Two types of stakeholders need to be considered in any changes to business surveys – businesses that complete ONS survey questionnaires and a wide range of users within other government departments who depend on ONS's high-quality statistics to create evidence-based policies and monitor performance against them.

ONS has a longstanding policy of working co-operatively with the business community to make the collection of business statistics as easy as possible, and has a number of initiatives designed to make compliance with survey requests as easy as possible. The development of the Small Business Forum has allowed ONS to work with representatives from the business community to consider initiatives designed to limit the survey load on respondents. In addition, when ONS reviews its business surveys, both respondents and data users are involved in the consultation process and their opinions are reflected in the review's recommendations.

ONS will use the *Protocol on Customer Service and User Consultation* to ensure that users' views are reflected in the further development of this Plan and consultation is at an early stage.

Data collection initiatives

Response rates for social surveys

Response rates for social surveys declined slightly during 2006/07. Several factors contributed to this decline and a number of key initiatives are now in place to address the problem and improve response.

Interviewer capacity is a major contributory factor in declining response rates and this has an impact on all surveys. The highest turnover of interviewers tends to be in areas with the highest non-response and where the labour market is most competitive, particularly in cities and conurbations. This increases the proportion of inexperienced interviewers who generally have lower productivity and response rates.

A number of initiatives are in place to address recruitment and retention:

- focused recruitment in difficult areas – this has doubled the number of applicants attending Field Interviewer Training (FIT) in the first three months of 2007
- Assessment Centres are being used to select candidates – this ensures that applicants are aware of the nature of interviewing work and that the right candidates are selected for the job
- the interviewer contract has been simplified, and terms and conditions improved
- the initial FIT course has been developed and complemented by the introduction of mentors in the field

In addition to these initiatives, the efficiency and effectiveness of the interviewing field force are being examined. A new Performance Management System for interviewers has been introduced to identify and address productivity and training issues. A new Interviewer Development Programme has been developed and will be introduced towards the end of 2008, formalising existing arrangements for supporting and mentoring new interviewers.

ONS is working on developing a new Survey Case Management System (SCMS), which will produce an efficient allocation of work, minimising the distance between interviewers and their allocated sample. This will enable interviewers to spend more time chasing response. SCMS is due to go live in April 2008.

ONS is also working on introducing the Continuous Population Survey (CPS) in 2008, and the 'case by case' allocation method of SCMS is designed to work in tandem with the unclustered sample of the CPS to produce additional efficiencies for the field force.

Response rates for business surveys

Response rates for business surveys remained fairly robust throughout 2006/07 and ONS's programme to improve both the cost-effectiveness and the overall level of business survey response rates has ensured that rates have generally improved on those achieved during 2005/06.

One strand of this programme has been to review the way ONS communicates directly with respondents, in particular how ONS approaches them to complete survey questionnaires. This review resulted in the introduction of a standardised front page for all businesses questionnaires and also led to a revision in the way ONS prepares respondents to new surveys. The transfer of the Occupational Pension Schemes Survey from the Government Actuary's Department during 2006 provided ONS with an ideal opportunity to pilot this approach with businesses that were new to an ONS survey. These changes proved to be a great success with response rates improving significantly.

Business Survey staff within ONS are working closely with Methodology colleagues to investigate response rates and develop response-chasing strategies for business surveys in general. This strand of work includes an intensive follow-up project, which will be used to investigate the effects of non-response in the Monthly Inquiry into the Distribution and Services Sector, and development of methods used to prioritise non-responding businesses for response-chasing to reduce non-response bias.

Users

Official statistics are used regularly by a number of core user groups that put the data to a range of uses. They support decision-making in both the public and private sectors, and are used to monitor the performance of government and for a wide variety of research purposes in academia and elsewhere.

Statistics User Forum

The Royal Statistical Society Statistics User Forum (RSS SUF) is the main mechanism for consulting and taking into account the needs and views of the statistical community. ONS staff held regular liaison meetings with the RSS SUF Secretariat in 2006/07 to discuss issues of common interest and to share ideas and information.

The SUF held its latest annual conference in November 2006. The theme for the conference was new statistics from administrative and customer files and included speakers from ONS and other government departments.

Statistics Commission

The Statistics Commission is another important stakeholder. It has a role to play in the joint aim of improving public trust and confidence in official statistics as well as ensuring that National Statistics meet the needs of stakeholders. ONS has continued to meet regularly with the Commission's Secretariat to discuss issues of mutual interest and the National Statistician has met with the Chair of the Statistics Commission and she also attended a Commission Meeting in May 2006.

Key government stakeholders

ONS has a small team devoted to managing the relationship with ONS's key government stakeholders. The team's aim is to ensure that there are effectively managed relationships that deliver informed decision-making by both parties. This recognises that ONS is a major user of information from other sources and that it is just as important to be a trusted and effective user of data as it is a trusted and effective supplier.

Consultation

Many statistics producers and Theme Working Groups are engaged in specific consultation with users on proposals for change, while ongoing consultation with users continues to inform the development of National Statistics outputs. For example, in 2006/07 a number of consultations were launched regarding the work being done by the UK Centre for the Measurement of Government Activity (UKCeMGA) on measuring Government Output. Further information can be found in chapter 11.

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cross-cutting issues



ONS Modernisation Programme – Odyssey

Introduction

The overall vision for the ONS Modernisation Programme, known as Odyssey, is to improve the quality and timeliness of, and access to, the key statistical systems managed by ONS, and increase the efficiency with which ONS statistics are produced. This will create a more robust and comprehensive body of statistical evidence that is better fitted to the needs of government and better able to inform public policy development and decision-making.

Odyssey has brought together all of ONS's statistical modernisation efforts into a single programme with a single line of accountability. This includes the Statistical Modernisation Programme (SMP), the Technical Modernisation Programme and the i-Dissemination Project. This is a more coherent package of developments that enables ONS to take a more rounded view of its overall modernisation plans.

Modernisation work continued in 2006/07, but in place of a short-term programme there is now an ongoing investment strategy that will sustain and enhance ONS's business. To ensure the new, integrated programme maintains and protects 'business as usual' as well as taking forward the longer-term vision of modernisation, a mixed approach to development has been adopted combining both tactical and strategic solutions – some short-term tactical solutions to address immediate business continuity issues, alongside 'full' modernisation of systems to meet the strategic longer-term goals.

Strategic influences and policy drivers

The internal and external drivers for the modernisation vision range from the day-to-day business pressures faced by ONS to those that affect the wider reputation of ONS and the needs of government and include the:

- expectations of key users, in particular the users of the National Accounts and Labour Market Statistics, where the existing systems do not meet reasonable demands for resilience and

flexibility and expose ONS to the risk of failing to sustain National Statistics outputs

- need to reduce reliance on outdated IT systems and a diverse range of statistical tools
- pressures on ONS to meet government-wide timetables for e-business – in particular those initiatives involving interactive electronic data collection
- pressures to reduce compliance costs and to secure the benefits that will accrue from redesigning business surveys with better integration and making wider use of administrative data to replace direct collection from businesses, and
- expanding requirements for regional analysis, and the need to be able to draw samples from the business register that are geographically representative

Aims and objectives

In support of the vision, the programme aim is to produce more standardised and efficient systems and business processes that will produce better statistics and release resources for improved analysis, resulting in better informed decision-making. This will be achieved by developing new systems in a robust and enduring shared technical environment, supported by an agreed set of common statistical tools and methods.

The key objective of the programme is the delivery of a series of benefits, to ONS and to users of ONS data. The benefits to ONS include:

- increased quality and harmonisation of statistical outputs
- increased capability for statistical analysis
- reduced risks to ONS, both statistical risk and systems risk
- reduced direct costs for current outputs, and
- faster development for new systems and at reduced cost

The benefits to users of ONS data will be:

- datasets will be more robust and better suited to their purpose
- errors and inconsistencies will be reduced

- outputs will be more timely through reduced processing time
- new analyses of existing sources will be possible
- access to a greater range of more coherent statistics
- greater transparency as to the methodologies employed, and
- improved responsiveness of ONS to new data needs

These beneficial outcomes will be realised through successful delivery of the following key outputs:

- the creation of a shared corporate data repository, called the Central ONS Repository for Data (CORD), and the transfer of all ONS statistical sources into this common environment
- the standardisation, where appropriate, of all statistical systems, processes and technology solutions used to deliver ONS outputs
- the introduction of a limited range of statistical tools that fully support the work of ONS while keeping the overall range of tools available to a minimum
- the enhancement of shared understanding, comparability and appropriate use of the ONS data holdings through the use of metadata for sources, methods and processes and centralised data warehousing, and
- a new and improved National Statistics website

Work in 2006/07

During 2006/07 key work areas continued to be the delivery of the central systems for the National Accounts, which will deliver aggregate and time series processing in the CORD, and delivering the functionality that will produce consistent Labour Force Survey (LFS) outputs aligned with the latest population totals in a timely fashion. These projects have also been considering the business change implications as well as making preparations for testing, implementation and training.

The programme has also focused on:

- implementation of new systems to address urgent business continuity issues for Life Events (Births, Deaths, Marriages and Civil Partnerships)
- new technology to make data collection from businesses more efficient

- a Survey Case Management System (SCMS) and the modernisation of the social survey field force, and
- continuing the Integrated Household Survey (IHS) project, which will enable the integration of four existing ONS surveys

Outputs

The following outputs were delivered during 2006/07.

Life Events

- delivery of live systems for processing and publishing new statistics on Civil Partnerships
- delivery of live systems for processing Births and Deaths data

New technology

- purchase and installation of a range of new technology to make data collection from businesses more efficient:
 - **Secure Electronic File Transfer (SEFT)** – to enable respondents to submit file-based survey returns to ONS securely over the Internet
 - **Telephone Data Entry (TDE)** – to allow respondents to submit data over the telephone for surveys of nine or fewer questions
 - **paper capture** – new scanning technology (hardware and software) for use with business survey forms, which will significantly improve the speed and efficiency with which data are taken into the system
- implementation of a new matching tool for the comparison of business units on the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR) that will improve the quality of the data on the Register which forms the sampling frame for business surveys
- delivery of time series processing functionality for the National Accounts business area that allows specific National Accounts systems to be built and the re-engineered methods and processes to be tested
- upgrade of the technical architecture and improvements in the reliability of the systems for producing the annual population estimates

Additional benefits

The foundations of CORD and the supporting infrastructure and functionality have been delivered, opening up the potential for their further deployment for the delivery of additional benefits. For example:

- the foundation unit level data repository, data structures and variable catalogue developed for the LFS are also being used as the basis for the future storage of Census 2011 data
- plans are being prepared for the migration of the Census 2001 data into the CORD data structures to enable the future comparison of 2001 and 2011 Census data – this type of comparison has been very difficult in the past
- the foundation time series repository and associated functionality developed for the National Accounts can also be used to deliver the time series outputs from the redeveloped Workforce Jobs system and a pilot study is currently under way
- a feasibility study is exploring the scope for expanding the TDE system to cover voice recognition – if this is successful, the TDE system can be rolled out to further business surveys, bringing benefits both to ONS and to business contributors to these surveys
- with minimal additional investment, the SEFT development can be rolled out for use in additional complex financial surveys, again bringing benefits to both ONS and business contributors
- with minimal additional investment, the paper capture technology can be rolled out for use by the full suite of ONS business surveys (approximately 80 separate surveys), bringing efficiency savings to ONS

Survey Case Management System

The integration of the new SCMS with existing business systems is complex and will require extensive testing to remove risk. SCMS is now due to go live in April 2008.

Integrated Household Survey

In order to minimise impacts to existing data and systems, a 'minimum technical change' approach has been adopted for the IHS. This approach

concentrates on standardising data and processes across four of the existing household surveys (the LFS and its boosts, the Longitudinal General Household Survey, the Expenditure and Food Survey, and the National Statistics Omnibus Survey) and the new English Housing Survey (to be introduced in April 2008), and is designed to improve both statistical quality and efficiency.

A pilot IHS will be conducted in 2007 before a phased implementation of the new survey in 2008, beginning in January 2008.

Outcomes and outlook

Key milestones over the coming year include:

- completion of the LFS reweighting project, enabling the timely reweighting of LFS data in line with the latest population estimates
- delivery of the National Accounts central systems functionality to enable production of the 2008 Blue Book using re-engineered methods, processes and systems
- completion of the replatforming of the Retail Prices Index
- roll-out of the new TDE system and the SEFT to enable ONS to meet its e-government target for electronic data collection
- delivery of the new National Statistics website
- delivery of the SCMS
- delivery of the IHS

Lessons learned and costs

Over the past year Odyssey has brought in external expertise in project and programme management and also in business change and implementation. These experts have mentored ONS staff in order to raise the skills levels within the Odyssey Team and allow in-house staff to take over those roles that have been filled by external consultants. This planned transition has resulted in a higher internal skills base and a reduced reliance on external resource.

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8

Planning the 2011 Census

Background

The Census of Population has been in existence for over 200 years. Users have relied on the census to underpin national decision-making. It is the only source of information that measures the entire population, providing consistent and detailed information on the social and economic status of individuals. It also provides information for small areas and enables long-term trends to be identified and measured.

The three UK Census Offices – ONS, General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) – and the Welsh Assembly Government are actively planning the 2011 Census. A number of changes are planned to improve the rate of household response and the quality of the data compared to the 2001 Census.

Aims and objectives for 2011 Census

The objectives for the Census 2011 project are to:

- produce estimates of households and people, along with demographic and social characteristics, with the overriding aim being to get the counts of people correct
- meet user needs for data and analyses on population counts, population structures, and population characteristics, while balancing user needs for topics and detail against operational constraints and the need to manage the burden on respondents
- carry out successful censuses that are operationally effective and provide value for money, through learning from the lessons of the 2001 Census, and trialling and testing a number of major innovations well in advance
- work in partnership with external suppliers to deliver creative solutions and to complement the core competencies of the Census Offices

The following sections highlight progress during 2006/07.

User requirements for census outputs

A formal three-month general consultation was undertaken in 2005 to ascertain user requirements. Following on from this, topic-specific consultation has been carried out to assess detailed user requirements so as to inform future question development and testing.

A series of four open meetings in England and Wales took place in March 2007 to share current thinking on the likely content of the 2011 Census questionnaire with a focus on ethnicity and identity questions in particular. Approximately 300 individuals attended the open meetings representing central government, local government, academia, business and other groups (such as ethnic groups and faith groups). Question development and testing will continue in 2007, with questions selected early in 2008 for the Census Rehearsal in 2009.

Question development

Questions have been developed for the 2007 Census Tests in England and Wales, and in Northern Ireland. The Test questionnaires were published in October 2006 along with a paper summarising the development work completed so far.

The development of 2011 Census questions is being co-ordinated between England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Specific UK-wide topic groups are in operation to develop questions for use in the 2011 Census. The topic groups include:

- population definitions and bases
- ethnicity, identity, language and religion
- income
- labour market, National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification and qualifications
- health and care
- migration
- housing
- demographics

Legislation for Wales

In the light of the strength of feeling expressed in Wales on the matter of recording Welsh identity in the 2001 Census, it was agreed that the National Assembly for Wales should have a more formal role in agreeing future Census forms in Wales.

A Transfer of Functions Order (made under the provisions of the Government in Wales Act 2006) came into effect in December 2006. This transfers the power of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to make Census Regulations in respect to Wales, to the National Assembly for Wales. The Transfer includes provisions giving the Assembly:

- a right in law to be consulted on the making of the Census Order, and
- the power to make regulations for administering the Census in Wales

2006 Census Test in Scotland

GROS carried out a Census Test in April 2006 to trial new enumeration procedures and questions among 50,000 households in five locations across West Dunbartonshire, Glasgow and the rural areas of Lochaber and Breadalbane. Many valuable lessons were learned and the main evaluation report will be published on the GROS website in 2007. Further analysis of the results will continue throughout 2007 to inform strategies and procedures for the 2009 Census Rehearsal.

In November 2006 GROS hosted a three-day meeting and a two-day associated workshop on migration statistics which was organised through the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). Delegates from 51 countries attended and discussed, among other things, migration requirements for the 2011 Census.

Finally, GROS initiated a Gateway Review in March 2007 to obtain an independent 'strategic level' health check on the 2011 programme in Scotland. While the report was favourable, very useful recommendations were made and these will be taken forward into 2007/08 to ensure that GROS is best placed to deliver a successful Census in 2011.

2007 Tests in England and Wales and in Northern Ireland

Census Tests will be carried out on 13 May 2007 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. In England and Wales the Test will cover approximately 100,000 households selected from within five local authority areas – Bath and North East Somerset, Camden, Carmarthenshire, Liverpool and Stoke-on-Trent. In Northern Ireland the Test will cover approximately 10,000 households in areas across Belfast, Coleraine, Craigavon, Fermanagh and Magherafelt.

The 2007 Test includes some innovations which will be evaluated in order to refine the 2011 design. Innovations being tested include:

- post-out of questionnaires to improve efficiency
- trialling of a question on income
- outsourcing of recruitment, training and pay for field staff

The Test questionnaires and supporting materials have been printed, the computer systems to support the field operation and capture the data are currently being tested, and the management and co-ordination teams are being established.

The Census Test will involve a specific field force team. The recruitment and training of the area and team managers is complete and the recruitment of the delivery enumerators is due to be completed by the end of April 2007.

Local authorities and Community Liaison Programme

It will be mutually beneficial for local authorities and ONS to work in partnership for the 2011 Census. In particular, local authorities have experience and contacts including:

- knowledge of the profile of local areas and factors that may make them hard to enumerate, such as language problems
- experience of similar operations, such as electoral registration and postal elections, and
- contacts with a wider range of local organisations, such as the police, student groups, housing associations and religious groups

Community Liaison was a successful initiative for the 2001 Census that would have benefited from being commenced earlier. The 2011 Community Liaison Programme has therefore been initiated some three years ahead of the corresponding 2001 timetable. This early start will enable some elements of the Programme to be assessed as part of the 2007 Census Test.

Plans and preparation for the 2011 Census

Procurement strategy

The object of the 2011 procurement strategy has been to ensure a robust competitive process from which all the UK Census Offices will be able to secure the most advantageous contract delivering best value for money. The delivery of the 2011 Census will rely heavily on a number of external suppliers for operational services, technology and people. Procurement of the main printing and data capture contract started in September 2005. Two suppliers have been short-listed and by the end of 2007 a contract will be awarded to one supplier to support the Census Rehearsal in 2009 and the Census in 2011. For the Census Test, a small contract was negotiated to support the field enumeration process, covering the recruitment, training, deployment and payroll services.

As with the overall management and governance of the 2011 Census, the procurement activities follow stringent government guidelines and are subject to external reviews by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) and the National Audit Office. An OGC Review was conducted in October 2006 and resulted in a series of recommendations for the successful delivery of the 2011 Census.

Use of the Internet for the 2011 Census

It is planned to offer an Internet-based service to capture the relevant questionnaire content. The strategy and approach will be finalised by mid-2007 with assistance from a specialist external consultancy and using knowledge and experience from other countries that have used the Internet in their recent census operations.

Project governance and management

Following the 2006 OGC Review, the organisation, governance and project management processes were reviewed and transformed to ensure the 2011 Census had robust planning, controls and management structures in place ahead of the Census Test in 2007. These changes will position the Census Project to plan and deliver the future stages of work over the next five years to the quality required, efficiently and effectively. Clear accountability, decision-making, governance, controls, reporting and standard ways of working will ensure the 2011 Census meets the rigorous internal and external audit and risk management requirements that have been defined.

Address frame development

A complete and accurate address frame is essential for a successful Census enumeration. Missing or out-of-date addresses led to some under-enumeration during the 2001 Census, and the proposal for the post out of Census questionnaires for 2011 makes a high-quality address list even more important.

Two address registers – Ordnance Survey's MasterMap Address Layer 2® and the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) – are being evaluated by ONS to determine their fitness to support the needs of the 2011 Census. An address checking exercise of 100,000 households was held in the five Census Test areas during September 2006 and provided invaluable field intelligence. The check was firstly to provide a more accurate address list for the Census Test itself in May 2007, and also to serve as a first step in assessing each product by comparing the address checkers' actual findings in the field.

The check found that coverage of addresses in buildings with multiple occupation (such as flats), was found to be an issue and further work on identifying sub-premises is being carried out by both suppliers.

There is a separate address register for Northern Ireland (Pointer). NISRA is represented on a group assessing this address register, and this will also be

used in the 2007 Census Test to evaluate the Pointer database.

The 2009 Census Rehearsal

The next phase in the planning for the 2011 Census will be a full Rehearsal in 2009 covering approximately 150,000 households across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Work commenced at the end of 2006 on the detailed planning for the Rehearsal. Two main processes are involved:

- enumeration and upstream processing, which includes questionnaire delivery (paper and Internet), follow-up, publicity and data capture
- downstream processing, which includes editing and imputation, coverage assessment and adjustment, the application of disclosure control and visitor processing

International contacts

Several members of ONS Census Division visited Canada in May and June 2006 while the Canadian Census was in progress. GROS was also represented during the visit. Also during June 2006 the New Zealand Census Director visited ONS Census Division to share experiences of the New Zealand Census held in March 2006.

In January 2007 the Associate Director of Communications from Statistics Canada visited ONS Census Division to outline and discuss various communications approaches that support a Census. This was followed by a visit in February 2007 from representatives from the US Census Bureau.

In February 2007 staff from the three UK Census Offices, including the ONS Census Director, attended an international Census Forum hosted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in Melbourne. The purpose of the forum was to share experiences from the 2006 round of Censuses (several of the countries represented – Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand and Singapore – had recently conducted Censuses), as well as thoughts and issues for designs of forthcoming Censuses. The content of the forum was wide, but

concentrated more on processes than outputs. It covered the areas of field processes, recruitment/pay and communication, Internet capture, project management and output production. The UK representatives made a number of presentations covering topics on outsourcing of systems, the use of postal services and population bases.

European Union and United Nations contributions

The EU is proposing two Regulations in respect of population and housing censuses: a Framework Regulation (essentially a requirement to provide census-type information to the EU) and an Implementing Regulation setting out the outputs required from the 2010 round of censuses. ONS represents the UK on the relevant technical Task Force developing and quality assuring the Commission's proposals.

The draft EU Framework Regulation on Population and Housing Censuses was published and considered at a meeting of the Council of Ministers Working Group on Statistics in March 2007.

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9

Allsopp Review Implementation Programme

Introduction

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) agreed a target as part of its settlement of the 2004 Spending Review to implement the recommendations from the Allsopp Review. The Allsopp Review Implementation Programme, established in 2005, is leading the implementation of these recommendations.

The Allsopp Review began in 2003 when the Chancellor of the Exchequer commissioned Christopher Allsopp to lead the *Review of Statistics for Economic Policymaking*. The remit of this review encompassed two main headings: to examine the regional information and statistical framework necessary to support regional economic policymaking; and to assess whether the changing economic structure of the UK is being properly reflected in the nature, frequency and timeliness of official economic statistics.

Strategic influences and policy drivers

The Review's final report, published in March 2004, was addressed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Governor of the Bank of England and the National Statistician. It contained a total of 62 recommendations and outlined a strategy to improve the quality and provision of statistics for economic policy based around a number of recommendations. Some of the key recommendations were:

- to produce good quality baseline Gross Value Added (GVA) estimates for Nomenclature for Units of Territorial Statistics (NUTS) 1 (nine English regions and Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) regions and below
- to develop a coherent and efficient suite of registers, surveys and estimation procedures that delivers reliable results at acceptable compliance cost that are not skewed towards particular sectors of the economy
- that information held by government should be used to increase the quality and cost efficiency of economic statistics, and

- to establish an ONS presence in each English region

The final report is accessible via the HM Treasury (HMT) website:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

Aims and objectives

The aim of the Allsopp Review Implementation Programme is to deliver a programme of work in the spirit of the recommendations of the Allsopp Review and within the available budget, in particular to satisfy the pressing need for better regional data, including a radical change in the way regional GVA is produced, and to address the imbalance between manufacturing and service sectors in statistics.

Progress in 2006/07

The focus of the Programme in 2006/07 was on the development of the essential infrastructure on which surveys depend, technical development work required for building surveys, methodological work required to produce enhanced Regional Accounts and the establishment of a regional presence.

Developing the Business Register

Continued development of the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR) is essential in order to provide an appropriate sample frame to support future surveys and the enhanced Regional Accounts. On 31 March 2007 the project delivered on its objectives to develop the register, in terms of coverage and quality, to meet Allsopp requirements. This work included making improvements to the coverage of the register through matching enhancements, development of a matching strategy for the IDBR and the enhanced register, reviewing and implementing potential additional sources of data and improving knowledge of complex businesses.

Investigating business administrative data

A key deliverable in 2006/07 was the production of an evaluation report on the potential usefulness of administrative data from company accounts, HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) corporation tax

and associated data sources, as either a supplement to, or substitution for, business survey data. This report was completed and investigations into the usefulness of HMRC corporation tax data have borne fruit, showing that the cost incurred by HMRC in providing this data to ONS would be very much less than originally envisaged. This finding has been used as part of the business case for legal access to administrative data.

Business Register Employment Survey

The development of the Business Register Employment Survey (BRES) is fundamental to improving local unit information which will support better regional statistics. BRES will also be used to maintain the IDBR and support better regional estimation as well as provide the basis for annual estimates of employment. BRES will replace the Business Register Survey and part 1 of the Annual Business Inquiry.

Two consultation documents setting out an initial proposal for the broad design of BRES were published on the National Statistics website: one aimed at users and one at businesses. The consultation periods closed in September and December 2006 respectively, and responses were summarised and published on the National Statistics website. The overall design of the proposed survey is now complete, including sampling, estimation, editing and validation specification. ONS intends to pilot BRES in September 2008 and to fully implement it from September 2009.

The short-term alignment of Business Register Survey and part 1 of the Annual Business Inquiry is now complete and improvements to the quality of regional employment estimates should be seen in data published towards the end of 2007.

Regional GVA production approach

In 2006/07 work started on the development of methods for producing real regional GVA on a production basis. A technical paper reviewed the methods for estimating regional GVA on this basis. An inter-departmental Technical Advisory

Group was consulted on the recommendations from the paper and provided quality assurance of the recommended methods. Publication of this paper on the National Statistics website is planned for early 2007/08.

Due to resource constraints, the *Methodological Guide to Regional Accounts* was not completed by March 2007 as planned. This Guide aims to provide users with a full understanding of the Regional Accounts compilation process and will now be completed by July 2007.

Regional economic analysis

Additional regional economic analysis was conducted on existing sources of economic data, including analysis of Quarterly Regional Indicators and on Regional Productivity using GVA and Labour Market data.

Establishing ONS Regional Statisticians

The Allsopp Review recommended that 'there should be a significant ONS or GSS presence in each English region', and that these should fulfil a role similar to that of statisticians already serving the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

During 2006/07 a Regional Presence Project was set up to ensure that the groundwork for rollout of the regional presence was undertaken. Regional Development Agencies have collectively provided £1 million of core funding to establish a Grade 7 statistician and an assistant at Senior Executive Officer level in Newcastle upon Tyne, Warrington, Leeds, Birmingham, Nottingham, Cambridge, London, Guildford and Exeter from April 2007.

On 2 April 2007 ONS Regional Statisticians were present in each of the nine English regions where they will provide data, analysis and advice to their specific region, improving the evidence base for regional policymaking, and feeding back regional intelligence to ONS. At this time, 15 out of the 18 posts have been filled, including all Grade 7 positions, and ONS is now recruiting externally to fill the remaining posts.

Service sector improvements

There has been considerable progress with the development of the Index of Services (IoS), which has now gained National Statistics status. In addition, ONS continues to address other aspects of the imbalance between the manufacturing and service sectors, in part through work done to enable implementation of the revised Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities – SIC 2007 – in 2008.

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Introduction

There is a requirement across government for accurate and timely statistics to support policy formulation and management, supplemented by a growing need for regional and local level data. There is enormous potential to use 'administrative data' that are already collected by government to meet these requirements. The term administrative data relates to information collected as part of an administrative system such as data relating to taxation or civil registration.

Administrative data and data sharing are therefore increasingly playing a key role in providing this information. This mitigates the high cost of meeting these requirements through surveys alone and the difficulties involved in maintaining high response rates to traditional surveys and censuses. It provides a cost-effective option, placing minimal burden on respondents, as data are collected once and used many times.

The benefits of using administrative sources include more frequent and timely small area data for improved policy formulation and monitoring, improved service delivery and reduced public burden.

There is no single government programme or project to cover administrative data and data sharing. Work in this area forms an integral part of a range of projects across the Government Statistical Service (GSS), for example, responding to the recommendations of the Allsopp Review and planning for the 2011 Census. This chapter attempts to draw together some of the key elements of work within the structure of an overall strategy.

Strategic influences and policy drivers

There are many policy drivers pushing the development of specific projects involving administrative sources across all government departments. In addition, several government-wide reviews and reports have identified the cross-cutting potential of administrative data for statistical, research and analytical purposes and the scope for sharing microdata.

The report of Policy Action Team 18 (PAT 18) on better information emphasised that 'comprehensive and up-to-date information on deprived neighbourhoods is crucial to the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal'. Administrative data are critical to the small area statistics published via the Neighbourhood Statistics Service (NeSS), which was set up in response to the recommendations of this report. In 2006/07 NeSS was expanded to enable users to access small area data on crime and fire incidence.

The Allsopp *Review of Statistics for Economic Policymaking* states that ONS should explore further ways of linking key datasets, including those held by other government departments, such as the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC).

The review recommends that greater use be made of the administrative data that government already holds (recommendation 40) to increase the quality and analytical power of official statistics and reduce compliance costs. Chapter 9 of this report gives more details on the work that has been done in the last year to meet this recommendation.

A further area of focus is population statistics. Work is under way to improve migration and population statistics and to plan for the 2011 Census (see chapter 8). Part of this work is looking at the role of administrative data and this is particularly important in the development of an Integrated Population Statistics System (IPSS). ONS, General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) and DWP have started to examine the feasibility of data sharing and microdata linkage, and this will help establish whether it is feasible to develop an IPSS as envisaged by ONS in its 2003 paper:

www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/ipss.pdf

Such a project may bring wider benefits to the GSS in terms of policy evaluation, for example providing the ability to analyse benefits records by ethnicity, tenure and education.

Moreover, the importance of having access to a range of data from administrative sources was highlighted in the *Report of the Inter-departmental Task Force on Migration Statistics*, published in December 2006. While recognising the complexity associated with making improvements to estimates of migration and migrant populations, this report underlined the need to make better use of a range of administrative data, including new and emerging sources.

Administrative Sources Strategy

ONS has developed an Administrative Sources Strategy. This focuses specifically on NeSS, Allsopp and population statistics, and aims to increase the understanding of the administrative data that exist across government and the potential for new official statistics and improving existing outputs. The key objectives for the Administrative Sources Strategy are:

- to gain access to as broad a range of administrative data as is necessary at individual record level in order to produce relevant statistics for analysts, policymakers and other customers at national, regional and local levels
- to develop better use of administrative data by:
 - producing new outputs ensuring a verifiable standard of quality
 - acquiring more aggregate administrative data in a better way (quicker, more reliable and more systematic)
 - developing a better understanding of administrative systems
 - improving information about what is available
 - improving the quality of administrative data by encouraging suppliers to use standard tools for supply, disclosure control and geographic referencing
 - rationalising supply and eliminating duplication
 - increasing the benefits through linkage
 - reducing response burden

Many of these elements are common across the GSS. They involve improving access to administrative data leading to increased data sharing, linking data across departments, improving the quality of

administrative data and developing new analyses. These objectives link clearly with the policy drivers identified above.

Recent developments

Administrative data are currently widely used to produce statistics, performance indicators and management information. This is often only for very specific purposes. Through improved data sharing, the use of administrative data can be expanded to meet a wide range of needs outside a department's key responsibilities. There are a number of recent developments associated with access to data from administrative sources and data sharing. Details relating to a number of key projects are outlined in subsequent sections of this chapter.

Data access

Access to data from administrative sources is increasingly seen as essential for the development of better information to support policy formulation, monitoring and review. Members of the GSS have worked co-operatively through the GSS Working Party on Data Transfer to address legislative concerns, practices affecting access to, and the confidentiality of, microdata collected for statistical purposes as well as the use of administrative data. A report outlining the results of this work has been published and, while the group recognised the need for legislative change and improved guidance on practical issues, the report highlighted the unmet demand for microdata to improve statistical analysis and research, the quality, relevance and efficiency of National Statistics, and the effectiveness and efficiency of government service delivery.

Data sharing

The importance of data sharing and the need for legislative change is being addressed through the work being carried out by the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Data Sharing and the Statistics and Registration Service Bill.

The Cabinet Sub-Committee on Data Sharing was set up by the Prime Minister in 2006 and has two specific objectives:

- to develop a robust strategy for dealing with existing obstacles to data sharing, and

- to develop an information strategy covering three to five years to set out what data sharing will look like in the future

An Information Sharing Vision Statement, published in September 2006, demonstrated the Government's commitment to information sharing between public sector organisations and service providers. A more detailed Information Sharing Strategy is expected to be published in spring 2007.

Statistics and Registration Service Bill

The introduction of the Statistics and Registration Service Bill, which is intended to make statistics more independent of Ministers, contains provisions which will enhance the ability of government departments to share data for statistical purposes. More specifically, the legislation, if approved, contains mechanisms that can permit the sharing of data between the new Statistics Board (including ONS) and other public bodies in cases where this sharing for statistical purposes is in the public interest, with clear evidence to support the need for, and benefits of, such data transfers.

ONS welcomes this opportunity and will be working with others across the GSS to secure access to information drawn from key administrative sources in order to improve migration, population, regional and economic statistics. As part of this work, ONS has set up the Administrative Data Strategic Development Project. This project will run until April 2008 when the new Statistics Board is expected to be in place. The project has the following key objectives:

- to develop a clear strategic plan for making better use of administrative data, and
- to explore key data sources as part of the preparations for implementing the data sharing provisions outlined in the Bill

A new GSS (Sources and Standards Committee) Sub-Group on Data Sharing for Statistical and Analytical Purposes has also been set up to consider the wider implications associated with data sharing across the GSS, taking special account of issues such as cost, legality, confidentiality, technical and statistical concerns.

Data linkage

DWP has developed the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, which links DWP data about benefit claims and welfare-to-work programme participation with employment information from HMRC. The aim is to improve the range and quality of DWP's statistics. In time, it will provide a better understanding of DWP policies. DWP is improving the availability of information from these large datasets by releasing anonymised databases that can be analysed to suit a range of customer needs.

Other data linkage work utilising administrative data includes the continuing development of the Index of Multiple Deprivation in England, Wales and Scotland. The Welsh Assembly Government is utilising a wide range of administrative databases to create the National Community Child Health Database.

Improving analyses and developing new outputs

DWP is working with ONS to integrate its administrative statistics with ONS Labour Market Statistics (LMS). The number of people receiving state benefits is an important factor in understanding the supply of labour in the UK. However, while current LMS provide information about people on benefit actively seeking work (that is, on Jobseeker's Allowance), not all outputs show the numbers claiming other working age benefits, such as Income Support and Incapacity Benefit. As part of a programme of statistical modernisation, DWP has made available new statistical outputs as well as new tabulation tools to support data analysis. For example, it has made available information on working age benefit claimants which provides, for the first time, counts of those claiming more than one benefit. By categorising claimants according to an agreed benefit hierarchy, the problem of double counting of those on multiple benefits is resolved and users are able to get a more accurate picture of benefit claiming and worklessness. Data on these benefits are available from Nomis® as well as DWP's tabulation tool, and ONS is working towards incorporating these data into the Labour Market First Release and other outputs.

Other developments

The Department for Education and Skills is working with the Learning and Skills Council and others involved in the education and training sector to develop the Managing Information Across Partners (MIAP) Programme to improve data collection, management and sharing. MIAP will introduce an Internet-based Learner Registration Service and a Unique Learner Number for every person in education and training. As a result, details on learning and achievement will be more accessible and services to individuals and, with learner permission, to employers and communities will be improved. Significant progress has been made. A data sharing framework has been agreed, common data definitions are being introduced and the prototype Learner Registration Service is being tested in a number of educational and training settings. A full Learner Registration Service will be introduced in September 2007 and access to Learner Records is planned to be available in September 2008. It is anticipated that a fully operational MIAP service will be in place by 2010. For further information on MIAP, please see Project H in chapter 18.

The Central and Local Government Information Partnership (CLIP) and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) local e-government section are continuing to work on a Data Flows Study under the 'Government Connect' banner. The study is looking in detail at the flows of data from local government to central government departments and all other relevant public sector bodies in order to identify duplication or near duplication. Consultants from iMPower, on behalf of DCLG, are undertaking the work. The catalogue of data items will allow the identification of duplication and near duplication, and discussions can then take place to attempt to reduce these.

Planned outcomes

A greater use of administrative data will bring benefits through a reduced burden on businesses, individuals and households that currently supply data through surveys. Fewer surveys will be required and ultimately, in theory, suppliers should not have to supply the same data more than once whether via a survey or an administrative system.

The statistical benefit of access to microdata will be a more flexible system, which will allow analysts to better understand and interpret the relationship between data and policy implementation. Access to microdata referenced at the lowest possible geographical level will provide flexibility in producing small area statistics and meet increasing user demands for this type of data. Access to more administrative data also brings operational benefits in running surveys and censuses in helping to predict types of households and geographical areas where response is likely to be lowest.

Administrative records often provide coverage of the whole population of interest, whereas surveys, by design, only cover a small sample of the population of interest. Consequently administrative records can contribute to the provision of better subnational statistics. However, administrative records may not describe the hierarchical structures within the data, for example household and family composition, so surveys and complementary administrative records need to be used in conjunction and integrated with each other.

By linking individual records, statisticians will be able to understand, for example, more fully the relationships between issues such as crime, education and health at a range of geographical levels. Without linkage, statisticians are restricted to the information available on each individual dataset. Linkage depends on a common understanding of data definitions and the administrative systems that sit behind the data. This understanding can be achieved through working together across government.

The benefits to the Government of administrative data sharing for statistical purposes are manifold. The flexibility of a linked microdata system, with appropriate firewalls and standard disclosure control systems, would allow statisticians to better respond to, and anticipate, policy questions.

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Measurement of Government Output and Productivity

Introduction

The UK Centre for the Measurement of Government Activity (UKCeMGA) was launched in July 2005 following the publication of the Atkinson Review Final Report *Measurement of Government Output and Productivity for the National Accounts*. UKCeMGA's remit is to implement the Atkinson Review recommendations and to provide information on the activities, output and productivity of government-funded public services for the whole of the UK.

While it is still a division of ONS reporting to the National Statistician, UKCeMGA also has an Advisory Board, led by a non-executive Chair. Members of the Advisory Board are all external to central government and have a mixture of skills in the delivery of public services, analysis and national accounting. The Advisory Board was set up in recognition of the politically sensitive nature of the work of UKCeMGA, to provide transparent, independent advice to the National Statistician on matters of political sensitivity.

Overall aim and objectives

The aim of UKCeMGA is to strengthen ONS's service to customers by publishing authoritative, independent and credible analyses of the productivity of government-funded services. Its work will strengthen the UK National Accounts and improve overall estimates of output and productivity growth.

This aim will be achieved by:

- publishing high-quality business products, including both statistical and development products
- making significant progress in a development programme designed to enhance the authority and credibility of productivity analyses over time, in particular by implementing the Atkinson Review recommendations
- evaluating the above against a number of key success criteria

UKCeMGA business products

UKCeMGA is responsible for delivery of a number of statistical products.

Productivity analyses

UKCeMGA publishes regular productivity analyses that present and discuss data on the productivity performance of the key public services. These include analyses of the Health Service, Education, Adult Social Services, Social Security Administration and elements of Public Order and Safety.

National Accounts time series

UKCeMGA supplies time series that are used for compiling the National Accounts. In particular, it is responsible for the supply of volume measure time series for the output of public services. Volume measures are currently supplied for Health, Education, Adult and Children's Social Services (referred to hereafter as Social Services), Social Security Administration, Fire Services and County Courts.

Satellite accounts

In later years, UKCeMGA will be responsible for the publication of Health, Education and eventually Social Services satellite accounts. Satellite accounts are extensions of the National Accounts, but give more detailed information than is possible in the National Accounts themselves.

In support of these statistical products, UKCeMGA is also committed to publishing methodology reviews and documentation to allow greater transparency of how estimates of public services are calculated.

The development programme – implementing Atkinson Review recommendations

Planning

The development programme for each financial year is determined by a number of stages of discussion in the previous financial year. When the priority objectives of the development programme have been determined, they are recorded in development action plans and jointly agreed with other government departments.

Development resources

Most of the development work is carried out in-house, in partnership with other government

departments. However, there are areas where the relevant expertise and experience are not available in-house and the work can be done cost-effectively only by commissioning work from the outside research community.

Success criteria

There are a number of key factors affecting the authority and credibility of UKCeMGA's statistical and development outputs. These have been identified as:

- National Accounts improvements
- expert resources
- team breadth and depth
- partnerships, both within and beyond government
- international partnerships
- robust compilation
- transparency
- recognised independence

Quality assurance

In addition to contributing to the Advisory Board, a number of Advisory Board members have been asked to chair Quality Assurance panels for productivity analyses articles.

The terms of reference of the panels are to 'advise the National Statistician on whether the articles meet National Statistics standards, particularly in respect of relevance and quality'. The panels include a number of experts in that chosen field from inside ONS, other government departments and external to government.

UKCeMGA achievements in 2006/07 Overview

This section sets out UKCeMGA's achievements since the last Annual Report. Improvements were originally motivated by the recommendations from the Atkinson Review, but the work of UKCeMGA now goes beyond those initial recommendations. This section covers progress made in terms of business products and the development programme.

Productivity analyses – publications and consultation

Public Service Productivity articles

UKCeMGA published two Public Service Productivity articles during 2006/07. The articles present a number of methodology options for the analysis of productivity of these public services. In addition, they include a section on 'triangulation' or corroborative evidence to contribute to the analysis of productivity, which includes wider information available on the performance of the public service in question.

The 'Adult Social Care Public Service Productivity' article, published in April 2006, presented various estimates of the change in productivity of public expenditure on adult social care services and draws on work published by the Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU), based at the University of Kent. The article also described potential improvements to the measurement of adult social care services output.

The 'Social Security Administration Public Service Productivity' article, published in July 2006, presented the pattern of movements in the estimates of productivity between 1998 and 2005, based on the measure of output in the National Accounts. It also set out the further work required to improve the productivity measure for social security administration as part of an ongoing development programme. The article draws on a Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) paper on productivity analysis, published in June 2006.

Consultation

UKCeMGA has been working in partnership with the research community, other national statistics institutes and other government departments to improve and refine the methodologies used in the measurement of government output and productivity. Proposals on how to take the work forward are set out in the series of Public Service Productivity articles. During 2006/07 UKCeMGA consulted the external expert community on three subjects:

- two key methodological questions common to the measurement of all public service output – adjusting output for quality change, and the value of public services in a growing economy
- measuring the output of the Education Service, and
- measuring the output of the Health Service

Adhering to Cabinet Office guidelines, UKCeMGA took a phased approach to the consultation programme. Each subject began with the publication of a consultation paper and included a seminar to facilitate a discussion of the issues part way through the consultation period.

All the seminars were very productive and the formats enabled a lively and fruitful discussion to take place. Feedback from participants after the seminars was very positive. The summaries of the seminars and the written responses to the consultation are available on UKCeMGA's web pages at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/ukcemga

The consultation programme finished on 3 April 2007. A Consultation Strategy Paper will be published in early summer 2007 setting out how the results of the consultation programme will feed into UKCeMGA's future work programme.

Other developments

Improving expenditure (inputs) data

UKCeMGA's Better Quality Expenditure Data (BQED) Team made important progress on the procurement agenda in 2006/07. In October 2006 a cross-government seminar was held for users and suppliers of government spending data on procurement. The main objectives of the seminar were to identify user needs and issues for the suppliers, in delivering more detailed data on procurement spending. Ideas and suggestions on how to improve data collection and quality were put forward. UKCeMGA, in collaboration with the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) and HM Treasury (HMT), is now looking at ways of improving data availability in ONS.

HMT's new public finance database, Combined Online Information System (COINS), went live during 2006/07. Data quality issues were identified as soon as COINS went live and were quickly addressed and, as a result, HMT has had to make fewer adjustments to departmental data. Rationalisation and improvements to the classification of data have made it easier for ONS to access usable data. An additional development recently completed has been to allocate all government spending data to Classification of the Functions of the Government (COFOG) divisions (two digit level) so that central government spending is now directly available from COINS by COFOG functions.

Improving local authority expenditure data

Significant progress has been made on improving the timeliness of local authority data in the current delivery process to ONS. In particular, Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has been able to deliver annual final consumption local authority data in August, earlier than in previous years. This has enabled HMT to use real local authority expenditure data for the previous financial year in the Pre-Budget Report.

As a result of additional resources in National Accounts, new data analysis has been carried out in ONS on Consumption and Gross Fixed Capital Formation data by country and, for the first time in many years, a quality assurance exercise has recently been completed. This has resulted in improved methodology and use of better information to produce final estimates of local authority expenditure data.

Progress still needs to be made on improving classification and obtaining in-year accruals data. This has been affected by the lengthy process that has to be undertaken to change requirements from local authorities. However, UKCeMGA will continue to push for these improvements through the Local Authority Data High-level Working Group.

Transparency

UKCeMGA has also been working in collaboration with HMT and ONS National Accountants to improve transparency in the compilation and quality assurance process of government expenditure data. ONS and HMT have agreed on new arrangements for transparency, utilising data from COINS to provide key reports that help with quality assurance. From April 2007 departments will have access to full transparency reports from ONS, which will show other data and adjustments made in ONS to derive the final National Accounts series.

A joint HMT/ONS seminar was held in February 2007 to which the Financial Directors and Accounting Officers from all government departments and devolved administrations were invited. The main objective of the seminar was to explain the importance of accurate data on government spending for the National Accounts and productivity analysis, and to explain the new high-level sign-off initiative proposed by UKCeMGA and HMT.

From the beginning of 2007/08 the Accounting Officers for the 14 biggest spending departments will be asked to sign off a set of tables that summarise the data supplied to HMT through COINS. This will also include the reconciliation table compiled in ONS, which will show the adjustments made to the original departmental data to obtain final National Accounts series.

Capital Stocks/Whole of Government Accounts project

The aim of the Capital Stocks/Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) project is to incorporate direct measures of Central Government depreciation into consumption of fixed capital as estimated for the Public Sector Finances and the National Accounts, if it is appropriate to do so, in place of estimates generated using the Perpetual Inventory Method (PIM). If this new methodology is approved, the depreciation figures from departmental accounts will be used as direct estimates of capital consumption for relevant parts of the Central Government sector.

In January 2007 ONS accepted that, to be consistent with the National Accounts, Central Government depreciation from WGA should include Normal Accidental Damage, presently scored in the Resource Accounts as an impairment. There are several broader issues which need addressing before ONS is able to take on WGA data into the National Accounts, including quality assuring the WGA numbers from HMT and resolving differences in approach between the PIM and the WGA.

Education

UKCeMGA's public consultation on the volume measure of output for schools and the associated quality adjustment was a major activity for this area and the responses to the consultation, along with summary notes of the related consultation seminar, have been published on UKCeMGA's website. These will feed into the Consultation Strategy paper which will set out the way ahead. The consultation responses point to widening the quality adjustment for schools beyond pupil attainment using the outcomes from the Government's Green Paper *Every Child Matters* as a starting point.

Over the last few months UKCeMGA has updated the current quality measure to take account of later information about General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) results as recommended by the Atkinson Review. In addition, research has been undertaken into the model of education which underpins the current quality adjustment methodology. UKCeMGA will be deciding how best to take this work forward.

UKCeMGA has worked with the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) on examining options for quality adjustments for sixth form places in schools, and for pre-school education. Analytical work on developing a quality adjustment for sixth form places is closely linked to the quality adjustment work on the compulsory schools sector. Work is expected to continue on sixth form places once the implications of the consultation findings are known. There is evidence that the qualifications of staff in pre-schools are a good

indicator of the quality of the pre-school places (that is, quality of certain inputs), although this is not a direct measure of output quality. DfES is undertaking further work on this to see whether it should be put forward as a quality measure in the short term.

The Education Team and DfES are also working closely with the Quality Measurement Framework (QMF) Project Team on its three-year project. As part of the project, the QMF Project Team has contracted the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) to undertake a value for money comparison of public and voluntary sector provision of pre-school childcare and education. This work is at the early stage with a literature review completed and a scoping study due in spring 2007. Subject to this, a work programme for the second stage will be established with one of the results expected to be a measure of the quality of pre-school education that can be used in the National Accounts.

UKCeMGA has also worked closely with ONS National Accountants, DfES and DCLG on a work programme to improve the quality of the expenditure figures in the productivity calculations. DfES collects more detail on education spending in its returns than DCLG does in its statistical returns, and a reconciliation exercise between the two is currently under way. Work has also been carried out to investigate the options to improve the deflators to measure the volume of spending.

UKCeMGA has had initial discussions with the Health Skills Council to discuss options for a new quality adjustment for the health professional courses output measure. Discussions have also been held with DfES on options for a new quality measure for Initial Teacher Training (ITT) and DfES is currently drafting a discussion paper setting out some options for measuring quality of ITT outputs.

UKCeMGA has also been working with the devolved administrations to improve the geographic coverage for the production of education output. As a result, a new system for the production of the education output estimates has been set up so

that the output for each devolved administration can now be calculated separately, whereas previously calculations have been done at a UK level.

The progress made in these areas will be detailed in the next education productivity article, due to be published during summer 2007.

Health

A consultation paper on health was published during 2006/07, and public seminars were held in London and Edinburgh on the methods for the volume measurement of National Health Service (NHS) output and associated adjustments for quality and the value of health. The results of this will be published in the Consultation Strategy paper. The Health Team will incorporate the progress made on the basis of the consultation recommendations into the next health productivity article, which is due to be published later in 2007/08.

UKCeMGA completed the development of improved measures of output in General Practice in partnership with the Department of Health (DH), the NHS Information Centre (the IC) and QRESEARCH (part of the University of Nottingham), and the new methodology and data source have been considered and approved, in principle, for inclusion in the National Accounts.

ONS, health administrations and the IC worked together to examine the NHS data sources and methods that are most appropriate for measuring counts of NHS activity and associated costs in general and for secondary care in particular. In October 2006 the National Statistician accepted a major report with recommendations for the way forward in preparation for consideration in 2007/08 by ONS for inclusion in the National Accounts.

The coverage of the NHS output measure in terms of the number of activities has been increased significantly and was used in calculations for Blue Book 2006, and for calculating estimates of NHS productivity. New methods for calculating the volume of NHS input for Family Health Service prescribing have been implemented and the ranges of estimates for NHS input and productivity have been improved.

Public order and safety

This work is relatively new and is not as far developed as other areas of output measurement of UKCeMGA's work programme, such as education and health. However, in 2006/07 a Steering Group was set up, consisting of a mixture of government departments, academics and others with relevant interests, to assist in developing the methodology for estimating the productivity of the Criminal Justice System (CJS).

The Steering Group agreed that one measure would not satisfy all users and supported a two-strand approach to measuring the productivity of the CJS, as follows:

- the first strand, based on the Administration of Justice Framework – developed by the Home Office (HO), Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR), Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) – to calculate the output, and consequently productivity, of the CJS as three separate components:
 - detection through to sentencing (police, CPS and criminal courts)
 - administering the sentences imposed by the courts
 - non-investigative work (including activities related to crime prevention, for example, much of the community support policing work and police patrols)
- the second strand, a more long-term piece of work, will aim to develop an econometric approach for estimating the effects of these activities on crime rates – UKCeMGA aims to produce a scoping document for comment by the Steering Group

A Work Programme for the Public Order and Safety Team is being developed.

Social protection

The Social Protection Team published its first Adult Social Care Public Service Productivity article in April 2006. This detailed progress to date on improvements to the output measure, the estimation of quality changes and the volume of

inputs. More recently, with the aid of the Scottish Executive, data for Scotland have been incorporated into the output measure. Progress has also continued on the estimation of quality changes, with a three-year programme of research under way, and on the refinement of the estimates of inputs. These developments will be described in the second productivity article in 2007/08.

The first Social Security Administration Public Service Productivity article was published in July 2006. This described the progress made on the development of inputs estimates and ideas for quality adjustments. Work is under way with the DWP to ensure that recent changes in the machinery of government do not decrease the coverage of the output series. Developments to increase coverage further are also under way. These will be detailed, along with more up-to-date quality and inputs information, in a second productivity article in 2007/08.

An interim report on DfES-sponsored research into children's social care (CSC) output measures was published in December 2006 and covered the theoretical and conceptual issues in constructing a valid output measure. The final report is due to be published in early 2007/08. The research is expected to generate short-term recommendations for improving the CSC output measure, as well as medium and longer-term recommendations for further improvements to the measure by increasing the number of categories used in the measure for adjusting for quality changes.

Quality Measurement Framework Project

The Social Protection Team was also successful with its application to receive funding from HMT under the Invest to Save Budget scheme for the QMF Project. The project is being carried out in partnership with DH, the PSSRU based at the University of Kent, the National Council of Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), NIESR and Kent County Council.

The Government has made clear that value for money should determine who delivers public services – whether public, private or third (voluntary

and community) sector providers – and that the third sector has the potential to contribute more than at present. A Treasury discussion paper identified the need to ‘improve the evidence base demonstrating the sector’s contribution to higher quality service provision’ and posed the question ‘what measures and evaluation processes can be used to identify the direct and wider benefits of third sector organisations?’.

The aim of the QMF Project will be to establish a simple but robust quality measurement system that will enable service procurers to distinguish the relative quality of service providers and thus establish their relative value for money. The system will manage this without imposing a large data collection burden on service providers or procurers.

An interim report will be published in autumn 2007. This will set out the problems and issues with the relationships between local authorities and third sector service providers and show how these result in a monitoring system that is unduly burdensome without providing the quality information necessary to truly determine best value for money provision. The report will then outline how the QMF Project aims to overcome these problems and detail progress to date.

Building links with stakeholders

UKCeMGA has continued to develop its links with stakeholders and held several key events across the year to aid this process:

- along with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Government of Norway, UKCeMGA organised a workshop on the measurement of non-market output in education and health in London in October 2006. The aim of the workshop was to launch a project for the improvement of the measurement of non-market output in the National Accounts and to provide detailed international guidelines for the development of volume measures of non-market output. Thirty papers were presented to over 150 delegates by speakers representing 16 different organisations or countries. UKCeMGA hosted a series of

seminars designed to accompany the three public consultations on the measurement of the performance of the public services

- The Better Quality Expenditure Data Team hosted a workshop at ONS on Procurement Expenditure Data in October 2006. Representatives from various government departments and organisations, including DCLG, HMT, devolved administrations and the Bank of England, participated in the workshop. The aim of the workshop was to bring together both users and suppliers of procurement data and to identify existing management information that will yield better product breakdown and price-related information on government procurement expenditure, to improve the current process

Members of UKCeMGA have also given presentations to a variety of stakeholders and at several conferences, for example, the Royal Statistical Society Official Statistics Section meeting in July 2006, the International Association for Research and Income and Wealth 29th General Conference held in Finland in August 2006, and the third annual National Audit Office Performance Measurement Conference in December 2006.

Partnerships within government

UKCeMGA has continued to build and strengthen partnerships, both with the government departments with policy responsibility for the public services being measured, and with wider government. Important relationships have been built with HMT and DCLG, from which ONS receives data relating to central and local government expenditure respectively.

In addition to the strategic partnership agreement that already exists within National Accounts, UKCeMGA has agreed to take on a more active role in quality assuring data from COINS. UKCeMGA has renewed the majority of its development action plans with other government departments and has also made significant progress with the devolved administrations in this area.

Partnerships beyond government

UKCeMGA has continued to build relationships outside government. It has strong relationships with the various partners in the QMF Project and has built good relations with a variety of public bodies and academic institutions (among others) through the consultations programme.

International partnerships

UKCeMGA has continued to be at the forefront of developing relations with international stakeholders and experts. The jointly organised workshop with OECD and the Government of Norway on the measurement of non-market output in education and health helped to share experiences internationally, and enhanced UKCeMGA's relationships within the international community.

UKCeMGA was represented on the Eurostat Task Force on developing Purchasing Power Parities for Non-market Services and has been working with OECD on drafting its forthcoming *Handbook on measuring Health and Education Volume Output*.

Other achievements

Governance

In addition to the existing governance arrangements and in light of the recognition of the importance of UKCeMGA's work by those at Permanent Secretary level, a new interdepartmental group, entitled the 'Departmental Output and Productivity Advisory Group', is being established to help steer the productivity agenda across government.

This Group will meet twice a year with a remit to discuss issues that are impacting on the progress of UKCeMGA's work programme. Members are Senior Civil Servants from the following departments who can influence the work programme in their respective departments: DCLG, DWP, DfES, DH, HO, HMT, Ministry of Justice, OGC and the devolved administrations (Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland).

National Accounts improvements

A number of significant changes were proposed to National Accounts and included in the *Blue Book* dataset published in 2006.

Robust compilation

All outputs were delivered to agreed timescales. UKCeMGA has almost completed the transfer of its existing government output production systems from spreadsheets to the more robust system used in the compilation of the National Accounts.

Transparency

UKCeMGA is committed to the principle of transparency and has made use of the National Statistics website and its publications to help to achieve this:

- the papers and minutes of the Advisory Board meetings are made available on the website within one month of the meetings
- UKCeMGA has worked closely with National Accounts colleagues to document the processes used to compile lower level time series, including methods for forecasting and interpolating, and progress has also been made on documenting the construction and aggregation of index numbers required by National Accounts
- a series of methodological notes describing the methods used in UKCeMGA is planned

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Introduction

This chapter refers to statistical outputs at geographical levels below that of the UK as a whole, in particular Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales and the nine Government Office Regions in England. Several divisions of ONS co-ordinate the development of joined-up planning for sub-UK statistical information across the Government Statistical Service (GSS).

This work was co-ordinated during 2006/07 through cross-cutting groups such as the Statistics for Regional Policy Working Group and the National Statistics Geography Group. These groups combined in early 2007 to form a new information-sharing forum sponsored by ONS: the GSS Regional and Geography Group (GSSRG).

Other government departments and the devolved nations contribute to the development of sub-UK statistics and were well represented on these cross-cutting groups. The Regional Economic Analysis and Allsopp Division (REAAD) within ONS has responsibility for maintaining effective working relationships between ONS and the devolved nations, and for developing relationships with regional bodies in the UK. The Regional and Neighbourhood Outputs and Analysis Division (RNOAD) of ONS has responsibility for developing the area-based analysis work programme and the day-to-day running of Neighbourhood Statistics.

Strategic influences and policy drivers

The European context

Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, is responsible for collecting a wide range of sub-UK data on behalf of the European Commission to help inform policymaking across Europe. In the UK, data are provided to Eurostat by ONS and by other government departments. In this context Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales are categorised with the same geographical taxonomy for statistical purposes as the nine Regions of England (known as NUTS1). ONS co-ordinates a UK-wide response to Eurostat projects.

Coherence between the four nations of the UK

There is a Memorandum of Understanding and a Concordat on Statistics between ONS and the devolved administrations of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales with the devolved administrations represented on various working groups. Through formal and informal channels, all parties work together to provide coherent data for the UK where possible and appropriate.

Outcome and outputs realised

Through its RNOAD and REAAD divisions, ONS conducts research and produces analyses at a regional and local level to support key area-based policies within the UK. These divisions also provide advice and support to those wishing to carry out similar analysis themselves.

Strategic Framework for Regional Statistics

ONS has been working on a Strategic Framework for Regional Statistics, to help develop a coherent approach to needs for statistics at geographical levels below that of the UK as a whole. The framework was published in May 2006 and is available on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14719

Neighbourhood Statistics (England and Wales)

The Neighbourhood Statistics website has recently been redesigned following a User Centred Design Process (see chapter 13) and is highly rated by users. The website regularly attracts over 100,000 visits a month.

Area-based analysis

Area classification

Work has started on the creation of a Lower Layer Super Output Area Classification, which will be based on 2001 Census data and will complement similar classifications that have already been released, such as the Output Area Classification. A key benefit of this work will be the ability to

analyse the data available on the Neighbourhood Statistics website by classification grouping, and work is progressing to develop the functionality to support this kind of application. Two articles based on this type of analysis were published in *Regional Trends* 39 in May 2006: 'Profiling Areas using the Output Area Classification', and 'Deprivation and Ethnicity in England: a Regional Perspective'.

Travel to Work Areas

Following positive feedback from a feasibility study and a user workshop in November 2006, ONS decided to update the current Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) using 2001 Census data. Improvements will include TTWAs for subgroups of the population, TTWAs unconstrained to national boundaries and a visualisation tool to allow users to manipulate the underlying commuting data visually. The updated TTWAs will be released later in 2007/08.

Data visualisation

Often the main features of a dataset can be summarised using a chart or map. Throughout the year work has continued within ONS to further develop this method of making data available to users. Particular attention has been given to datasets with sparse data where the key requirement is to be able to identify areas with a high incidence.

Regional Economic Analysis

The objective of the Regional Economic Analysis work is to develop the capabilities of regional analysis within ONS and to maximise the usefulness of existing datasets. The development of the Regional Economic Indicators article, originally published in *Economic Trends* and now in the new *Economic and Labour Market Review*, has contributed to a wider dissemination of regional-based data and an improved understanding of the factors that explain differences in regional performance.

These new developments will continue to facilitate the incorporation of developmental and new analysis being carried out in the area of regional

and subregional analysis. A study started in 2006 that identified the contributory components of regional economic performance has been extended onto a time-series basis and will be further developed to cover more detailed geographies. Preliminary work towards the production of experimental subregional productivity estimates and the introduction of regional productivity estimates with an industry breakdown has been completed and the final results should be disseminated in 2007.

Other work involved writing a chapter describing regional productivity and the issues that are particularly relevant for regional analysis, for inclusion in the ONS Productivity Guide, which is due to be published in mid-2007.

ONS has chaired the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Working Party on Territorial Indicators, which develops the methodology for examining regional performance. In 2006 the Working Party held a special workshop on 'Defining Metropolitan Areas', which will now lead to the production of guidance on the relevance of different approaches to this issue. This workshop is of particular relevance in the context of the UK policy interest in emphasising the importance of cities as the drivers of growth and the 'city region' agenda.

Regional publications

Regional Snapshot

In October 2005 the first version of a new web portal, called the Regional Snapshot, was established on the National Statistics website. It is designed to act as a portal to a wide range of products: publications, reports, datasets and graphical representations relating to Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the English regions. It is available at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/regionalsnapshot

Since the launch, coverage has been expanded to provide a selection of key statistics on a range of topics, both at regional and local authority level. Short profiles for each region have been

developed and the range of topics increased in subsequent releases. Statistics were updated at intervals throughout the reporting period. Functionality will be improved in the longer term to provide timely and easy access to a wide range of information covering many levels of geography.

Other titles

Regional Trends 39 was published in May 2006 and is available on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/regionaltrends39

A new edition of *Focus on London* is being prepared and will be published in May 2007.

Urban Audit

ONS has begun data collection for the Urban Audit III project, which commenced in June 2006. Sponsored by the European Commission, the project will allow for comparisons of standardised data for 299 cities in the EU.

Data have been collected for 30 cities in the UK, including all local authorities with a population greater than 250,000 people. To ensure that data collected are relevant to policymakers, administrative boundaries are used to define the cities. For a selection of variables, data are also collected relating to the larger urban region (the 'Larger Urban Zone') and smaller areas within the city ('Sub-city Districts'). This data collection exercise will continue into 2007/08. Data are being collected for nearly 350 variables, covering topics such as crime, transport, employment and health. In addition, a subset of data will be collected for a further 76 cities. This 'Large City Audit' will mean that datasets will cover every local authority with a population greater than 100,000 people in the UK.

Previous Urban Audit projects collected data for 2001, with historical data for 1991 and 1996 for selected variables. Urban Audit III will collect data for 2004 to help analyse change over time. The new datasets are due for publication in late 2007. Information on Urban Audit is available on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/urbanaudit

Regional sustainable development indicators

Work has been undertaken by Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) during 2006/07 to update the English Regional Sustainable Development Indicators, which were originally published in December 2005. Work has also been undertaken to produce international comparative sustainable development indicators, which compare the UK with other countries, particularly in Europe. The indicators highlight issues within the priority areas of Sustainable Consumption and Production, Natural Resources, and Sustainable Communities. Other indicators provide useful contextual information. The indicators pull together already published statistics at regional level, to enable comparisons to be made between English regions, and with progress nationally. They are available at:

www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/regional/index.htm

Eurostat Rural Development Indicators

During 2006/07 ONS, in co-operation with Defra, the Scottish Executive and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), collated and submitted data to Eurostat for a collection of statistics for rural areas across the whole of the European Union. This data collection, sponsored by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and the Environment, remains at an experimental stage. The results are currently being analysed by Eurostat to assess whether such a collection could be successfully introduced on a regular basis.

Regional Trade Statistics

An important indicator of regional and devolved economic activity is the level of export trade that is achieved. Regional Trade in Goods statistics provide this information, and also act as a source of market intelligence for the commercial and academic sectors. The Trade Statistics area in HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) Knowledge, Analysis and Intelligence Directorate produces quarterly

data for trade in goods between the nine Government Office Regions, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and partner countries outside the UK. HMRC is currently holding a user consultation on the presentation of the Regional Trade Statistics to enhance the format of the press release. The statistics are available at:

www.uktradeinfo.com

National Insurance Number registrations

In November 2006 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) published statistics at local authority and parliamentary constituency level on National Insurance numbers issued to foreign nationals. This augmented previously published UK-level figures and is a timely addition to the information available on the migrant population.

Local area Jobseeker's Allowance data

Ethnicity data for Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants were published for the first time in November 2006, with information available down to local authority and parliamentary constituency area for Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland). The data are now available via two channels – ONS claimant count data on the Nomis® website and JSA benefits data available from DWP's statistical Tabulation Tool:

www.nomisweb.co.uk

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures

During 2006/07 NISRA, in partnership with Northern Ireland government departments, started initial work on the recommendations contained in the spatial deprivation report published in 2005; further work is planned for 2007/08.

Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service

NISRA developed a number of electronic data atlas initiatives in 2006/07, most notably the creation of a web-enabled interactive map catalogue, along with the further development

of Neighbourhood Statistics in terms of data and mapping:

www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk/mapxtreme/default.asp

Further work is planned for 2007/08.

Scotland

Scotland, like the other devolved administrations, has an active programme of ongoing and developmental statistical activity. Achievements in statistics in the Scottish administration will be covered in its own Annual Report, to be published late in 2007. Statistics on Scotland are available at:

www.scotland.gov.uk/stats

Wales

Equality

A series of statistical articles were published in November 2006, providing an analysis of key topics (Labour Market, Education, Health and Social Care, and Transport) by main equality strands. These are the starting point for a Welsh Assembly Government programme aimed at developing a stronger evidence base on the main equality strands in Wales.

Communities First

Communities First: A 2001 baseline was published in September 2006 to provide a baseline for each of the Communities First areas as at 2001, when the Communities First programme was introduced. Communities First is the Welsh Assembly Government's programme to improve the living conditions and prospects for people in the most disadvantaged communities in Wales.

Statistical Focus series

The Statistical Focus series of publications was extended with the publication of *Statistical Focus on Social Justice* and *Statistical Focus on Men and Women*.

Economic statistics

Longer-term plans for improving economic statistics include the commissioning of further short-term output indicators for Wales (see Project D in the Economy Theme). For 2006/07 this

covered the indices of production, of distribution, and various parts of the service sector, including the hotels and catering, and transport and communication sectors. For 2007/08 more of the service sector would be covered as a result of the release of a new Index of Business Services in Wales, and ONS is investigating a Welsh Index of Finance.

Welsh Health Survey

Results of the second year of the Welsh Health Survey were published along with statistical bulletins on health of carers, local authority data and data for Assembly constituencies. The Survey was also a major source for the statistical information to support Needs Assessment for Local Health Communities (co-ordinated by the National Public Health Service). Collection of extended survey data for children (including height and weight measurements) was implemented from January 2007.

Access to health services

Data for the time patients wait for diagnostic and therapy services was published for the first time in February 2006. Wales was the first of the UK countries to publish data on waiting times for these services. Further work is under way to include waiting times information on endoscopies and five other additional diagnostics in 2007/08.

Child health and maternity statistics

Work has been done to fill some of the gaps in information to support policy in the area of maternal and child health:

- the annual release on maternity statistics was expanded to include data on method of delivery by maternity unit
- work in conjunction with professionals inside and outside the Assembly to improve the data quality and usefulness of maternity and breastfeeding data has been initiated
- the first of a routine births statistical release from the National Community Child Health Database has been drafted and will be published shortly

Education Maintenance Allowances

Following agreement by the Chief Statistician of the Welsh Assembly Government and the National Statistician, the previously experimental series of Statistical First Releases on Education Maintenance Allowances for Wales was brought into the scope of National Statistics.

Other new outputs

In addition to the new outputs mentioned above, there have been new outputs on NHS dental services; births, deaths and conceptions; workplace employment by industry and sub-Wales level; and Welsh in Higher Education institutions. Statistics relating to Wales are available at:

www.wales.gov.uk

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Introduction

The purpose of this chapter is to highlight those developments that have had a significant impact on the Government Statistical Service (GSS) but were not anticipated when the Work Programme was being developed.

Independence for statistics

In November 2005 the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced his intention to make the 'Office for National Statistics independent of Government, making the governance and publication of official statistics the responsibility of a wholly separate body at arm's length from Government and fully independent of it'.

The National Statistician welcomed this announcement as an important step forward in enhancing the integrity of official statistics. 'ONS has always worked in an independent, open and transparent way, but there has been a perception that this is not so, which has been very damaging for official statistics as a whole. This announcement will increase the public confidence in official statistics.'

Since the Chancellor's announcement, ONS officials, in conjunction with colleagues from the GSS, have worked closely with Her Majesty's Treasury (HMT) officials to develop and articulate the proposals for independence. The aim of this work is to deliver a smooth transition from the present to the future arrangements and ensure that all working in government statistics adapt fully to statistical independence and reap the benefits which this offers. The high-level objectives of this work are to deliver measurable improvements in public trust and confidence in official statistics.

In the Queen's Speech on 15 November 2006, the Government announced that legislation would be introduced during the current parliamentary session to reinforce the independence, integrity and quality of statistics produced in government. The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (FST) explained that the Government's aim was 'to establish a system in statute that will deliver the

highest standards of quality, integrity and credibility in government statistics. A system that can evolve in light of experience and the developing demands for national statistics that are reliable, timely and relevant.'

The Statistics and Registration Service Bill was introduced into the House of Commons on 21 November 2006. The Bill provides for independence from ministers by creating a Statistics Board as a non-ministerial department, which will report directly to Parliament. The Statistics Board will have an Executive Office which will replace the current ONS. The Statistics Commission will cease to exist and its functions will be subsumed by the Statistics Board, and placed on a statutory footing.

The Statistics Board will have a statutory responsibility to promote and safeguard the quality and comprehensiveness of all official statistics. This objective is to be delivered through three main functions:

- monitoring and reporting on official statistics across the statistical system, wherever produced
- placing a statutory responsibility on the Board to assess and approve all National Statistics against a Statutory Code of Practice
- independent oversight of the Executive Office

In brief, other features of the Bill include:

- allowing for application of the new arrangements across the UK, while retaining the current decentralised system of statistical production across devolved administrations, government departments and agencies
- introduction of clauses to enable increased data sharing for statistical purposes
- granting the Board the power to determine the scope, definition and methodology of the Retail Price Index, and
- separation of functions relating to civil registration from the new Board

At the Second Reading of the Bill in the House of Commons on 8 January 2007, the FST announced

Government's commitment in principle to the creation of a central publication hub through which all National Statistics will be published, separating statistical commentary from policy statements. He also announced that current pre-release arrangements would be tightened, reducing early access from up to five days, as at present, to 40.5 hours, for all National Statistics.

HMT is steering the Bill through Parliament with assistance from ONS and the GSS. ONS and the rest of GSS are considering the practical implications of the Bill and the delivery of its provisions.

HMT and ONS agreed the governance arrangements for the work programme needed to prepare for Independence. Two workstreams have been established which draw a distinction between: professional matters, led by the National Statistician; and other matters, which will ultimately be for the new Chair, but at this stage are led by HMT's Statistical Reform Steering Committee, which is made up of senior officials from the ONS, HMT and other government departments.

The professional workstream is a substantial body of work and is being run as a dedicated Work Programme. During 2006/07 the Programme focused on the following objectives:

- to identify and secure funding for the additional expenditure required to deliver Independence
- to co-ordinate development of options for proposals on professional matters for consideration by the National Statistician and incoming Shadow Chair as appropriate
- to co-ordinate input from across the GSS (and from other stakeholders) to ensure that proposals for delivering the professional aspect of Independence are informed by, and reflective of, the balance of views across the GSS
- to oversee the implementation of the chosen options across the GSS and ensure a smooth transition to the new arrangements, and
- to identify and manage the risks, interdependencies and resources involved in the

transition to Independence in a controlled and structured programme environment

The point at which the new arrangements come into force will depend on the parliamentary process and timetable. However, the working assumption is for the new system to be up and running by April 2008. Meanwhile, it is anticipated that a Chair will be appointed in advance of this date.

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Neighbourhood Statistics website redesign

The Neighbourhood Statistics website is part of the National Statistics family of websites, focusing on the provision of information for small geographical levels for a variety of uses – most notably for providing evidence to tackle deprivation issues at the local level.

The redesign is the result of a joint initiative between ONS and the Department for Communities and Local Government, and has involved both the development of the website, as well as unlocking new data sources from a range of government departments.

The Neighbourhood Statistics initiative also introduced policies relating to the collection of data by ethnicity, and the creation of a new geography for better comparing and understanding small geographical areas over space and time.

The Neighbourhood Statistics website has been improved continuously since its original launch in 2001, with a major update release in June 2006 to address usability concerns with the website. In order to address this concern, ONS embarked on a User Centred Design Process.

User Centred Design Process

Users and their needs

The first step in the process was to agree the users that the Neighbourhood Statistics website was trying to reach. Figure 1 shows the range of users aimed at, with increasing focus towards the centre of the diagram.

The second step was to understand these users and their needs. To do this ONS carried out a programme of user research, and interviewed users representing these different user groups.

From this research, ONS then created 'personas' to represent these different types of user. Briefly, the concept of a persona, is to create a single 'hypothetical archetypal character' that is representative of a wider user group, and to define that character in detail (about their experience, knowledge, their job and their goals). They are

Figure 1: **Neighbourhood Statistics Customer Focus**



then made 'real' by putting names and faces to them so all involved can relate to them. A single 'primary persona' was also chosen as the most important person to satisfy when redesigning the website. Then, by determining 'scenarios' of use, where ONS worked through what the user would want to do in given situations, ONS was able to start designing the interaction (that is, the navigation for the new site).

Testing the prototype

With the prototype created, ONS then needed to test it on some of the real users, to make sure that the design was correct and that no mistakes had been made during the persona and design process. After a round of testing, making necessary changes and retesting, ONS was then ready to develop the design changes.

The new website

The changes made to the website resulted in:

- quicker and easier routes to the data
- provision of comparison data for higher geographical areas as a default

- enabling users to switch geographies in their search for data
- clearer labelling of relevant terms in language used by users
- removing (from the user) much of the complexity inherent in the data, particularly relating to geography and change over time
- cleaner, more accessible presentation – less clutter and fewer links to confuse the user

Feedback since the relaunch and future plans

Feedback to the site since the relaunch has been largely positive (85 per cent of customers stating that they are very or fairly satisfied). Independent customer satisfaction surveys are undertaken regularly on the website, and ONS also analyses other information, such as customer enquiries and web usage information. The analysis of web usage in particular shows things are going well, with increasing numbers of visits to the Neighbourhood Statistics website, and higher proportions of users successfully getting to their data.

The website will continue to evolve in time, taking account of changes in user needs, and ONS is also exploring changes in technology to better enable the supply and dissemination of data to other systems.

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Inter-departmental Migration Task Force

The Inter-departmental Task Force on International Migration Statistics was set up by the National Statistician in May 2006 to recommend timely improvements that could be made to estimates of migration and migrant populations in the UK, both nationally and at local level. The final report of the Task Force was published in December 2006 and a response to the report will be issued in summer 2007. For further information, please see Project A in chapter 22. The report is available on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14731

In convening the Task Force, it was recognised that international migration is one of the most difficult components of population change to measure accurately. Large numbers of people travel into and out of the UK every year, although migration numbers can be very different between one part of the country and another. There is no single comprehensive source that can provide the information, at national and local levels, that is required for statistical purposes.

Some improvements were already planned before the Task Force was established. These included enhancements in 2007 (such as implementing improved methods of distribution of international migrants to local areas) and more substantial improvements in five to ten years (for example, full coverage of those entering and leaving the country in 2014, as a result of the electronic borders project). The recommendations of the Task Force focused on the improvements that could be made in 2008 to 2012. A sequence of inter-connected improvements was identified as being necessary to capture the complexity of migration and deliver more timely, integrated migration statistics.

Short-term migration estimates

The need to cover both long-term and short-term migration was particularly emphasised by the Task Force, with the aspiration of moving to a situation where there are timely, accurate estimates of the number of people coming into, going out of and present in the country for different durations and reasons. ONS had already introduced new questions on the International Passenger Survey (IPS) in 2004. A paper based on the new data was published in January 2007. It sought user views on the issues in making estimates of short-term migrants. Based on these views, estimates of numbers in the country and flows will be published in autumn 2007.

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themes



Introduction

This Theme brings together information and statistics from across the UK about the agriculture, fishing, food and forestry sectors. In particular, the Theme includes statistics on:

- the economic impact of these sectors
- rural areas, working as appropriate with other Theme Working Groups (TWGs)
- outputs and inputs of agriculture and the food industry, and the environmental consequences
- animal and plant health
- food (in association with other TWGs)

A high priority for this Theme over the next three years is being given to statistics to ensure economic, environmental sustainability and safety of the food supply system, and to the economic, social and environmental development of rural areas. While traditional agricultural statistics remain important, they need increasingly to be set in the wider strategic policy context.

During 2006/07 the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) published English regional breakdowns of some food and agriculture datasets for the first time. The Farm Business Survey (FBS) results were published by English region for the financial year ended March 2005. An England regional breakdown of the national summary measures of the Production and Income Account for Agriculture has also been produced. This is an enhancement of the 'Summary Measures by County' table for 2004, originally published in Defra's *Agriculture in the United Kingdom*.

In January 2007 Defra's *Agricultural Change and Environment Observatory* published its first Annual Review, providing evidence to date on environmental outcomes arising from the 2003 reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and other key drivers of agricultural change. The Annual Review draws on a number of Observatory reports, many of which present regional analyses of data.

All datasets are available on the Defra website at:

www.defra.gov.uk

Under the *Framework for National Statistics*, the TWG is responsible for drawing up a three-year Work Programme. This chapter reports on the progress made over the last 12 months on the

most important projects being carried out by the Theme during 2005/06-2007/08. The projects are listed in no order of importance.

Priority projects

A. Information to support the sustainable farming and food agenda Aims and objectives

The aim of the project is to develop a suite of performance indicators to monitor the success of the policies delivering the Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy (SFFS). The project includes co-ordinating the development of internal and external surveys and monitoring schemes to provide data to feed into and support the indicators.

Progress to date

A set of 11 headline and approximately 60 supporting core indicators have been developed. Headline indicators have been developed to be consistent with other strategies and action plans for sustainable development. Targets and trajectories have been set for the headline indicators. Stakeholder consultation has taken place through the SFFS Implementation Group, which was set up to take forward and oversee delivery of strategy. Where possible, indicators have been based on established data series and only data sources that are fit for purpose are used. A website has been designed to publish the indicator results and was launched in July 2006:

<http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/indicator.asp>

Planned future work

Planned future work includes:

- a rolling programme of updates for indicators results
- ongoing development of indicators to reflect changing issues, priorities, monitoring programmes and data sources
- ensuring that the SFFS indicators reflect other relevant strategies and programmes, including at European Union (EU) and international level
- developing an overall assessment of the strategy

Completion date

The SFFS targets and trajectories run until 2010.

Cost

Approximately £75,000 from 2005/06 and for the subsequent years of the project

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B. Making greater use of administrative data

Aims and objectives

The aim of the project is to increase the use of administrative data for statistical purposes, thereby reducing compliance costs for both Defra and respondents. Defra statisticians are working closely with colleagues who are developing administrative approaches to livestock, land and customer data and with the Whole Farm Approach, with a view to collecting data once and using many times. Initial work has focused on the use of Cattle Tracing data to replace June survey questions.

Progress to date

A project to look at the feasibility of using Cattle Tracing data (from the Cattle Tracing System in Great Britain and Aphis in Northern Ireland) concluded in January 2007. A recommendation to use administrative data to replace cattle questions in both the June and December Agricultural surveys was put to the European Union (Eurostat).

Planned future work

Work is under way to consider alignment of the Sheep and Goat Inventory with these surveys with a view to simplifying the collection for farmers.

Completion date

Cattle Tracing data will be used in place of cattle questions in the June 2007 survey. This is part of a rolling programme to identify and use administrative sources for statistical purposes.

Cost

Around £100,000 a year to take this programme forward

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C. Animal health and welfare indicators

Aims and objectives

The aim of the project is to provide a suite of performance indicators that measure the progress of Defra's Animal Health and Welfare Strategy. This will contribute towards delivery of its main strategic outcomes as expressed in the Vision for the Future statement contained in the Strategy document *Animal Health and Welfare Strategy for Great Britain*, published in June 2004 and accessible on the Defra website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/ahws/strategy/ahws.pdf

The work involves building a suitable framework for the indicators based on the strategic outcomes. Beyond that, indicators at the headline and core level are being developed and will be populated with data from administrative, official and private sources.

Progress to date

A framework for farmed livestock indicators within England has been developed and agreed by the England Implementation Group (EIG), a Defra-appointed steering group to oversee the delivery of the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy within England.

Measures for these livestock indicators have been developed and, where possible, populated using a variety of data sources from statistical and administrative datasets.

Further work is required to populate all livestock indicators, including original data collection and specialist work to develop an index to measure the ongoing status of animal health and welfare. The indicator framework and the indicators populated to date were published in November 2006 at:

www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/ahws/eig/indicators/index.htm

Planned future work

Work is needed to populate the livestock indicators where there are currently no data and to refresh existing indicators with improved data sources as

they become available, and also to update indicators to track progress.

During 2007/08 indicators to measure the progress of the companion animal (pets) element of the strategy will be developed in consultation with the EIG. This work will include devising suitable measures and sourcing appropriate data from a variety of sources and will fit the current framework of alignment to the six visions of the strategy.

Completion date

The Animal Health and Welfare Strategy is a ten-year programme which started in 2004. It is expected to take to at least the end of 2007/08 to develop the indicators, although some key aspects, such as an index for animal health and welfare, may take longer to be fully developed. The monitoring functions will be required up to 2014 or beyond.

Cost

It is difficult to estimate resource costs over the duration of the project. The current Work Plan for 2007/08 envisages costs of around £100,000.

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Theme Group Members

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Sheila Ward
Forestry Commission

Darran Tucker
Office for National Statistics (Secretary)

Useful websites

Further information on the statistics covered by this Theme can be found at the following websites:

National Statistics
www.statistics.gov.uk

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
www.defra.gov.uk

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland
www.dardni.gov.uk

Forestry Commission
www.forestry.gov.uk/statistics

Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department
www.scotland.gov.uk

Welsh Assembly Government
www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/index.htm

Introduction

The Commerce, Energy and Industry (CEI) Theme covers the full range of microeconomic data produced by the Government Statistical Service (GSS). Microeconomic data include: indicators of output, Gross Value Added (GVA), employment, productivity, trade in goods and services, foreign direct investment, statistics of small and medium-sized businesses, and insolvency statistics in the manufacturing and service sectors. Statistics on energy cover information on production, trade, supply and prices.

This Theme has very close links with the Economy Theme, which covers macroeconomic data. In many cases, the data sources are the same, as are the major users, such as HM Treasury (HMT), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC), devolved administrations and Eurostat. In common with the Economy Theme, the implementation of the Allsopp Review will have a strong influence on the Theme's work over the next three years. In addition, a revised set of industrial classifications will be introduced in this period to comply with European Union (EU) regulations, which will also have a big impact on this Theme. Furthermore, all statistical producers will be looking to reduce the compliance burdens of their statistical collections in order to meet the Government's Better Regulation targets.

Under the *Framework for National Statistics*, the TWG is responsible for drawing up a three-year Work Programme. This chapter reports on the progress made over the last 12 months on the most important projects being carried out by the Theme during 2005/06–2007/08. The projects are listed in no order of importance.

Priority projects

A. Business Data Laboratory

Aims and objectives

The aim of the Virtual Microdata Laboratory (VML) is to provide ONS with a corporate facility for secure, cross-site access to microdata for research purposes. It is also used to help improve the

quality of ONS data by, for example, cross-checking between datasets, and to develop new National Accounts indicators, such as on information technology stock.

The VML is also, under controlled conditions, an analytical resource for other government and academic users. The VML team participate fully in the policy agenda surrounding microdata use, including confidentiality and disclosure control.

Progress to date

Use of the VML continues to grow. Since its inception in 2004, the VML has roughly doubled in the number of users and projects each year. Projects completed in 2006/07 included:

- two externally funded projects to review the feasibility of the capitalisation of intangible assets and the subsequent impact on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) – in both cases the UK is providing a lead to other European countries
- using the new longitudinal Business Structure Database to produce more finely detailed analyses of the births, deaths, mergers and demergers of firms than was possible before
- several key reviews of earnings data, including an in-depth study of the robustness of low pay statistics

The VML team is active in developing links between analysts within and outside ONS, including with presentations about microdata analysis to universities, government departments and academic conferences. This culminated with a day-long event on 'Research, Funding and Collaborative Working' in March 2007. This event, looking at opportunities for collaboration in research, was attended by over 120 people from ONS, academia, and central and local government. Participants came from across Wales and south-west England – from Bangor to Plymouth – and represented disciplines as diverse as law, geography and sociology.

The VML is increasingly seen as a world leader in the provision of access to confidential data. Presentations have been made to many senior

officials and the VML played host to the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and to Eurostat, which has adopted the VML's approach to the management of confidentiality in a research environment as its preferred approach for handling cross-national microdata. VML staff were invited as experts to Canada, the United States, New Zealand and Luxembourg.

Planned future work

The main theme of 2007/08 will be long-term planning of the development of the VML, as one of a number of ways of implementing the statistical analysis of microdata under the new legislative base envisaged in the Statistics and Registration Service Bill. Subject to enactment, a pilot scheme to provide secure access to the VML from four to five government offices across the UK will be started in 2007/08.

The microdata holdings in the VML will continue to be quality assured, documented and, where appropriate, linked for approved analysis. Household surveys and other social data are being added to the VML.

Completion dates

December 2007 for introduction of the pilot expansion and March 2008 for the long-term plan, subject to enactment of the Statistics and Registration Service Bill

Cost

Not available – VML is funded as core ONS business

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B. Improvements in quality and reliability of pension statistics

Aims and objectives

The aims of this project are to rebuild public confidence in existing pension statistics, improve the quality of data from existing sources, and to develop new data sources.

Progress to date

ONS has now established the Pensions Analysis Unit (PAU), which succeeded the Pensions Statistics Task Force. The PAU has continued to work towards improving the quality of pension statistics and to rebuild public confidence. The Pension Statistics Advisory Group (PSAG) has continued to meet to help facilitate inter-departmental co-ordination on pension statistics. The PAU continues to monitor user confidence in pension statistics through the PSAG and from user and media comments.

Following a user consultation exercise, a strategy for updating *Pension Trends* on a rolling quarterly basis has been developed. The first updates to three chapters, together with an article on the estimation of the age of withdrawal from the labour market and an expanded pension glossary, were released in December 2006. A timetable for future updates has been published, which includes the development of new analysis of data sources for inclusion in future *Pension Trends*.

The Occupational Pension Schemes Survey (OPSS) has transferred from the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) to ONS. The OPSS questionnaires were redesigned to help improve data quality and response rates. ONS conducted the data collection for the 2006 survey in November 2006 and significant improvements to response rates have been observed for the 2006 survey. ONS will publish the results in June 2007.

Improvements to ONS surveys have continued. Changes have been made to the 2007 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings pension questions.

Work on improving the pension fund and insurance company surveys has continued.

Planned future work

Further updates to *Pension Trends* will be published, including a new chapter on healthy ageing. An analysis report on the 2007 OPSS will be published in summer 2007. Updates to estimates of pension contributions in the National Accounts will be published. Work will continue on estimating retirement age, looking at inequality in pension provision, and under-saving for retirement.

Completion date

The current work plan of the PAU runs until March 2008.

Cost

2005/06:	£250,000
2006/07:	£350,000
2007/08:	£340,000

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C. Development of regional and local estimates of energy consumption

Aims and objectives

The aim of the project is to collect and compile regional and local estimates of energy consumption for different fuel sources. This information will be used by local and regional bodies to design, implement and monitor sustainable energy policies in their areas. It will also enable the investigation and analysis of local and regional variations in energy consumption.

Progress to date

Considerable progress has been made by DTI in producing further disaggregated energy consumption data, with estimates at local authority (NUTS4 – NUTS representing ‘Nomenclature for Units of Territorial Statistics’) and regional (NUTS1) level for electricity, gas, road transport and other fuels (coal, manufactured solid fuels, non-road transport petroleum and residuals) being published.

In addition, a set of high-level energy indicators for 2003 and quality indicators for the 2004 gas and electricity estimates have been released. Further highly disaggregated 2004 estimates of electricity consumption at Middle Layer Super Output Area (MLSOA) were published in January 2007.

All the data, together with explanatory notes, have been made available to users at local and regional levels.

Planned future work

This includes:

- release of local (NUTS4) and regional (NUTS1) gas consumption estimates collected at meter point level for 2004 and 2005 (in spring 2007)
- release of 2005 gas and electricity consumption estimates at MLSOA level (in spring or summer 2007)

- work to improve the domestic and industrial/commercial split of gas consumption data by using information held on the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR)

Completion date

December 2007

Cost

£16,000

D. E-collection of energy statistics

The aim of this work was to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the energy data collection by introducing an electronic data collection system.

The project was completed at the end of March 2006 and DTI now collects coal, gas, oil and electricity data electronically.

For more details, please see the entry relating to this project in the *National Statistics Annual Report 2005/06*:

www.statistics.gov.uk/about_ns/downloads/NSAR2006.pdf

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E. Revised approach to the EU Electricity and Gas Price Transparency Directive

Aims and objectives

The purpose of this project is the development of a revised approach to the EU Electricity and Gas Price Transparency Directive, which will take account of the operation of liberalised energy markets.

The current methodology produces prices for specific towns at specific consumption levels for two dates during the year. It is felt that this does not produce representative prices now that the EU energy market is starting to be liberalised. The new methodology will provide annual prices for the country as a whole that will meet Eurostat requirements.

Progress to date

The revised approach was discussed at EU level at the meeting of the Gas and Electricity Price Transparency Committee in December 2006. The committee agreed that the new methodology will be used from January 2008. The UK has developed and trialled surveys, one for industrial consumers and the other for domestic consumers. From July 2007 the UK will report information from these surveys to Eurostat.

Planned future work

DTI will work with the UK energy supply businesses to overcome any problems these companies face in supplying data in accordance with the new method.

Completion date

Development work has been completed, and will be implemented later in 2007/08.

Cost

Not available

Contact

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F. Review of the International Trade in Services Survey questionnaire

Aims and objectives

The review of the International Trade in Services (ITIS) questionnaire is part of an ONS review programme to improve the design of survey questionnaires and the quality of the data collected. The European Balance of Payments (BoP) Regulation also requires that additional Trade in Services detail for the 2005 reference year is provided to Eurostat.

Progress to date

The revised Quarterly International Trade in Services (QITIS) questionnaire was despatched to all businesses in the panel from the second quarter of 2005 onwards. Field tests were carried out in the final quarter of 2004 and in the first quarter of 2005 whereby half the QITIS panel received the revised questionnaire and half received the original questionnaire. After an initial fall in the responses to the QITIS survey, response rates improved and now meet the required response rate for both provisional and final results.

In addition, the ONS Data Capture Methodology team measured the error rates for the QITIS questionnaire. This monitoring was in place for the four quarters of 2005 and showed that error rates improved over time and to a level lower than experienced when the previous version of the questionnaire was in use.

Using the experience of implementing the quarterly questionnaire, the revised Annual International Trade in Film and Television Services (FTV) questionnaire was despatched in November 2005. The revised Annual International Trade in Services (AITIS) questionnaire was despatched in January 2006.

The 2005 provisional and final results for total ITIS were the first set of results to be produced from the new questionnaire, and were compliant with the requirements of Eurostat under the European BoP Regulation.

Planned future work

One question, on merchanting, has been highlighted as difficult for respondents to complete. Further work will take place with data collection methodologists to identify and address issues and to make improvements to this question.

Completion date

This project was completed in November 2006.

Cost

No costs have been determined as the project is being covered within existing budgets.

G. Development of the DCMS Evidence Toolkit to provide data on the DCMS sectors

Aims and objectives

The project aims to develop the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) Evidence Toolkit (DET) to provide improved definitions and statistics for the DCMS sectors. The programme of work will include identifying the appropriate Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes, and proportions of codes where necessary, to update the *Creative Industries Economic Estimates* statistical bulletin. DCMS will also be developing proposals for five-digit subclasses for the SIC 2007 revisions, with the aim of further improving the available data. Ultimately, the DET will provide a framework for statistical analysis of each DCMS sector, including comparisons with other sectors where data are better established.

Further information about the DET can be found on the DCMS website at:

www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Research/det

Progress to date

This project has been encompassed by the wider Creative Economy Programme, launched in November 2005, to consider key drivers of productivity in the Creative Industries. As part of the evidence and analysis strand of the Programme, the current methodology used to measure the Creative Industries has been investigated and a proposal has been developed for a more detailed approach.

Planned future work

The next stage for the analysis is to investigate the feasibility of incorporating a revised methodology into the annual *Creative Industries Economic Estimates* bulletin. This will require a process of consultation with both internal and external stakeholders to determine user views and requirements, as well as further analysis of the available data sources. A key part of this will be to use the DET to develop a methodology that builds on the previous work undertaken in this area.

Contact

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Completion date

The next *Creative Industries Economic Estimates Bulletin* is due to be published in autumn 2007.

Cost

Not available

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H. Development of new Short Term Output Indicators for Wales

This project is also of concern to the Economy Theme. For full details, please see Project D in chapter 17.

I. Implementing the Allsopp Review

This project has a significant impact on a number of themes. Please see chapter 9 for more details.

J. Intrastat – reducing the burden on businesses

Aims and objectives

The Intrastat survey collects data from businesses about trade between EU member states. As part of a wider government simplification agenda at both EU and UK level, there is a package of work to research potential avenues for reducing the administrative burden on businesses. Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs is currently undertaking an EU-funded project to explore the option of using stratified random sampling to reduce the sample size of the Intrastat survey. This project will:

- develop and propose a methodology for using stratified random sampling to collect and extrapolate UK-EU trade in goods data
- where possible, quantify the reduction in the burden on business that would result
- organise an International Workshop to discuss this and other burden-reducing ideas being investigated by other EU member states
- produce a quality assured project report for Eurostat

Progress to date

A methodology for stratified random sampling has been developed and the final report was sent to Eurostat in March 2007. The International Workshop was held as planned in October 2006. The main findings are summarised below:

- the option of using stratified random sampling to collect Intrastat data was not considered feasible as the quality of detailed results would decrease considerably
- an alternative strategy, discussed at the International Workshop, was the introduction of a Single Flow system in the EU which would mean the collection of either imports-only data or exports-only data for each member state – data from the flow not collected would then be available from EU mirror figures
- a further alternative discussed at the Workshop was raising the Intrastat threshold – this option

could offer a large decrease in declarative burden, potentially even more so than would arise through a Single Flow system

Planned future work

Following recommendations from the International Workshop, an EU Task Force Intrastat Simplification Working Group was set up and the first meeting was held in January 2007. The aim of the group is to put forward a firm proposal for the simplification of Intrastat by October 2007, and then to assist in implementing the necessary changes throughout the EU.

Completion date

The final project report was sent to Eurostat in March 2007. The EU Task Force Intrastat Simplification Working Group will put forward a firm proposal for the simplification of Intrastat by October 2007.

Cost

2006/07: €57,000 – 90 per cent of the agreed cost of this project will be reimbursed by Eurostat.

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Theme Group Members

This Work Programme was developed by:

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Department for Culture, Media and Sport

Frances Pottier

Department of Trade and Industry

Geoff Reed

Department of Trade and Industry

Tricia Williams

HM Revenue & Customs

Edward Zamboni

HM Revenue & Customs

Matt Prior (Secretary)

Office for National Statistics

Useful websites

Further information on the statistics covered by this Theme can be found at the following websites:

National Statistics

www.statistics.gov.uk

Department for Communities and Local Government

www.communities.gov.uk

Department for Culture, Media and Sport

www.culture.gov.uk

Department for Transport

www.dft.gov.uk

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment,
Northern Ireland

www.detini.gov.uk

Department of Trade and Industry

www.dti.gov.uk

HM Revenue & Customs

www.hmrc.gov.uk

Scottish Executive

www.scotland.gov.uk

UK Trade Information

www.uktradeinfo.com

Welsh Assembly Government

www.wales.gov.uk

Introduction

Crime and justice statistics cover both the impact of crime on the public and the working of the criminal and civil justice systems. Within these broad headings are many more detailed topics, for example: crime experienced by the public; crime known to the police; public confidence; the cost of crime; drug-taking and its effect on young people; court cases affecting families, children and the resolution of civil disputes; the effectiveness of justice systems; the extent of offending; geographic variations; and impacts on minority groups.

Data are collected from a wide range of sources: many based on administrative and operational systems, and some on surveys of households or public bodies. Research supplies a good deal of the material available, most of which is outside the range of National Statistics.

The constituent countries of the UK each have different justice systems. Statistics are therefore, in general, available separately for each constituent part of the UK.

In May 2007 the new Ministry of Justice was created, bringing together the work of the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) and a number of functions (including prisons, probation and sentencing policy) that were previously the responsibility of the Home Office. This change has affected departmental ownership of a number of the development projects described in this chapter.

Under the *Framework for National Statistics*, the Theme Working Group (TWG) is responsible for drawing up a three-year Work Programme. This chapter reports on the progress made over the last 12 months on the most important projects being carried out by the Theme during 2005/06–2007/08. The projects are listed in no order of importance.

Priority projects

A. Integration of the Scottish criminal justice Statistical and Management Information System (SMIS) project

Aims and objectives

The overall aim of the project is to prove the concept of a data warehouse approach to gathering statistical and management information on Scottish criminal justice cases.

In particular, the project will seek to:

- test the logistics of capturing, processing and summarising data electronically on dates of key events in the life cycle of criminal justice cases
- develop a front-end analysis and reporting tool for users to generate standard summaries of this information, broken down by factors of interest to them, such as police force area and type of offence

Progress to date

Following the creation of a pilot version of the SMIS data warehouse and front-end analysis and reporting tool in late 2005, initial evaluation and user acceptance testing of the system was carried out in the period to March 2006.

Over the last year the operational requirements of the pilot system have been more fully tested, such as updating the system with regular data extracts. Work has also been carried out to:

- identify limitations and shortcomings in the underlying data and in the front-end analysis and reporting tool
- propose further enhancements and improvements to the pilot system to address identified shortcomings

In addition, analyses of the underlying data extracts have been developed to meet the emerging needs of the National Criminal Justice Board and local criminal justice boards for performance management information. In particular, SMIS data have provided a vital underpinning for the separate Criminal Justice Board Management Information (CJB MI) Project established to meet these needs.

Planned future work

A full evaluation of the pilot SMIS system is currently under way, with a report planned for later in 2007. Decisions on any move to a fully operational system will be dependent on a successful evaluation of the pilot system; on having an agreed launch strategy and training materials in place; and on the availability of sufficient technical and other resources. Decisions will be made in the context of the priority requirements of the CJB MI Project.

Completion date

May 2007

Cost

The cost for the whole pilot was £97,000:

2004/05: £25,000

2005/06: £66,000

2006/07: £6,000

Contact

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B. Development of the Home Office analysis of data drawn from the Police National Computer

Aims and objectives

The Home Office Police National Computer (HOPNC) database is an extract from the police's operational system for recording details of offenders, offences and disposals. The Home Office intends to use HOPNC for research and statistical purposes.

Progress to date

The HOPNC is now well established within the Home Office as a rich source of data on offending and reoffending in England and Wales. It is used for a wide range of analyses relating to criminal histories and reconviction. In particular, the database is used to measure progress towards achieving the Home Office Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets on reducing reoffending for both adults and juveniles. The most recent figures for the reoffending rates for adult offenders were published in March 2007 and can be found at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb0607.pdf

Planned future work

Work continues to exploit further the HOPNC data to monitor the effectiveness of Home Office policies and to extend and refine the measurement of reoffending.

Project length

The development work has been completed successfully.

Cost

Not available

Contact

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C. Development of an equity monitoring system for the Northern Ireland justice system

Aims and objectives

The aims of the project are to:

- deliver a sound, reliable data collection methodology for equity monitoring to allow monitoring to begin across Northern Ireland by 2007/08
- ensure that the administrative equity monitoring data that are available and the corresponding outcome data are captured on the Causeway Integrated IT system
- introduce a self-classified element to collect that information which is not currently available from administrative systems (race, religion, disability, marital status, nationality and whether or not the defendant has dependants)

This will meet one of the recommendations that arose from the review of the Criminal Justice System in Northern Ireland that reported in March 2000.

Progress to date

The self-classified equity monitoring pilot concluded that proposed processes would not be workable on a system-wide basis. The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has recently decided to collect data relating to the categories in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 at the point of entry to the system. The Section places a statutory obligation on public authorities in carrying out their various functions to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity. More information on what is covered under the heading of equality can be found at:

www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/section_75

Systems have been tested by an administrative data pilot study as part of the Equity Monitoring Driver to Causeway Project to capture the equity monitoring data on the Causeway Integrated IT system when they become available from the PSNI.

The sharing of Section 75 data collected and stored by the PSNI will feed into the equity monitoring

process via their storage on a specially created stand-alone entity on the Causeway Data Sharing Mechanism (DSM). This provides a mechanism for specifying appropriate permissions to control access to the data which will ensure that they are kept separate from routine data flows.

Planned future work

When Causeway has been populated with the Section 75 and outcome data, an overall equity monitoring system will facilitate monitoring performance against Section 75 categories. One of the recommendations of the Criminal Justice Review was that the Criminal Justice Board should monitor the Criminal Justice System, as this is comprised of a number of linked stages. A report from the equity monitoring database will not be produced until after the database has been populated with a reasonable amount of data and the first data sharing mechanism (DSM1) has been implemented.

Completion date

The availability of data for outcome and context indicators is necessarily limited by the current stage of development of Causeway. Outcome data, reflecting decisions made by criminal justice organisations, will not be available until the release of DSM1, which is currently scheduled for June 2008.

Cost

Not available

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D. Publication of a Research and Statistics Strategy for the Northern Ireland Criminal Justice System

Aim and objectives

The aim of the project is to publish a Research and Statistics Strategy for the Northern Ireland Criminal Justice System.

The purpose of the strategy is to:

- set out the strategic context of the research and statistical work being taken forward within the Northern Ireland Office (NIO)
- show how this work is linked to the overall research aims and objectives of the NIO
- invite research proposals that will contribute to the achievement of these aims and objectives

Progress to date

The Research and Statistics Strategy for the Northern Ireland Criminal Justice System for 2007/08 has been agreed with relevant parties and signed off.

Planned future work

The NIO envisages that the Research and Statistics Strategy will now be updated annually in line with the priorities of the department and relevant agencies.

Completion date

February 2007

Cost

Not available

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E. Development of the Northern Ireland Crime Survey

Aims and objectives

The Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS) is a personal interview survey of the experiences and perceptions of crime of adults living in private households throughout Northern Ireland.

During 2005 NIO planned to introduce continuous fieldwork on the survey, increase the sample size and introduce a new series of questions measuring confidence in the Criminal Justice System and the reasons for the level of confidence (via the Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey). Further information can be found at:

www.nio.gov.uk/index/statistics-research.htm

Progress to date

Since January 2005 NICS fieldwork has been operating on a continuous basis. The target for achieved sample size has been increased from 3,000 to 4,000. The NICS is being used to track progress towards 2004 Spending Review targets on public confidence in policing and in the Criminal Justice System in Northern Ireland. Open questions have been used to establish what would increase public confidence.

Planned future work

The NICS will be used to produce four publications on an annual basis as well as for tracking progress towards meeting Public Service Agreement targets.

Completion date

This project was completed in December 2006.

Cost

£130,000 net annual additional cost

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F. Development of systems to collect and analyse individual data and enhance the use of Geographical Information Systems for crime and data analysis

Aims and objectives

The recorded crime data that the Home Office receives are currently supplied at aggregate level. Police forces in England and Wales supply summary returns with data combined, for example, by crime grouping or by geographic area. In the case of geography, data are supplied at a level consistent with the 376 local authorities in England and Wales.

Following the development of the National Management Information System (NMIS) within the majority of police forces, it is anticipated that the future data will be supplied at unit record level with details available for every recorded crime. This will allow much more detailed analysis of the data and, where a grid reference is attached to the record, will allow the statistics to be compiled at a far more local geographic level.

Progress to date

Work on building the 'NMIS data hub' is well under way. A memorandum of understanding on sharing information between the Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers has been drafted and reviewed, and a timetable for delivery of data from police forces has been set. The system will be capable of holding record level crime data from all police forces, including detailed location information such as postcode and grid reference. This will draw on the local NMIS and other equivalent management information systems used by forces.

An experimental dataset holding the number of offences recorded during 2003/04 in 13 police force areas was published through the ONS Neighbourhood Statistics (NeSS) website.

Planned future work

The dataset on Neighbourhood Statistics will be expanded to increase the number of police forces' data held, initially through voluntary data

collections from forces, until the data hub development is completed. Updates to the information already provided (for 2004/05 and 2005/06), along with data covering additional force areas, will be provided to ONS before autumn 2007.

Once the data hub is in place and fully functional, information should be available on a consistent basis across the whole of England and Wales.

Completion date

The project will end when the data hub has been implemented, tested and is able to produce the information required by NeSS. This is currently anticipated to be achieved by mid-2008, allowing a step change in the way these data can be analysed and made available to a wider public.

Cost

This project has been partially funded through the Neighbourhood Statistics budget. The allocation for 2006/07 was £210,000.

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G. Review of the data management and analysis systems on the British Crime Survey

Aims and objectives

The project aims to improve the efficiency of the British Crime Survey (BCS) data processing systems, to assure the quality and timeliness, and to improve continuity.

Progress to date

An external consultancy review of BCS data processing systems recommended a number of innovations to streamline and improve processing. This work has been completed and an integrated data system has been built and tested successfully. Production of data will commence in May 2007 in preparation of the next set of annual crime statistics in July 2007.

Planned future work

Further enhancements are planned in-house during 2007/08 to extend the range of outputs contained within the routine processing.

Completion date

December 2006

Cost

£25,000

H. Review of Judicial Statistics annual report

This project was included in the *Addendum to the National Statistics Work Programme 2005/06–2007/08*, published in July 2006.

Judicial Statistics was withdrawn from the scope of National Statistics with effect from the revised 2005 edition, published in August 2006. Work to develop the publication is ongoing, but as it is no longer a National Statistics publication it does not come within the remit of this Annual Report.

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Theme Group Members

This Work Programme was developed by:

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Police Service of Northern Ireland

David Signorini
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Tim Stamp
Ministry of Justice

Alison Walker
Home Office

Darran Tucker (Secretary)
Office for National Statistics

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
www.nisra.gov.uk

Police Service of Northern Ireland
www.psn.police.uk

Probation Board for Northern Ireland
www.pbni.org.uk

Scottish Executive
www.scotland.gov.uk

Useful websites

Further information on the statistics covered by this Theme can be found at the following websites:

National Statistics
www.statistics.gov.uk

Crown Prosecution Service
www.cps.gov.uk

HM Courts Service
www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk

Home Office Research, Development and Statistics
www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds

Ministry of Justice
www.justice.gov.uk

Northern Ireland Court Service
www.courtsni.gov.uk

Northern Ireland Office
www.nio.gov.uk

Northern Ireland Policing Board
www.nipolicingboard.org.uk

Introduction

The Economy Theme covers statistics about expenditure and revenue, prices and measures of inflation, short-term economic indicators and regional macroeconomic statistics. The statistics are produced by a variety of government departments and the devolved administrations.

The data underpinning macroeconomic statistics are collected in a number of different ways and from a variety of sources, including business and household surveys, specialised monthly price collections, trade statistics, administrative data and banking statistics.

Economic statistics have a wide range of users. The statistics are used by Her Majesty's Treasury (HMT) as an input to the setting of economic policy and to monitor the performance of the economy. The Bank of England and the Monetary Policy Committee use the outputs to set and monitor monetary policy. The outputs are also used by Parliament as an input to their assessments of the performance of government and the UK economy. Use of economic statistics within government departments for policy analysis is extensive, particularly for Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC) and the devolved administrations. Regional economic statistics are used by central government, the devolved administrations and local government to inform policy and resource allocation.

Under the *Framework for National Statistics*, the Theme Working Group (TWG) is responsible for drawing up a three-year Work Programme. This chapter reports on the progress made over the last 12 months on the most important projects being carried out by the Theme during 2005/06–2007/08. The projects are listed in no order of importance.

Priority projects

A. Implementing the Allsopp Review

This project has a significant impact on a number of themes. Please see chapter 9 for more details.

B. Atkinson Review

Developments for this project are reported in detail in chapter 11.

C. Statistics Commission Revisions Review

The purpose of this work was to take forward the recommendations made in the Statistics Commission's Revisions Review, published in April 2004.

ONS completed this work in 2005 and a final report on progress was published in *Economic Trends* in December 2005. The article is available on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/article.asp?id=1289

For more details, please see the entry relating to this project in the *National Statistics Annual Report 2005/06*:

www.statistics.gov.uk/about_ns/downloads/NSAR2006.pdf

D. Short Term Output Indicators for Wales

Aims and objectives

The programme to improve economic statistics for Wales involves:

- improving the underlying data sources for both employment and business-related statistics by supplementing the UK-wide quarterly Labour Force Survey with a boosted annual Welsh Labour Force Survey (now Annual Population Survey, APS) and by boosting the Welsh sample of a range of ONS's annual business surveys
- providing up-to-date measures of economic performance by compiling a range of short-term economic output indicators for various sectors of the Welsh economy – this work is being carried out for the Welsh Assembly Government by ONS
- working with the providers of existing data sources that cover Wales to improve the understanding of, and access to, that data

Progress to date

During 2006/07 the regularisation of outputs from the APS was an important step in raising its profile as a key source of labour market statistics for Wales. ONS also reviewed the methodology used

for some of the short-term output indicators – the Index of Production and the Index of Distribution for Wales. A new indicator was also released: the Welsh Index of Transport and Communication.

In addition, the Welsh Assembly Government carried out a user consultation over the future of this programme.

Planned future work

The results from the APS will be extended to produce household-level outputs and the survey will be reweighted to current population estimates over the coming year.

The results of the methodological review will be incorporated into the Welsh Index of Production and Index of Distribution. A new Index of Business Services will also be released.

The Welsh Assembly Government will be co-operating with the UK Centre for the Measurement of Government Activity (UKCeMGA) to develop measures of output for the health and social services sector in Wales. There will also be developments in using other sources of data to understand the Welsh economy. These will include longitudinal benefits data from the Department for Work and Pensions, the British Household Panel Survey and the Census Longitudinal Survey.

Completion date

Work on the project commenced in June 2004 and will continue beyond 2007/08.

Cost

The total cost of this project is currently £1.5 million a year.

Contact

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E. Single Data System Project

Aims and objectives

The purpose of this project was to develop a simplified and strengthened government financial management system by combining three separate Her Majesty's Treasury systems into one Single Data System (SDS) – 'COINS' (Combined Online Information System) – integrating budgeting, in-year reporting and end-year reporting processes.

Progress to date

Rollout of the COINS system was completed on time, with COINS used to produce Main Estimates and related outputs in spring 2006 for the first time. The project team was disbanded on 31 March 2006 (see entry in the *National Statistics Annual Report 2005/06*), with the COINS system at operational status. Some system enhancement/development work has been undertaken subsequently to COINS becoming operational:

- COFOG (Classification of the Functions of the Government) level 2: work has progressed well on setting up COFOG level 2 information on COINS, and is on target to meet HMT's intention of publishing data at this level in *Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) 2007*
- reporting suite: work has progressed in delivering updated and new reporting capabilities on COINS, including tables to report COFOG level 2 in *PESA 2007*; work in this area will be ongoing, in terms of the wider use of COINS
- audited outturn data: the planned pilot is being reassessed to address issues that have been identified and will be moved forward with a small number of volunteer bodies

Planned future work

Further development work is planned, which will include further work on progressing the financial management agenda and capability to produce Supplementary Estimates from COINS.

Completion date

Rollout was completed in December 2005 and this project has been completed.

Cost

Total project cost of £2.4 million

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F. National Accounts Re-engineering Project

Aims and objectives

The aims of the National Accounts Re-engineering Project (NAREP) are to:

- develop processes and systems that are more standardised, more transparent, faster, more efficient, less complex, less labour-intensive, less error-prone, less risky
- enable the delivery of better quality and more reliable estimates of the National Accounts
- provide better, more reliable evidence of economic activity on which government and other key stakeholders can base decisions
- provide a better and more responsive service to key customers of the National Accounts
- strengthen the standing and reputation of ONS

To achieve these aims, the NAREP is seeking to deliver the following objectives:

- to identify and agree with key stakeholders the broad requirements for National Accounts estimates, both now and in the future
- to reassess and update (within the overall framework of the European System of Accounts 1995) the methods and assumptions on which the National Accounts are based
- to re-engineer the processes, data flows and organisational structure to ensure efficient and effective delivery of the National Accounts
- to ensure the availability of appropriate statistical tools for the delivery of the National Accounts
- to re-engineer the computer systems so that they will effectively and efficiently handle the new methods, processes and data flows and deliver the required National Accounts service

Progress to date

Over the last year the project has progressed from specification of requirements for new systems and new methodology towards implementation. The principal changes relate to new methods for deriving estimates of Gross Domestic Product through the Input-Output Supply and Use framework.

The functionality for the new National Accounts systems is largely in place after quality assurance, and new systems are under construction with the first outputs now being validated.

A major part of the implementation encompasses training of staff on the new systems, processes and methodology, and new training courses are now under way. The new processes are now being linked into the regular National Accounts timetable of outputs.

The timetable for implementation alongside a description of the main benefits of the changes was published in the April 2007 edition of *Economic and Labour Market Review*:

www.statistics.gov.uk/elmr/04_07

Planned future work

Over the next year the preparations for the first stage of implementation of the new methodology on the new systems in 2008 will be stepped up. The new results will be quality assured and a series of articles will be prepared, aimed at ensuring the users of National Accounts are well prepared for the changes.

The major improvements expected to be delivered in 2008 include annual and quarterly supply and use tables at current prices and in volume terms, the foundations of a monthly measure of Gross Value Added (GVA), relaunching of the sector dividends and interest matrix and a flow of funds matrix for the sector financial accounts. These will lead to significant statistical benefit to users in terms of new outputs and improved quality of existing ones.

After 2008 the project will implement significant cash-saving benefits derived from new efficient processes and a new organisational structure for National Accounts Group in ONS, so that maximum benefit is derived from the new upgraded systems.

Further improvements are planned after 2008, especially in reviewing the methodology for the sector and financial accounts.

Completion date

The first stage of implementation is due to be achieved in September 2008 and the second phase is due for completion at the end of 2010.

Cost

The budget for the project in 2006/07 was £3.5 million.

Theme Group Members

This Work Programme was developed by:

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HM Treasury

Henry Small
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Sandy Stewart
Scottish Executive

Sandra Tudor
HM Revenue & Customs

Glen Watson
Office for National Statistics

Matt Prior (Secretary)
Office for National Statistics

Useful websites

Further information on the statistics covered by this Theme can be found at the following websites:

National Statistics
www.statistics.gov.uk

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment,
Northern Ireland
www.detini.gov.uk

Department of Trade and Industry
www.dti.gov.uk

HM Revenue & Customs
www.hmrc.gov.uk

HM Treasury
www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

Scottish Executive
www.scotland.gov.uk/stats

Welsh Assembly Government
www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales

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Introduction

The Education and Training Theme covers statistics about learners, learning progression, qualifications and skills, and the workforce and providers that deliver learning.

The data that make up education and training statistics are collected from education authorities, learning providers, qualifications agencies, learners and employers. Much of the data is held on administrative datasets, but business, household and learner surveys provide important supplementary data.

Under the *Framework for National Statistics*, the Theme Working Group (TWG) is responsible for drawing up a three-year Work Programme. This chapter highlights the priority projects being carried out by the Theme during 2005/06–2007/08 and covers all official statistics, not just National Statistics. They are listed in no order of importance.

Priority projects

A. Development of a follow-up sample survey as the second phase of the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education process

Aims and objectives

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) return collects data from all leavers of UK or other European Union (EU) domicile at six months after completion. It includes qualifiers from part-time programmes as well as those from full-time programmes. The aim of this project, forming part of the overall DLHE process, is the development of a follow-up sample survey conducted at the 42-month point which will collect a simple career history as well as snapshot information. This will make it possible to monitor career pathways and to overcome other limitations and weaknesses of the six-month snapshot when used in isolation.

Progress to date

A methodological pilot was conducted by MORI (now Ipsos MORI) during 2005/06, and this informed the design of the full survey and provided the evidence on the basis of which the

Higher Education (HE) funders were able to commit the resource necessary to proceed.

The contract for the fieldwork was let competitively during summer 2006 to YouGov/IFF Research. HESA and the project Steering Group worked with the contractors to refine the detailed specification of the survey. Contact details were obtained for over 58,000 respondents to the original six-month survey (approximately a 25 per cent sample). As at April 2007 data collection is complete, and the target response rate of 40 per cent has been achieved.

Planned future work

Each institution will receive its own data, but any publication of results will be at sector, and possibly administration/region, level, and possibly by subject groups, but not at institutional level. Decisions about what and how to publish will be taken following the production of a report on the data by a consultant, and this work has now been commissioned. This report will also be the basis on which the decision about whether to repeat the survey and, if so, at what frequency will be taken.

Completion date

Early 2007 for data collection, mid- to late-2007 for analysis/publication, and continuation on the same pattern for future years if agreed

Cost

Not disclosed as it is commercially sensitive at this stage

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B. Development of the National Pupil Database, Wales

The aim of the project was to establish a database of records at the individual pupil level to aid more detailed analysis.

This project has been completed, but there have been some changes from the original plan. Primary school performance data have been included, although performance booklets will not be incorporated until this coming academic year.

For more details, please see the entry relating to this project in the *National Statistics Annual Report 2005/06*:

www.statistics.gov.uk/about_ns/downloads/NSAR2006.pdf

C. Development of outputs from the new Lifelong Learning Wales Record

The project's aim was to establish a regular series of statistical outputs from the new Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR) database in partnership with Education and Learning Wales (ELWa).

This work has now been completed and has been brought into a regular timetable. There will be a need for further work in the future to bring it within the scope of National Statistics.

For more details, please see the entry relating to this project in the *National Statistics Annual Report 2005/06*:

www.statistics.gov.uk/about_ns/downloads/NSAR2006.pdf

D. ScotXed – continuation and development of the data exchange programme

Aims and objectives

Scottish exchange of educational data (ScotXed) is a partnership project involving local authorities, schools, Her Majesty's Treasury Inspectorate of Education, the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), Learning and Teaching Scotland, and the Scottish Executive Education Department (SEED). ScotXed provides effective secure data exchange so partners benefit from access to information to monitor and improve services. Further information is available at:

www.scotxed.net

Progress to date

Benchmarking

Standard Tables and Charts (STACs) is SEED's flagship benchmarking and self-evaluation publication, allowing internal and external benchmarking of SQA attainment data among schools and local education authorities. In 2006/07 the main development was a new way of placing schools into comparable groups by utilising principal components analysis to create a measure using six different variables, such as free meal entitlement and mothers' qualifications.

National Priorities in Education

As part of the ongoing challenge to bring together relevant and appropriate data and information into a 'one stop shop', data to inform and support the Scottish Executive's National Priorities in Education have been placed on the ScotXed website.

School to School Transfers

A new School to School Transfer (S2S) system has been developed, which will allow the tracking of all pupils as they move school. Each pupil has been allocated a unique pupil identifier and software has been developed to allow transfers to be monitored.

Planned future work

To continue to develop and embed the exchange and use of relevant and timely data

Completion date

Ongoing

Cost

£ 400,000

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E. Analysis of Northern Ireland higher education students migrating to study in Great Britain

Aims and objectives

The aim of the project is to determine the reasons why Northern Ireland students migrate to Great Britain to study higher education.

Progress to date

Preliminary reports are being drafted by the researchers and final reports are due to be completed by summer 2007.

Planned future work

The material gathered in this study will be used to inform the debate and discussion of HE participation in the UK through participation in seminars and conferences together with publications in scholarly journals.

Completion date

Summer 2007

Cost

£65,600

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F. Longitudinal Survey of Young People (LSYPE)

Aims and objectives

The project will establish a longitudinal survey starting when young people are in year 9 at school (aged 13-14) and is intended to run for around ten years. This will follow their transition through the final two years of compulsory education and into further and higher education, employment or other outcomes. The study includes sample boosts to ensure more robust results for young people in the six major ethnic minorities (Black African, Black Caribbean, Bangladeshi, Indian, Pakistani and Mixed) and those in schools with high levels of pupils eligible for free school meals. The study is based on annual interviews with sample members and, for the first three waves at least, interviews also with their co-resident parents or guardians.

The project aims to provide an insight into the lives of young people and into the influences on the choices they make in the areas of education, employment and training, in particular in the final years of compulsory education and the period immediately following. By interviewing parents as well as young people, this will lead to a better understanding of how, and at what stage, decisions are made and actions taken, and the factors that are most important at these stages.

Progress to date

The first three annual waves of LSYPE have now taken place, starting in spring 2004 and collecting a wealth of information from young people and their parents. Response rate targets have been exceeded, both in terms of the overall level and the evenness of response rates, both geographically and across groups of interest. Initially some 21,000 were in the issued sample and, with response rates of approximately 74 per cent, 86 per cent and 92 per cent respectively for the three waves, more than 12,000 young people remaining will be contacted at Wave 4.

Wave 1 data have been deposited at the data archive and Waves 2 and 3 will follow over the next few months. The data have been linked to

administrative records of pupil exam results and to local area variables, greatly increasing the scope for analysis. Currently various projects are under way using LSYPE data – both within government and among academics.

Planned future work

Wave 4 is currently being planned and fieldwork for this will start around late May 2007, running through until September 2007. This wave will retain an interview with parents, although it may be the last wave to do so. Wave 4 includes a boost to the sample for specific ethnic groups. While the individual level response from all groups was high, schools (from which address details of sample members were collected) did show some differences in response rates, reducing the numbers of Black African and Black Caribbean young people in the sample.

The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) is in discussions with other parts of government over their potential interest in the study now that the sample members are 16 or 17. It is expected that LSYPE will become a cross-government study, led by DfES, although this depends on securing funding.

Wave 4 is synchronised with another DfES exercise, the Youth Cohort Study (YCS) which has been running for many years. The 13th cohort of YCS will cover the same age group as the LSYPE sample and, for many areas of interest, the overlapping coverage will enable the disaggregation of analysis more than was previously possible, for example with more analysis by social class and gender rather than just social class.

Completion date

The study is intended to run for around ten years, although this is dependent upon funding.

Cost

Approximately £6 million for the first three waves

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G. Framework for Excellence & New Measures of Success Programmes

Aims and objectives

The Success for all (SFA) programme launched in November 2002 aimed to ensure that post-16 learning providers offer high-quality learning to meet the needs of young people, adults and employers. The New Measures of Success Programme (NMS) was one strand of SFA with the aim of ensuring the right management information was available to achieve the aims of SFA.

On 27 March 2006 DfES published the White Paper: *FE Reform – Raising skills improving Life Chances*. The Framework for Excellence (FFE) is one strand of the quality theme within the FE white paper and is a method of managing performance within providers and across the learning and skills sector. Its key objectives are to make learning provision more responsive and demand led, increase the proportion of good and outstanding provision and reduce bureaucracy, using a range of provider level measures.

Further Information can be found on the Framework for Excellence website:

<http://www.lsc.gov.uk/whatwedo/FrameworkforExcellence.htm>

Progress to date and planned future work

Progress is reported below for each of the new measures:

Qualification success rate

A work-based learning (WBL) measure comparable with further education (FE) was developed during 2004/05 and published for the first time in February 2006. It was originally proposed that from 2007/08 new data fields would be added to the annual schools census to allow the calculation of a school sixth-form measure comparable with FE. This proved too costly (in terms of cost and burden on schools) and the inclusion of school sixth forms in FFE was postponed after ministerial agreement.

Value added and distance travelled (VADT) for 16–19s

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has developed prototype software – the Learner Achievement Tracker (LAT) – to enable providers to analyse

learner progress in qualifications at level 3 relative to prior attainment at level 2 at the qualification level. The prototype was piloted and tested by a sample of providers. A value added (VA) measure, enabling the analysis of learner progress in a package of A levels for use in provider comparisons in performance tables, is being developed by DfES and is currently being piloted. Full implementation was planned for late 2007, but after ministerial agreement has been postponed until late 2008 to ensure sufficient acceptance by providers.

Adult distance travelled

Recognising and recording progress and achievement (RARPA) is a methodology for assessing progress (distance travelled) in non-accredited provision. RARPA is a staged approach in which skill levels are measured at the beginning and end of a course (and throughout if appropriate), and results are used to assess levels of improvement.

From September 2006 all providers in receipt of LSC funding are required to apply the RARPA approach to all non-accredited provision. Guidance and training for implementing RARPA are provided by the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education and Learning and Skills Networks. Off-the-shelf tests for assessing skills levels are not available as the appropriate form will vary by course and area of learning. In making judgements about standards, Ofsted inspectors now assess the achievements of learners on non-accredited courses using RARPA methodology.

For accredited adult learning a 2004 feasibility study concluded that a robust statistical model for adult distance travelled could not be developed using existing data. RARPA will therefore be extended to cover accredited adult learning when the piloting of its use for non-accredited learning has been completed.

Learner progression and destinations

To monitor the progress of individual learners into further learning and the labour market, a feasibility study, examining existing data sources

and best practice in local destinations tracking, reported in 2006. The study confirmed that the measure was feasible for learners on courses that are a priority for LSC funding, based on matching administrative data and a national survey. The measure is being piloted on 100 providers in 2007 with a view to full implementation of the measure in 2008.

Responsiveness to learners

The National Learner Satisfaction Survey (NLSS) was first undertaken in 2001/02 and is continually being refined. A research tools website to help providers use survey results for benchmarking was launched in August 2005. Under FFE, providers will be asked to use six core questions from the NLSS in their own survey to ensure comparability. Providers will be consulted on standards for the collection and use of learner satisfaction information at institutional level, with piloting taking place in 2007 and 2008 with a view to full implementation of the measure in 2008.

Responsiveness to employers

The National Employer Skills Survey (NESS) was first undertaken in 2003 and is modified annually to reflect the current skills agenda. Work is under way to build on this survey to produce a provider level measure of responsiveness to employers.

Provider responsiveness to employers

This measure is concerned with determining how well colleges are responding to the needs of employers and learners. Initial development work was completed in March 2006. Further development work is being planned to accommodate the policy proposals made in the White Paper *Further Education: Raising Skills, Improving Life Chances*.

Staff quality

The percentage of teachers qualified or working towards a qualification has been monitored using the LSC Staff Individualised Record (SIR) since 2002. From 2007 the SIR will be replaced by a survey conducted by Lifelong Learning UK (LLUK), the Sector Skills Council for post-compulsory teaching and related workers. There are no plans to include a provider level measure in FFE.

Value for money

The new measures described above, plus existing financial indicators and inspection grades, are grouped into three dimensions: responsiveness, effectiveness and finance. These three dimensions taken together will provide an overall assessment of value for money.

Completion date

Individual measures will be piloted between 2007 and 2009 for all providers in the FE system, other than school sixth forms, with a view to publication of summary information from the complete framework (including an overall performance rating derived from it) in early 2010.

Cost

Funding of £8 million has been agreed with ministers for each of the years 2006/07 and 2007/08.

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H. Managing Information Across Partners (MIAP)

Aims and objectives

Managing Information Across Partners (MIAP) aims to improve sharing of post-14 learning data. It is aimed at improving services to learners, securing administrative savings across the education sector, and improving analytical data for policy development and evaluation, and performance reporting. MIAP will improve how information already collected is shared.

In practical terms, MIAP is an Internet-based technological solution, supported by common data definitions. It has three core parts:

- there is an existing UK Register of Learning Providers, where individuals and organisations can access information about individual learning providers (their contact details, courses and performance) through a single route
- from September 2007 MIAP will assign unique learner numbers to all individuals over the age of 14 undertaking publicly funded learning in schools and FE (and potentially HE). It will do this through a Learner Registration Service, in accordance with data protection requirements. This service will hold the number and enable other organisations to access the number and contain it in their systems, enabling transactions about learners between third parties to be made much more easily
- from September 2008 MIAP will enable individuals to access information held on them about their school and their FE learning participation and achievement in the form of a learner record, which can be shared with frontline organisations. Further information will be added as the service develops. This system will also provide a data query service, which will enable stakeholders to access information at different levels of detail about the progression of groups of individuals through their education, enabling better policymaking

Progress to date

The UK Register of Learning Providers is already operating and contains details of over 17,000

providers. The register verifies the legal identity of each registered provider and provides a series of linkages to information about the provider, such as the courses delivered and inspection results. It can be accessed at:

www.ukrlp.co.uk

Work has been completed to develop common data definitions and recommendations on data standards and a range of XML schemas. The definitions are already being adopted in the FE and HE sectors. The DfES Information Standards Board, through Becta, is considering further development and dissemination.

Tests and trials are currently under way in a variety of education and training scenarios for the introduction of a Learner Registration Service for post-14 learners. The intention is that the Unique Learner Number will replace the plethora of learner numbers used by the education and training sector and will act as an enabler for data sharing, such as for the National Assessment Agency's Minerva programme, which will support specialised diplomas for those aged 14 to 19, and the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority's Qualification and Credits Framework.

In January 2007 LogicaCMG was appointed as the contractor to design, build and operate the MIAP information service. This will involve further enhancement of the UK Register of Learning Providers; a Learner Registration Service (incorporating a Unique Learner Number), which will be operational from September 2007; and a data sharing interface service, which will bring together information collected from schools, colleges and other FE providers so that individuals can create a learner record, which with their permission can be shared with other education stakeholders, such as Information and Guidance Services and learning providers, and awarding bodies. It is expected that further data sources, such as qualifications information direct from awarding bodies and information from universities, will be added in due course.

Planned future work

Following the current tests and trials of a Learner Registration Service and the linked Unique Learner

Number, the intention is to launch the Learner Registration Service in September 2007.

A learner data interface will be developed by February 2008, subsequently tested and then launched in September 2008. This will allow secure individual access to data and data queries by a limited number of registered users. The intention is that registered data users will be able to run ad hoc data queries using aggregate and anonymous data from the learner data interface to understand learner participation, retention, achievement and progression. Widespread adoption of the Unique Learner Number and common data definitions and standards over time will also enable better data sharing between third parties.

Initially the learner data interface will rely on data extracts from the DfES National Pupil Database and LSC's Individual Learning Record. The aim is to add new sources of data over time to cover lifelong learning, such as HE.

A business change programme is being implemented to ensure that the services provided by MIAP are understood and taken up, so that the benefits it offers are realised. Early indications are that the programme will recoup the costs of its development, administration and operation within two years of its full operation in 2010/11.

Further information about the programme can be accessed on the MIAP website at:

www.miap.gov.uk

Completion date

An initial service should be fully operational by 2010/11. MIAP will provide an ongoing service to learners, employers, learning providers, awarding bodies, and the wider education and training sector.

Cost

The cost of the programme from 2002 to 2011 will be approximately £42 million (on the present service specification).

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I. New Relationship with Schools: data strand

Aims and objectives

New Relationship with Schools (NRwS) is organised around a number of strands, one of which covers data. The data strand aims to reduce the number of demands for data from schools, alongside helping schools and local education authorities (LEAs) to maximise the use of data in raising standards.

Progress to date

The Data Sub-Programme (DSP) is responsible for delivering the data strand of the NRwS and for ensuring the availability and effective use of good quality data in the schools sector while reducing related burdens on schools.

School Census

Termly collections of the School Census were introduced for secondary schools in January 2006 with primary schools and special schools moving to termly collections in January 2007. This will reduce burdens on schools as six separate surveys have been incorporated into the new census arrangements and will facilitate the more regular provision of data to support key policy areas. The change has been generally well received by secondary schools and data have been provided more quickly than before with fewer problems and errors. Further work continues aimed at rationalising data collection arrangements.

Post-16 data collection

In November 2006 DfES began to collect post-16 learning aims from all secondary schools with sixth forms. The information gathered supports fair funding and the consistent calculation of qualification success rates across all post-16 education, including Further Education and work-based learning as well as sixth forms in schools. The collection will enable potential learners and parents to have better information about the choices available post-16, and will help schools to analyse the performance of their pupils more rigorously for the benefit of learners and aiding institutional self-improvement.

RAISEonline

RAISEonline (Reporting and Analysis for Improvement through School self-Evaluation) is a web-based interactive tool developed by Ofsted and DfES to replace the PANDA (Performance and Assessment) report and PAT (Pupil Achievement Tracker). It is a significant step in the provision of data analysis for schools, School Improvement Partners (SIPs), local authorities, governors, inspectors and all those working to support self-evaluation and school improvement, and will provide a single convenient point of access to data and analyses. In October 2006 schools were given access to analysis of their own 2004 and 2005 data. In January 2006 the system was populated with 2006 Key Stage (KS) 1 and 2 data. KS4 validated data were released in March 2007 and KS3 data will be available in April 2007.

Memorandum of Understanding

DfES has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with seven of the major suppliers of Management Information Systems (MIS) to schools. This will bring substantial benefits to schools and local authorities by minimising the number of new data items in the School Census in 2008/09 and by improving the service they receive from software suppliers. It will help to ensure schools receive reliable upgraded software on time.

Planned future work

COLLECT

COLLECT (formerly known as DISC) is the new web-based data collection system that DfES will use to collect data from schools and local authorities. It will improve the efficiency of data collection from schools and ensure that high-quality data are made available to them. The first operational use of COLLECT will be for the Foundation Stage Profile (FSP) collection in summer 2007 and it is intended to use COLLECT for the autumn 2007 School Census.

Data Warehouse and Education Data Dictionary

The Data Warehouse will allow the storage and dissemination of the new collections of data from schools, which together with linkages across the

National Pupil Database and DfES's Key-to-Success website, will ensure that good quality data are made available to schools for self-evaluation and improvement purposes. The Education Data Dictionary (EDD) will ensure that schools have effective management information systems to support the collection and transmission of data between schools, local authorities, educational partners and DfES. It will also be key to the development of a more efficient approach to commissioning and approving business requests for schools data.

School Workforce Census collection

DfES intends to undertake collections of individual level school workforce data from 2010. The collection of more comprehensive, individual level data on the school workforce will support workforce reforms and the remodelling agenda. DfES intends to pilot the collection of school workforce data in 2008 and 2009 and, if this is successful, the national rollout will take place in January 2010.

Data collection from Early Years settings

This project will pilot the collection of individual level data for pupils in Alternative Provision and Pupil Referral Units and for three and four-year-olds in Early Years settings. The collection of individual level data will provide for better quality data, reduce the risk of double-counting children and ensure that funding is effectively targeted and allocated. Following the March 2007 pilot, it is planned that data will be collected through the School Census from 2008.

Becta

Becta (one of the Government's strategic partners for improving education) is consulting with stakeholders on how every school can best have access to the MIS it requires, and is working on the development of the Schools Interoperability Framework Data Model. The Data Model will allow interoperability between software packages, which will reduce costs and significantly increase the ease of transfer of data between schools

systems and the ease of transfer by a school to different suppliers.

Completion date

Ongoing

Cost

The DSP budget is £5.7 million.

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J. Better use of existing data by linking data using the Unique Pupil Number

Aims and objectives

DfES will be collecting the Unique Pupil Number (UPN) for all children looked after (CLA) in the 2005/06 CLA data collection. This will allow matching of education data from the National Pupil Database (NPD) to the CLA collection and result in a fuller picture of the educational attainment of looked after children.

Progress to date

Local authorities provided DfES with details of the education attainment for their looked after children who left care aged 16 and over, and for those who were looked after for at least 12 months.

The aim is to remove these requirements once it has been shown that using the UPN of looked after children is successful. This will result in the data collection burden being reduced.

A matching exercise between UPN and the information held in the NPD took place at the end of 2006 to investigate the quality of matching; 95 per cent of the valid UPN data matched the information held in the NPD.

Planned future work

Analysis of the data matching exercise to check quality of data received should take place in summer 2007.

Completion date

The first year of data collection started on 1 April 2005 and ended on 31 March 2006.

Cost

Not available

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Useful websites

Further information on the statistics covered by this Theme can be found at the following websites:

National Statistics
www.statistics.gov.uk

Department for Education and Skills
www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics

Department for Employment and Learning,
Northern Ireland
www.delni.gov.uk

Department of Education, Northern Ireland
www.deni.gov.uk

Higher Education Statistics Agency
www.hesa.ac.uk

Learning and Skills Council
www.lsc.gov.uk

Scottish Executive
www.scotland.gov.uk

Welsh Assembly Government
www.wales.gov.uk

Introduction

This Theme brings together information about public health, health services provided by the National Health Service (NHS) and social care. It also covers information relating to health and safety at work. In addition, the chapter covers activities on improvements to data, including access to data; data scope, quality and infrastructure; and measuring progress.

Statistical information is provided for a wide variety of users and stakeholders, for example:

- clients and patients – to support choice and monitor experience
- health and care professionals – to measure outcomes
- managers – to compare and monitor performance
- academic and research communities – to enable wider analysis
- the public and the media – to enable understanding and reporting

The Theme covers a wide range of outputs and channels for dissemination. These are mostly based around each constituent government department, with a measure of cross-Theme linkage being provided through the National Statistics website and the *UK Health Statistics* publication. This variety of outputs reflects the range of users of health and care statistics.

Health and social care are matters devolved from the UK Government to administrations in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Each administration shares the common objective of improving public health, health services and social care, but has developed different policies and systems to achieve these goals. Statistical activity across the administrations will therefore reflect both the common ground and the differences between the administrations.

There is collaboration across the UK on a number of information issues, including, where useful and practicable, getting greater harmonisation of data across the countries. ONS has published a further

volume of *UK Health Statistics* and another edition is planned for 2008. Work is under way to consider the scope for expanding the published data in the volume following consultation with users. In addition, there has been collaboration on the collection of data on waiting times and on disclosure issues across the UK, and reports have been published.

Under the *Framework for National Statistics*, the Theme Working Group (TWG) is responsible for drawing up a three-year Work Programme. This chapter reports on progress made over the last 12 months on the most important projects being carried out by the Theme during 2005/06–2007/08. The projects are listed in no order of importance.

Health gain

A. Analysis of mortality rates, including infant mortality, and life expectancy data in context of health inequalities

Aims and objectives

The purpose of the project is to enable government and the public to evaluate the effectiveness of public health policies, initiatives and targets.

Progress to date

England

The Department of Health (DH) continues to use ONS-supplied data to monitor against the DH Public Service Agreement (PSA) mortality, life expectancy and infant mortality targets (target date 2010). The monitoring work requires DH to perform analysis on summary counts of death registrations by cause of death and ONS population estimates to produce age-standardised death rates. ONS estimates of life expectancy at birth are also used. PSA targets on health inequalities are defined in two ways: socio-economic, that is, infant mortality rates by father's socio-economic group; and geographical, such as life expectancy for the 'Spearhead' group of local authority areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators.

Monitoring data were again cross-referenced against the *Compendium of Clinical and Health Indicators* produced by the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development (NCHOD).

DH publications during 2006/07 that drew heavily on ONS data included the *Health Profile of England*, *Tackling Health Inequalities: Status Report on the Programme for Action – 2006 Update of Headline Indicators*, *National Suicide Prevention Strategy for England Annual Report on Progress 2006*, and the *Review of the Health Inequalities Infant Mortality PSA Target*.

Wales

Long-term health gain targets have been set by the Chief Medical Officer for Wales. These targets provide a focus and direction for improving health and reducing health inequalities in Wales.

Scotland

Targets on health inequalities in Scotland continue to be measured, covering coronary heart disease, cancer, smoking, teenage pregnancies and suicides.

Work has been undertaken to evaluate different methods of statistically interpreting inequality trends. This work was presented in an 'Understanding inequalities' seminar and a technical report will be published in July 2007.

Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland has developed a Health Inequalities Monitoring system that incorporates small area trend data on a range of indicators covering, among other things, disease specific mortality, infant mortality and life expectancy. The system has been updated on an annual basis from the base year of 2001, and a baseline report and one update report have been published.

Planned future work

England

Development work is being carried out to draw up new Departmental Strategic Objectives (DSOs), new PSAs and Delivery Agreements, which will require some new indicators and other means of measurement. Many of these will rely on ONS data for monitoring.

Reporting and monitoring against current PSA targets will continue to be principally on an

annual basis through DH departmental reports, HM Treasury (HMT), the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit reporting mechanisms and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Floor Targets interactive website.

Other reporting includes cross-government and international strategies, such as the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) *Opportunity for All* reports and the *UK National Action Plan on Social Inclusion*. DH is a member of the steering groups for both these projects and will continue to work closely with DWP officials to maintain consistency of reporting on indicators for infant mortality and life expectancy.

Scotland

'Keep Well' (formerly known as 'Prevention 2010') is an initiative aimed at tackling health inequalities in Scotland through adopting principles of anticipatory care and preventive medicine. The Scottish Executive Health Department and Information Services Division (ISD) of NHS Scotland are developing robust systems for monitoring and evaluating the approach, which is being piloted in five of the most deprived Community Health Partnerships.

The Scottish Public Health Observatory team in ISD are compiling a report on rural health. They will also be utilising the statistical methodology work in interpreting inequality trends using a range of health data, including mortality data.

Northern Ireland

The Health Inequalities Monitoring system has been migrated to a new small area geography, Super Output Area (SOA). Indicators have been linked to the 2005 Northern Ireland Measure of Multiple Deprivation and also incorporate a new Northern Ireland measure of rurality. New indicators are currently under development and it is intended that a further update publication will be published in summer 2007. Selected indicators are also used to monitor progress against a number of departmental PSA and Public Health Strategy targets.

Project length

Ongoing activity

Cost

Not available

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B. Analysis of trends in healthy lifestyle determinants, notably smoking and obesity

Aims and objectives

The purpose of the project is to enable government, the public and health providers to evaluate the effectiveness of public health policies, initiatives and targets by publishing more evidence on health determinants.

Progress to date

England

Headline figures and updated trend tables from the Health Survey for England 2005 (HSE 2005) were published by the NHS Information Centre (the IC) in December 2006. These tables covered a wide range of health topics – including smoking, obesity, eating habits and physical activity – to monitor trends at a national level. A report presenting detailed findings from the HSE 2005 was published in March 2007 and focused on the health of older people – those aged 65 and over.

In December 2006 the IC published a new statistical bulletin *Statistics on Obesity, Physical Activity and Diet*, which presented a range of information on obesity, physical activity and diet drawn together from a variety of sources. In particular, the bulletin covered overweight and obesity prevalence among adults and children; physical activity levels among adults and children; trends in purchases and consumption of food and drink, and energy intake; health outcomes of being obese; and hospital admissions and prescriptions dispensed related to obesity.

Scotland

Trends in smoking and obesity were updated on the Scottish Public Health Observatory website (www.scotpho.org.uk). This includes trends updated with the results of the 2003 Scottish Health Survey, published in November 2005; the Scottish Household Survey; and updates for smoking during pregnancy.

Wales

In Wales, information on lifestyle behaviours, including smoking, obesity, alcohol consumption, physical activity and consumption of fruit and

vegetables, have been published on an annual basis for the first two years of the Welsh Health Survey.

Planned future work

England

The IC will publish statistical bulletins on smoking, drinking, obesity and drug misuse in 2007/08. These bulletins will continue to collate data and information from a wide variety of sources and aim to provide an overview of these lifestyle determinants, including the most up-to-date trend data. These bulletins are designed to disseminate statistics on lifestyle issues to a wider audience.

Updated synthetic estimates of healthy lifestyle behaviour, including prevalence of smoking and obesity, are expected to be published in May 2007 via the Neighbourhood Statistics website. Estimates will be produced by primary care organisation, local authority, and Middle Layer Super Output Areas.

The IC previously agreed to undertake a review of the HSE programme to ensure its design and outputs continue to meet the needs of users and stakeholders; the review was planned to report in February 2007. This review has now been widened in scope to include the whole of the IC's Survey Programme. The widening of scope and difficulties in assembling a Programme Board meant that its initiation was delayed. The Board has now been assembled and will meet soon, and it is planned that the Review will report towards the end of 2007.

Headline figures from the IC report *Drug Use, Smoking and Drinking among Young People in England in 2006* were published in March 2007, with the full report to follow in August 2007. This will be the latest in an annual series. The report includes smoking prevalence for secondary school children in England.

Headline results from the *Infant Feeding Survey 2005* were published in May 2006. This five-yearly survey provides data on smoking and drinking behaviour during pregnancy. The full report is due to be published in May 2007.

Scotland

A smoking atlas will be published in summer 2007 and will contain synthetic small area prevalence estimates across Scotland. An epidemiological report on obesity in Scotland will be published in summer 2007. Reports of the emerging evidence from monitoring and evaluation of the smoking ban will be published during 2007/08.

The next Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) report is due for release in May 2007. It will contain information on 13 and 15-year-olds' smoking habits and limited information about diet.

Wales

Welsh Health Survey reports, including information on lifestyle behaviours, will be published annually, enabling trend information to be built up.

Completion date

Ongoing

Cost

Not available

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C. Identify an agreed set of core public health data for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

Aims and objectives/strategic influences and policy drivers

The purpose of the project is to identify an agreed set of core public health data in England and Scotland, where possible from existing data sources, to support agreed measures of progress to be used nationally and locally, and to build a public health information and intelligence base.

Progress to date

England

In England, following the publication of the DH Public Health White Paper *Choosing Health – Making Healthy Choices Easier*, DH established a Public Health Information and Intelligence Task Force to lead on developing and implementing a comprehensive health information and intelligence strategy. It aims to improve the availability and quality of health information and intelligence across England and to increase its use to support population health improvement, health protection and work on care standards and quality. A consultation on the strategy, *Informing Healthier Choices: Information and Intelligence for Healthy Populations*, was completed in June 2006. Following the consultation, the strategy was presented at the 'Better informed, better health' seminar in November 2006.

In parallel with work on the strategy, DH published in October 2006 a national report on the health of the population, the *Health Profile of England*, bringing together a range of key indicators of health status at national and regional level. DH also oversaw the production of local authority health profiles by the Association of Public Health Observatories (APHO), published in June 2006.

DH is also continuing to oversee the production of themed reports on regional public health indicators produced by APHO. The latest, on *Sexual Health*, was published by the South West Public Health Observatory in November 2006.

DH regularly reviews the indicator content with APHO in consultation with Regional Directors of Public Health.

Wales

In Wales, the HealthShow Package, available to health service users, brings together a range of information for public health professionals.

Scotland

The Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO) website (www.scotpho.org.uk) presents core public health data for Scotland at national and subnational level. The website also now contains a copy of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Health for All database with Scotland level data added in. The Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics website (www.sns.gov.uk) was relaunched in February 2007, and contains public health data at different geographies.

Planned future work

England

A further round of local authority health profiles are due to be published in 2007. DH will also continue to oversee the regional public health indicator report series, with further reports, including one on mental health, due out in 2007.

The IC currently manages the *Compendium of Clinical and Health Indicators* delivered by the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development (NCHOD); the Local Basket of Inequalities Indicators; and the Health Poverty Index, an update of which was published in March 2007. Future developments of these public health indicator projects will reflect the strategy *Informing Healthier Choices: Information and Intelligence for Healthy Populations* and meet customer needs.

Scotland

The ScotPHO website will continue to be expanded to include further major public health topics. There are plans to produce new health and wellbeing profiles at small area level (for Glasgow and possibly the rest of Scotland), which will be presented on the ScotPHO website. A report on rural health will be published in autumn 2007.

Completion date

Ongoing

Cost

Not available

Access to services

D. Monitoring English waiting experience from General Practice referral to hospital treatment

Aims and objectives

The 18-week target is a key government target. The *NHS Improvement Plan*, published in June 2004, stated that 'by 2008, no one will have to wait longer than 18 weeks from GP referral to hospital treatment'.

The purpose of the 18-week measurement project is to enable the NHS to record and report on waiting times from referral to treatment. Data from this project will inform the public and the Government of the progress of the NHS in delivering against this target.

Progress to date

DH has been working in partnership with the NHS throughout 2006/07. The partnership approach was very successful in developing diagnostic collections and a similar approach has been used for Referral to Treatment (RTT) measurement. Eight pioneer sites were appointed in 2006 and these sites have worked closely with DH in the development of a measurement system capturing patient pathway information.

DH has also worked closely with Connecting for Health and with the Information Standards Board to ensure the necessary data standards were developed and approved for use by the NHS.

National collections commenced on a voluntary basis in autumn 2006 before becoming compulsory in the early part of 2007. The voluntary phase of the exercise was very useful to be able to test the data collection mechanisms, the transmission of data and the supporting technology.

This collection was rolled out nationally to NHS Commissioners, NHS Trusts and NHS foundation trusts. For further information, see the 18-week website:

www.18weeks.nhs.uk

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Planned future work

RTT data are still in their early days of development. The focus during spring 2007 is on testing and validating the data to give the necessary assurances that the data are fit for purpose and of sufficient quality to publish. It is anticipated that once this assurance work is completed the RTT data will be published on a regular basis.

Completion date

This project is expected to be completed in 2007/08.

Cost

This work is funded as part of the 18-week programme.

E. Collection and analysis of English information relevant to helping vulnerable older people live in their own homes

Aims and objectives

The purpose of the project is to enable government, public and social care providers to evaluate the effectiveness of social care policies and initiatives, by publishing more evidence on older people being supported to live in their own homes.

The PSA target is to 'improve the quality of life and independence of older people so that they can live at home wherever possible, by increasing by March 2008 the number of those supported intensively to live at home to 34 per cent of the total being supported by social services at home or in residential care; and to increase the number of older people per 1,000 population supported to live in their own home by 1 per cent in March 2007 and March 2008'.

Progress to date

The PSA target is measured using three existing data sources collected annually from Councils with Social Service Responsibilities (CSSRs) by the IC. The data sources for the first part of the target are the Home help/home care (HH1) return and the Supported Residents (SR1 return), while the second part of the target uses data from the Referrals, Assessments and Packages of Care (RAP) return.

The first part of the target on the number of older people supported intensively to live at home is an extension of the previous PSA target, increasing the target from 30 per cent by March 2006 to 34 per cent by March 2008. DH and the IC have been monitoring the previous target at both national and local level. The IC has published the results for 2005/06 on its website to help councils analyse and improve their performance, and this work will continue as new data become available.

Baseline data for the second part of the target to increase the number of older people per 1,000 population supported to live in their own home for 2005/06 were first published in November 2006, with final data published in February 2007.

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The quality of information has improved and a more detailed analysis is planned.

Planned future work

DH and the IC will continue to monitor this target, both at national and local level.

Project length

Ongoing

Cost

Not available

Health sector outputs, outcomes and productivity

F. Improving measurement of health sector productivity

Many of the departments participating in this Theme are contributing to ongoing work in this area, which is being taken forward by ONS as part of the work to improve public sector productivity (see chapter 11).

Progress to date

During 2006/07 the ONS UK Centre for the Measurement of Government Activity (UKCeMGA) held a public consultation with the external expert community on some cross-cutting methodological issues, as well as on how to proceed with developing measures for health and education.

A consultation paper on health was published in December 2006, and public seminars were held in London and Edinburgh in February 2007 on the methods for the volume measurement of NHS output and associated adjustments for quality and the value of health. DH presented its proposals for measuring quality and summarised the research carried out so far, as documented in *Healthcare Output and Productivity: Accounting for Quality Change*, published in 2005.

Other developments on health during 2006/07 were:

- improving the output measures for General Practice in partnership with DH, the IC and QRESEARCH (part of the University of Nottingham) – the new methodology and data source have been considered and approved in principle for inclusion in the National Accounts, for implementation in due course
- ONS, health administrations and the IC worked together to examine the NHS data sources and methods that are most appropriate for measuring counts of NHS activity and associated costs in general and for secondary care in particular – in October 2006 the National Statistician accepted a major report with recommendations for the way forward in preparation for consideration in 2007/08 by ONS for inclusion in the National Accounts

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- extension of the coverage of the NHS output measure in terms of the number of activities included in the measure in *Blue Book 2006*, and for calculating estimates of NHS productivity
- implementation of new methods for calculating the volume of NHS input for prescribed drugs, enabling a better based estimate of NHS input and productivity

Planned future work

The results of the consultation will be published by ONS in a Consultation Strategy paper in summer 2007. UKCeMGA will incorporate conclusions from the consultation into the next health productivity article, due to be published later in 2007/08. This article will include more details of the 2006/07 developments.

Completion date

Ongoing

Cost

Not available

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Health and safety at work

G. To monitor progress on improving the control of risks in the workplace and hence health and safety outcomes in Great Britain

Aims and objectives

The mission of the Health and Safety Commission (HSC) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is 'to protect people's health and safety by ensuring risks in the changing workplace are properly controlled'. This is reflected in the DWP/HSE 2004 Spending Review PSA target and the related targets set in the HSC's Strategy *Revitalising Health and Safety*. An important role for HSE's Statistics Branch, as part of its aim of supporting HSC/E's priorities by providing data and advice on work-related ill health and injuries, is to produce statistical assessments of progress that are robust, credible and useful to stakeholders.

Progress to date

The *Revitalising Health and Safety* targets were for specific percentage reductions in injuries, ill health and working days lost to be achieved by 2009/10 and by the mid-point of 2004/05. HSE Statistics Branch has produced annual assessments of progress against each of these three targets, bringing together data from different sources according to a methodology set out in a published Statistical Note. For the mid-point targets, the progress judgements were more comprehensive and were exposed to external peer review. The most recent progress report, covering data up to 2005/06, was published in November 2006. For further information see:

www.hse.gov.uk/revitalising/progress.htm

Planned future work

Assessments of progress will continue to be produced annually and published on HSE's website. It is planned that these will make increasing use of newly developed statistical sources. HSE Statistics Branch will also play a key role in the setting of new PSA and/or Departmental Strategic Objective (DSO) targets for HSE, as part of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review that is now under way.

Completion date

The current PSA target runs until 2007/08 and the targets in *Revitalising Health and Safety* until 2009/10, but progress monitoring will continue beyond these dates.

Cost

Not available

Access to data

H. Development of UK Health Statistics

Aims and objectives

The purpose of the project is to provide a comparative picture of health services, public health and social care information across the countries of the UK.

Progress to date

Following the launch of *UK Health Statistics (UKHS) No 2* on the National Statistics website in February 2006, a printed edition was published in September 2006. A subsequent exercise, based on the work done to prepare UK-wide figures for *UKHS No 2*, has identified key issues where the comparability of existing health and care statistics across the UK could be improved. Specific questions being addressed include the treatment of non-residents in births and deaths statistics, methodological differences in surveys of health-related behaviour, and definitional issues in hospital and care home resources and activity. Activities by ONS and the IC to engage with users of UK health statistics have included presentations to meetings of the Royal Statistical Society (Official Statistics Section) and the Health Statistics Users Group.

ONS, the IC and the UK health departments have worked closely together to provide UK data for international organisations such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Eurostat and the World Health Organisation (WHO). Synergies have been identified where possible between the different requirements for UK-wide health and care statistics. For example, improved data on hospital activity collected for OECD's annual report will be incorporated into the next edition of *UKHS*. The international organisations have themselves made efforts to co-ordinate their data collections so as to minimise duplication of effort.

The UK Waiting Times Definition Group (see Project M), led by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS), Northern Ireland, with involvement from all four countries of the UK, commissioned consultants

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that produced a report in November 2006. The group agreed that, although some differences in waiting times statistics between the countries are necessary and relate to national targets and priorities, a harmonised dataset on completed waits is feasible and could be published in an agreed format. The report also identified other opportunities for greater harmonisation in this area, while noting that changes to existing arrangements should be introduced in such a way as to minimise any additional administrative burden.

Development of Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) indicator data, in support of the new UK GP contract, has taken place in a co-ordinated manner across the UK. Each of the UK countries has its own QOF website with links to each of the other countries. There has been close liaison between the QOF analysts across the four countries in terms of agreeing publication plans, table formats and explanatory notes. Data for 2004/05 and 2005/06 have been published and all countries have co-operated on preparing exception reporting data, including agreed content and interpretation guidance for users.

Planned future work

Publication of *UKHS No 3* is expected to be in spring 2008. Additions are planned to the content of the previous edition, including cross-UK comparisons on work-related injuries and illness, immunisation against influenza, teenage conceptions, and survey-based data on substance misuse. There will be improved coverage of health service activity, including waiting times, discharge rates and length of stay, with changes to increase compatibility with international data collections. The possibility of including disease prevalence data from general practice, based on the QOF indicators, will be investigated. The production process has been reviewed, learning from the lessons of the previous edition, and will include more timely data collection and an increased opportunity for quality assurance by topic experts.

The IC is developing a mechanism to feed back to health departments the UK data submitted to international organisations, disaggregated at the

four-country level. Sharing data in this way, as well as potentially being informative for policy and management purposes, will highlight areas where harmonisation of definitions or methodologies would be helpful, and should lead to more consistent UK-level data. The first data to be shared in this way will be based on the UK submission prepared for the 2007 OECD annual health database. Additional data will be provided through a consistent approach as they are collected and submitted to the various international organisations.

The work of the UK Waiting Times Definition Group will lead to agreed developments in cross-UK comparisons in this area. The group has also agreed in principle that the methods used for its study, and lessons learned, should be applicable to the investigation of further issues in health service activity.

Discussions have taken place between the four countries on prospects for improving the comparability of workforce and remuneration statistics. These discussions will continue, and have potential synergies with improvements in the workforce data supplied to international organisations. Convergence between England and Wales in the systems used for workforce and remuneration information will facilitate these developments.

Completion date

This project comprises a range of ongoing work.

Cost

This project is not separately costed. It relies on a range of ongoing work across ONS, the IC, DH and the devolved administrations.

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Data scope, quality and infrastructure

I. Integrate Electronic Staff Record with NHS workforce data collection

Aims and objectives

The Electronic Staff Record (ESR) is an integrated Human Resource (HR)/Payroll system developed to replace the 29 payroll systems and 38 HR systems historically used across the NHS in England and Wales.

In addition to its principal deliverable of a fully integrated HR/Payroll system for the NHS, the ESR project will provide systems/software to enable the direct extraction of workforce information for all NHS organisations via the ESR Data Warehouse.

The utilisation of ESR as a fundamental source of NHS workforce information is a key project for the IC in 2007/08. The IC is working closely with Strategic Health Authorities, the users of ESR within the NHS and DH to ensure a system of high data integrity. This will in turn enable the realisation of a key benefit of ESR and the ESR Data Warehouse – a reduction in the burden on the NHS by replacing the requirement for individual NHS organisations to complete individual aggregate returns.

Progress to date

The ESR system is in the process of being rolled out across the NHS. Approximately half of the NHS workforce are now included on ESR. The 2006 medical and non-medical workforce census information was extracted from the ESR Data Warehouse for those 200 organisations on the system as at 30 September 2006.

The IC has been working closely with colleagues across the NHS who use ESR. A series of data quality exercises were completed in summer 2006 and these improved the data integrity of the system ahead of the 2006 NHS census.

Planned future work

A total of 360 NHS organisations will use the ESR by 30 September 2007 (medical and non-medical workforce census day). Workforce census information will therefore be extracted from the

ESR Data Warehouse for these organisations for the 2007 census.

Analytical work is ongoing to determine appropriate methods of data extraction from the ESR Data Warehouse for the following national data collections:

- Sickness/Absence Survey
- Vacancies Collection
- Earnings Survey

This includes close consultation with the users of ESR, the ESR development team and other users of the ESR Data Warehouse, who provide the IC with guidance from a user perspective and quality assure the data extraction methodologies.

Completion date

The ESR system is due to be fully rolled out across the NHS by March 2008.

Cost

Not available

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J. Develop Secondary Uses Service (SUS) of the National Programme for IT Aims and objectives

The purpose of the project is to enable analysis and reporting of health information from electronic patient records while safeguarding confidentiality.

Currently in the NHS there are many secondary data services at local, regional and national levels. These data are often fed from disparate sources. The recent development of the NHS Care Records Service (NHSCRS) has provided the ability to rationalise data abstraction, data flows, data management, analysis and reporting, thereby saving NHS staff resources and making this information available in one place.

The Secondary Uses Service (SUS) is one of the services identified in the contract between the National Application Service Provider for the NHSCRS and the National Programme for IT (NPFIT). SUS will provide a centralised data warehouse facility, creating the opportunity to standardise data processing, reporting and analysis for common information requirements, such as payment by results and data linkage.

Progress to date

During 2006/07 the first major releases of SUS provided support for the exchange of commissioning datasets and for the provision of information to support Payment by Results. This system has now replaced the NHS-wide Clearing Service (which closed at the end of December 2006), and is now the source system for the Hospital Episode Statistics database.

All providers of NHS-commissioned care now submit data to SUS, and by March 2007 more than 1 million records a day were being loaded onto the system, with regular extracts being provided to NHS providers and commissioners.

Planned future work

During 2007/08 further releases are planned, which will enable monitoring of progress against the NHS target of reducing waiting times to less than 18 weeks, and also to support the rollout of practice-based commissioning (PBC). It is

expected that this will lead to an increase in the number of users, and hence there will also be a major hardware and system software upgrade.

The data from the main warehouse are being used as the basis of a new system for presenting PBC comparators at Strategic Health Authority, Primary Care Trust and Practice level.

As part of the 18-week waits release, there will be regular data feeds from the Personal Demographics Service and these will be used to support demographic analysis in subsequent releases.

Completion date

The agreed releases for SUS will be completed in 2008, but it is expected that further developments will follow as the NHSCRS is more widely implemented.

Cost

The data warehouse is provided through the NHS Connecting for Health national contract.

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K. Publication of Welsh Health Survey Aims and objectives

The Welsh Health Survey is a major source of information about the health and health-related lifestyle of people in Wales and their use of health services. This project covers publication plans for the survey.

Progress to date

Annual reports for the first two years of the Welsh Health Survey have been published. Shorter statistical bulletins on specific topics have also been published.

Planned future work

Welsh Health Survey reports are being published annually and the third annual report is due to be published in summer 2007. From 2007 the survey will collect more detailed information for children which will be incorporated in future publications.

Completion date

Ongoing – annual publications

Cost

This is part of wider work on the Welsh Health Survey and separate costs for this element of the work are not available.

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L. Review of the Scottish Health Survey Aims and objectives

These are to review the structure and content of the Scottish Health Survey, to ensure that it continues to meet the information needs of key stakeholders and to provide good value for money. The review will also consider how wider developments, such as the Continuous Population Survey, e-Health and Record Linkage, will impact on the next survey and beyond. A key issue is consideration of whether resources can be pooled with local NHS Board Health and Lifestyle Surveys to create one national, consistent survey that meets both national and local needs and provides better value for money. The review will make recommendations on the future structure and content of the survey.

Progress to date

The consultation period ended on 31 March 2006 and comments were collated and presented to the Review Steering Group in July 2006. A set of recommendations for the future of the survey were then agreed. The main recommendations were:

- the survey should become a continuous survey
- robust results at Scotland level should be available every year
- robust results at Health Board level should be available by amalgamating a number of years of data together
- the survey should adapt a core and modular structure
- the sample design should be unclustered (if costs allow)

Planned future work

The survey is currently being procured and the contract for the period 2008 to 2011 is due to be awarded in July 2007.

Completion date

The formal review process will end on 2 July 2007 when the contract is awarded.

Cost

Not available

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M. UK comparative waiting times

Aims and objectives

The aim of this project is to detail current definitions of waiting times in the four UK countries. A report will outline similarities and differences, along with an assessment of where data can be, or should be, harmonised.

Progress to date

The objectives have been achieved. A steering group comprising lead health statisticians from each of the four UK countries was convened to oversee the project. A firm of external consultants undertook the project and the steering group accepted the recommendations in its report. The report was published on the DHSSPS, Northern Ireland website in November 2006:

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/uk_comparative_waiting_times.pdf.

The project found that there are differences in the data definitions used by each country to calculate waiting lists/times and that these have been influenced by different priorities in each country. The report concluded that increased harmonisation across the UK is desirable and achievable, but full harmonisation is impossible and probably undesirable given the different priorities.

Since embarking on this project the group has organised two workshops in which all UK countries participated. The first workshop related to cancer waiting times and the second to diagnostic waiting times. Each country had the opportunity to report on progress and share experiences, and this successfully stimulated discussion and learning.

Planned future work

Although the original project has been completed, in line with the recommendations of the report, the UK comparative waiting times group will continue to meet to share good practice and enhance cross-UK commonality. The group has agreed to take forward a piece of work which will aim to publish a table of harmonised inpatient/day case completed wait statistics in the next edition of *UK Health Statistics* in 2008.

Completion date

Ongoing

Cost

£20,000

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Useful websites

Further information on the statistics covered by this Theme can be found at the following websites:

National Statistics
www.statistics.gov.uk

Department for Education and Skills
www.dfes.gov.uk

Department of Health
www.dh.gov.uk/home/fs/en

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Northern Ireland
www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

Health and Safety Executive
www.hse.gov.uk

NHS Information Centre
www.ic.nhs.uk

Scottish Executive
www.scotland.gov.uk

Scottish Health Statistics
www.isdscotland.org

Welsh Assembly Government
www.wales.gov.uk

Introduction

The Labour Market Theme brings together information and statistics about many aspects of the labour market relating to people, to employing enterprises and to relevant elements of the social security system. Labour Market Statistics (LMS) use household and enterprise surveys as the core source for data, although in the future administrative-based data will have a key role in supplementing these survey sources.

Under the *Framework for National Statistics*, the Topic Group is responsible for drawing up a three-year Work Programme. This chapter highlights and provides an update for the priority projects being carried out by the Theme during 2005/06-2007/08. It covers all official statistics, not just National Statistics. They are listed in no order of importance.

A. Improvement of the public sector employment statistics

Aims and objectives

The main aim of this project is to publish accurate and definitive quarterly headcount and full-time equivalent (FTE) figures for both the Civil Service and public sector workforce. In addition, an enhanced series of annual analytical reports on public sector employment should be published.

Progress to date

Both aims have been achieved. ONS has continued its programme of improvements to public sector employment (PSE) statistics, in collaboration with other departments, having established a single set of definitive estimates and a series of analytical articles. Developments in 2006/07 included the introduction of seasonally adjusted series (back to 1999) and a further improvement in timeliness. ONS now publishes the official PSE estimates each quarter, as National Statistics, three months after the period to which they refer, compared with a year or more previously.

Planned future work

Plans for further improvements, by the end of 2007, include the full integration of the PSE estimates in the wider ONS employment and jobs

statistical system and the provision of improved regional estimates, based on data provided by public sector organisations.

Completion date

This project has been completed.

Cost

£300,000

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B. Modernisation of Labour Market Statistics processing system

Aims and objectives

The aim is to re-engineer Labour Force Survey (LFS) processing systems and this is part of the wider ONS Modernisation Programme, now known as Odyssey. The key benefit will be to allow the latest population estimates and projections to be incorporated into the LFS microdata to the same timescale currently achieved for LFS monthly time series.

Progress to date

Although a modernised system for LFS reweighting of microdata has now been delivered, more work is needed to make it fully operational, and it is now clear that this cannot be achieved in time for the reweighting exercise during 2007. However, reweighting is still scheduled to take place during 2007 and detailed plans are being drawn up in consultation with users. ONS will use previous methods supported by aspects of the new system to deliver the 2007 reweighting.

There is likely to be a delay of a few months in the reweighting exercise, partly because of the delay in delivery of a fully operational system, but also partly because mid-year population estimates are now being revised back to 2002 and the figures will not be available in time to support reweighting by October 2007. It is now likely that the reweighted microdata will become available from December 2007.

ONS is still on schedule to use modernised systems for producing the aggregate results (the time series for weighted and aggregated data) for inclusion in the *Labour Market Statistics First Release* in October 2007. These new systems will be more flexible and allow a significant reduction in the risks posed by the existing antiquated systems that were error prone, particularly when system or population changes were required.

Planned future work

It is the intention to have a fully operational reweighting system by the next time ONS reweights the LFS, building on what has been

delivered so far. A business case on the strategic delivery of a modernised and integrated framework of social and business surveys will be produced during summer 2007. Plans will then be developed for the way forward, but the intention would be to incorporate and build on the work done by the LFS project.

Completion date

It is the intention to have a fully operational reweighting system by the next time ONS reweights the LFS.

Cost

The cost in 2006/07 was £3.4 million. Future costs will depend on the outcome of the business case being produced in summer 2007.

Contact

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C. Development of earnings statistics

Aims and objectives

The aim of this project is to make major improvements to earnings statistics, including the publication of an Average Earnings Ratio (AER), following the Turnbull/King Review of the Average Earnings Index (AEI) in 1999, and the development of a Labour Cost Index (LCI).

The AER uses the same wages data that are used to construct the AEI, but has an improved estimation process. This allows the publication of a level of average earnings each month and estimation of the effect of movements of employees between industries on average earnings growth.

The LCI combines the AER with measures of non-wage labour costs and hours worked data to produce an index that shows the changes in the total cost to employers per hour worked.

Progress to date

Following the launch of the experimental Average Weekly Earnings (AWE) (formerly referred to as the AER) and the Index of Labour Costs per Hour (ILCH) (formerly referred to as the LCI) in May 2005, development work continued during 2006/07 with the aim of achieving National Statistics status by March 2007. This work included reviewing the imputation and outliers methodology, the production of sampling errors and a detailed reconciliation of the AWE and the AEI. The reconciliation work has taken longer than anticipated, resulting in a delay in achieving National Statistics status.

Planned future work

The AEI/AWE reconciliation work will continue, with the aim of achieving National Statistics status for AWE and ILCH in September 2007.

Completion date

September 2007

Cost

Not available

Contact

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D. Implementation of the Allsopp Review recommendations relating to Labour Market Statistics

Aims and objectives

The main aim of this project is to provide improved Labour Market Statistics (LMS) at subnational level, in response to user demands identified in the Allsopp Review.

Progress to date

Local labour markets: statistical indicators continues to be published quarterly, to coincide with the release of the results of the Annual Population Survey (APS), and the fourth edition was published in January 2007. In 2005 ONS's Statistical Policy Committee agreed that estimates of unemployment for local areas which are produced by a statistical model should have National Statistics status. These estimates were published as National Statistics, for the first time, in the July 2006 edition of the quarterly publication.

The Nomis® labour market profiles have been extended to include data on working age benefits, and the model-based unemployment estimates.

Planned future work

The Labour Market Regional First Releases will be amended. The monthly headline labour supply estimates will continue to be provided from the rolling three-monthly LFS, but the detailed labour supply estimates will be provided by the APS. This has a much bigger sample than the quarterly LFS, and hence will provide more precise estimates. This change will be made after the reweighting of the LFS and APS microdata, so that all LFS and APS estimates are consistent with the latest population estimates.

Project length

Ongoing

Cost

Developments will be implemented from existing sources.

Contact

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E. Completion of Employment and Jobs Quality Review

Aims and objectives

The main objectives of the Quality Review are to formulate recommendations relating to:

- the coherence of the different sources of data and the feasibility of developing a single integrated set of statistics that meet all user needs
- the quality, frequency and timeliness of the statistics classified by industry group across the economy and by public/private sector
- the quality of the statistics for countries and regions within the UK and for local areas

Progress to date

The Review was completed and a final report published in January 2006. An implementation plan, detailing how the recommendations are to be taken forward, was published in June 2006. The report and the plan are available on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/quality/reviews/labour.asp#nsqremf

Reconciliation tables comparing the different sets of figures on employment and jobs are now published on a quarterly basis.

Completion date

This project has been completed.

Cost

£80,000

Contact

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F. Input to the Paris Group and International Labour Organisation (ILO) discussions of ILO Resolution on working hours statistics

Aims and objectives

ONS is participating in an international programme of work with the Paris Group to develop a draft ILO resolution relating to the collection and compilation of working hours statistics.

Progress to date

The content of the draft resolution was discussed at a meeting of the Paris Group in May 2006 and revisions are being drafted.

Planned future work

Once the revisions have been agreed, the Resolution will be submitted to the ILO for approval at the 2008 International Conference of Labour Statisticians.

Completion date

December 2008

Cost

Over 2005/06–2007/08 staff costs may account for around £100,000.

Contact

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G. Development and analysis of inactivity statistics

Aims and objectives

As a result of proposals made in an article published in *Labour Market Trends* in October 2003, ONS aimed to develop and test new inactivity questions for the 2005 LFS, with a view to improving the value of the survey for assessing potential labour supply. This work is being carried out as part of an international collaboration co-ordinated by the ILO.

Progress to date

Modifications have been made to the LFS questions that ask about people's reasons for inactivity. Test questions have been included in the questionnaire regarding inactive respondents' propensity to work in future since spring 2005.

Planned future work

Further analysis is being undertaken to assess the new inactivity questions. A summary will be presented as a web-based article and/or an article in the journal *Economic and Labour Market Review* in autumn 2007.

Completion date

Autumn 2007

Cost

Not available

Contact

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H. Development of working age benefit data for Labour Market Statistics

Aims and objectives

The project aims to develop working age benefit data for inclusion in labour market assessment and analysis. ONS plans to use the improved and more accessible working age benefit data that are being developed by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Progress to date

Data on DWP benefits have been available on Nomis® since October 2005. The first benefits data on Nomis® were from a sample of 5 per cent of claimants, but DWP now produces statistics on benefits using information from all claimants. Data for small areas (wards and Super Output Areas) derived from all benefit claimants are now available on Nomis®. In November 2006 the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance by ethnicity became available. Claimant statistics covering movements on and off benefits, by eight ethnic groups and 16 ethnicity types, are available.

Planned future work

The geographical coverage of benefits data based on all claimants will be extended to other areas, including local authorities and parliamentary constituencies. ONS and DWP will also be considering the benefits data that should be included in the Labour Market First Releases.

Completion date

Under negotiation between ONS and DWP

Cost

Not available

Contact

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I. Preparation of labour force projections

Aims and objectives

During 2004 consistent employment and unemployment series back to 1971 were produced on ILO definitions using an econometric modelling approach and published. ONS will move on to produce projections of the economically active population on the same consistent basis. These will incorporate the latest population projections.

Progress to date

Labour Force projections were published in January 2006.

Planned future work

The project is currently closed and no development work is taking place.

Completion date

The next set of projections may appear in the 2007/08 or 2008/09 work plan.

Cost

Not available

J. Development of local area modelled Labour Market Statistics

Aims and objectives

In response to demands from local government users of LMS, a project to develop modelled unemployment data for local areas has developed experimental estimates, which are published on the National Statistics website. Since these estimates were produced, the model methodology has been further developed to produce estimates that are more precise than the LFS estimates for all areas. This new methodology is now being peer reviewed, and users are validating the estimates produced by the new model.

Progress to date

The model-based unemployment estimates for local authorities were published as National Statistics for the first time in July 2006. A new model has also been developed to produce similar estimates for parliamentary constituencies, but these have not yet been published.

Planned future work

Model-based estimates of unemployment for parliamentary constituencies will be published as experimental statistics in spring 2007. A multivariate model which will simultaneously estimate both unemployment and either employment or inactivity is being developed.

Completion date

It is planned that estimates from the multivariate model will be available at the end of 2007.

Cost

Around £22,000. This is made up of staff costs in Labour Market Division and Methodology group in ONS.

Contact

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Contact

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K. Publication of Labour Market Review volume and accompanying Online Guide to Labour Market Statistics

Aims and objectives

The objective of the *Labour Market Review* volume is to stand back from the monthly LMS published by ONS and to describe some longer-term trends. The aim of the Online Guide – *the Guide to Labour Market Statistics* – is to provide an easily accessible and comprehensive source of information about the outputs, sources, definitions and methods used for the compilation of the UK's LMS. The two products complement each other and provide easy-to-use reference sources for a wide range of users of differing degrees of expertise.

Progress to date

The Review volume and Online Guide were both published in March 2006 on the National Statistics website:

www.statistics.gov.uk/labourmarketreview

Planned future work

The Online Guide will be kept up to date on an ongoing basis. During 2006 the major changes were the inclusion of a section on the Preferred Sources of Labour Market Statistics as recommended by the Quality Review of Employment and Jobs statistics, and a section on the Labour Costs Framework.

Completion date

Ongoing

Cost

£80,000 (excluding ongoing costs to update the Online Guide)

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Office for National Statistics

Useful websites

Further information on the statistics covered by this Theme can be found at the following websites:

National Statistics
www.statistics.gov.uk

Department for Education and Skills
www.dfes.gov.uk

Department for Work and Pensions
www.dwp.gov.uk

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Northern Ireland
www.detini.gov.uk

Department of Trade and Industry
www.dti.gov.uk

Scottish Executive
www.scotland.gov.uk

Welsh Assembly Government
www.wales.gov.uk

Natural and Built Environment

Report of progress against plans 2006/07

Introduction

The Natural and Built Environment Theme covers statistics for four main areas:

- natural environment (air, water, soil, wildlife, natural resources, waste and land cover)
- housing (houses, households, housing finance, house prices and homelessness)
- construction (output, new orders, employment, building materials, price and cost indices), and
- land use and planning (development control, land use change and stock, small area retail turnover, floorspace, town centres and green belt)

The main government departments represented within the Theme are the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), Office for National Statistics (ONS), Scottish Executive (SE), Welsh Assembly Government, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland, Department for Social Development, Northern Ireland (DSD) and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). This Theme has links with the Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry Theme.

Under the *Framework for National Statistics*, the Theme Working Group (TWG) is responsible for drawing up a three-year Work Programme. This chapter reports on the progress made over the last 12 months on the most important projects being carried out by the Theme during 2005/06–2007/08. The projects are listed in no order of importance.

Priority projects

A. Development of the Sustainable Consumption and Production statistical evidence base including indicators

Aims and objectives

The project aims to compile a robust and credible evidence base to support the delivery of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) policies.

Progress to date

The statistical evidence base for SCP policy is being developed as part of Defra's Evidence and Innovation Strategy, which went out to consultation in October 2005. The Strategy identifies the need to understand resource flows and the environmental

impacts of different social and economic trends, different sectors and different products.

Underpinning the strategy is a research programme that has initially focused on reviewing the available evidence and identifying areas for further work and development. Among the research projects that reported during 2006 are:

- a review of resource flow type studies, including mass balance
- the development of a methodology for estimating 'embedded emissions' for imported goods and services
- a review of the available evidence of the impacts of UK and EU consumption on the biodiversity of other countries
- an assessment of the robustness of the evidence base on the environmental impacts of commodity production
- an analysis of the environmental impacts of a selection of commonly purchased food and drink products
- a study of the areas of UK public sector expenditure with the most significant environmental, social and health impacts

Planned future work

The studies listed above have identified, among other things, the areas where further statistical development work is needed. A new contract has been let to establish the base economic data required to develop a time series of the amounts of carbon emissions 'embedded' in imports. The first stage of this project is due to be completed in June 2007.

Further consideration is being given to the development of modelling tools and frameworks that can integrate the disparate sources of evidence on material flows and environmental impacts.

Completion date

Not known, as it is part of a wider Research Programme under development

Cost

Not available, as it is part of a wider Research Programme under development

Contact

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B. Production of more comprehensive, relevant, frequent and timely waste statistics

Aims and objectives

The aim of this project, being taken forward by Defra and the Welsh Assembly Government jointly with the Environment Agency, is to provide a sound evidence base for improved waste management, policy development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, at both national and local levels.

Progress to date

The joint Defra and Welsh Assembly Government Waste Data Strategy was published in April 2006 and charts the way forward for a three-year workstream to contribute to the development of a sound evidence base for waste policymaking, land use and business planning, and performance monitoring.

Over the last 12 months substantial progress has been made on analysing the major gaps in data provision, developing and implementing plans for collating the data required, and developing a new central data warehouse (or 'Hub'). The first report from the Hub on the number of operational licensed waste facilities in England and Wales was published on the Defra website in May 2006.

One strand of the Strategy already in place is WasteDataFlow, a web-based system for collecting quarterly local authority data on municipal waste. A 100 per cent response rate was achieved for 2005/06 and results were published in November 2006.

For progress to date and the current position, see:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/wip/data/index.htm

Planned future work

The project is beginning to provide information to stakeholders, initially to the Environment Agency through data quality improvement plans but also to Defra on waste capacity and infrastructure needs. More reports from the Hub should be published as data become available from the Environment Agency. The waste data Hub will be

continually developed in order to link in with Geographical Information System (GIS) tools and other useful reporting mechanisms, and those waste streams not captured by regulatory returns will be considered.

Project length

The project started in 2003/04 and is ongoing.

Cost

Total expenditure during 2006/07 was estimated at £2 million.

Contact

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C. Production of more comprehensive, relevant, frequent and timely waste statistics in Northern Ireland

Aims and objectives

The purpose of the project is to carry out a number of surveys on different waste streams, including commercial and industrial waste arisings.

Progress to date

The Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste Arisings Survey (CDEWAS) was published in June 2006. The Commercial and Industrial Waste Arisings Survey (CIWAS) was published in March 2007.

Planned future work

No surveys are currently planned for 2007/08.

Completion date

This project has been completed.

Cost

CIWAS: £216,500

CDEWAS: £92,200

D. Publication of household projection figures for Northern Ireland

Aims and objectives

The purpose of this project is to produce updated household projections for Northern Ireland up to 2025, applying the data from the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) 2004-based population projections for Northern Ireland to provide better projections.

Progress to date

An Examination in Public of the Housing Growth Indicators for Northern Ireland concluded in February 2006 and the panel published its report in March 2006. The report endorsed the use of the NISRA model for forecasting population and household change. At the same time it was recognised that, given the change in the European Union in 2004 and the possibility of an increase in inward migration, it would not be appropriate to fully update the household projections based on the 2004 population projection series.

Planned future work

Once the 2006 mid-year population estimates have been received, work will commence on the 2006-based household projections. This will then form the start of a regular statistical series.

Completion date

Spring 2008

Cost

Not available

Contact

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Contact

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E. Settlement shops and services in Northern Ireland

Aims and objectives

The study will improve the classification and monitoring of settlement shops and services. The project will provide better identification of settlements by counting the number of shops and services in them, and not relying only on a population count.

Progress to date

The results of this project were published in November 2005.

Planned future work

It is intended to examine catchment areas of settlements and internal shopping and service centres within settlements.

Completion date

To be decided

Cost

Expected to be negligible

Contact

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F. Living in Wales Survey

Aims and objectives

Living in Wales is a survey for the Welsh Assembly Government carried out by Ipsos MORI. It is the main source of information on households and the condition of homes in Wales. This annual survey is carried out as a face-to-face interview with the household reference person or another appropriate adult. Ad hoc condition surveys take place in conjunction with the household survey.

Progress to date

Initial results from the 2004 survey have been published at the Wales level via a series of topic-specific Statistical Releases. These releases provided information from both the household and the house condition surveys.

Fieldwork for both the 2005 and 2006 surveys, which contain a more diverse range of questions, have been completed and results from the 2005 survey were published in December 2006 via a Statistical Release. Work is currently under way on the 2007 survey.

Planned future work

It is planned that topic-specific analyses, at the Wales level, from the 2005 survey will be published during 2007. Results for the 2006 survey are also expected to be published during 2007.

Results at local authority level will be available once data from three consecutive surveys have been aggregated.

The survey has been extended into 2007 and 2008 and will encompass a condition survey in 2008. Surveys beyond 2008 will be determined by necessity and a further tender process.

Project length

Ongoing

Cost

Not available

Contact

rhiannon.caunt@wales.gsi.gov.uk

G. Development of resource indicators based on the UK material flow account

Aims and objectives

The aim of the project is the compilation of resource use and resource intensity indicators in preparation for future Eurostat requirements.

Progress to date

Material flows have been developed sufficiently so that they can now be compiled according to the basic National Accounting matrix including environmental accounts framework, which is a Eurostat requirement. However, additional work related to this project that looked at measures of material intensity has not taken place.

In the latest publication of *Environmental Accounts* in November 2006, ONS was able to build on the progress made during the project to date, to present existing data in a way that provided more information on the total UK demand for particular resources, such as fossil fuels and minerals.

However, ONS has changed the emphasis of work, away from development work on Environmental Accounts towards the maintenance of existing outputs. Further work on this project has therefore been suspended and there are no plans at present to review this position.

Contact

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H. Rationalisation of data collection from social housing landlords in Scotland

Aims and objectives

The project aims to provide consistent information on stock, vacancies, lettings, rents and improvement activities for local authority and housing association landlords at national, local authority and neighbourhood levels. It also aims to simplify reporting and reduce the burden of data supply.

Progress to date

Start of the implementation was delayed by nine months because of difficulties in securing the transfer of the designated project manager from other work. A project steering group has been established and project plan agreed. Scottish Executive (SE) has agreed that from 2007/08 the frequency of a quarterly data collection from local authorities on vacancies and lettings will be reduced to annual and that – beginning with the 2007/08 data collection – all social landlord statistics from local authorities will be collected in an annual electronic proforma.

The contract for the Scottish Continuous Recording System (SCORE) for lettings by housing associations – which is being retendered in 2007/08 – includes provision for developing electronic data capture to assist its extension to gather information on lettings by local authorities.

Planned future work

During 2007/08 SE aims to establish the aggregate electronic data collection from councils; identify and publish standard definitions for key aggregate and case-based measurements on social housing stock and lettings; and develop the business case for extending the SCORE data collection to cover all councils.

Completion date

Full harmonisation should be complete by the 2009/10 data collections.

Cost

Not available

Contact

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I. Subnational household projections for England and Wales

The aim of this work was to produce long-term 2003-based projections of the number of additional households in England and Wales. These projections were published in March and April 2006.

For more details, please see the entry relating to this project in the *National Statistics Annual Report 2005/06*:

www.statistics.gov.uk/about_ns/downloads/NSAR2006.pdf

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Matt Prior (Secretary)
Office for National Statistics

Useful websites

Further information on the statistics covered by this Theme can be found at the following websites:

National Statistics
www.statistics.gov.uk

Department for Communities and Local Government
www.communities.gov.uk

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics

Department for Social Development, Northern Ireland
www.dsdni.gov.uk

Department for Transport
www.dft.gov.uk

Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland
www.doeni.gov.uk

Department of Trade and Industry
www.dti.gov.uk

Scottish Executive
www.scotland.gov.uk

Welsh Assembly Government
www.wales.gov.uk

Introduction

The Population and Migration Theme brings together information and statistics about the UK's population. The Theme covers population estimates and projections, outputs from the population census and international and internal migration, as well as statistics on births, deaths, marriages, divorces, citizenship and electoral turnout. These provide essential information about the characteristics, structure and dynamics of the population. Population and migration statistics are produced using a range of data sources, both administrative and survey.

Under the *Framework for National Statistics*, the Theme Working Group (TWG) is responsible for drawing up a three-year Work Programme. This chapter highlights and provides an update for the priority projects being carried out by the Theme during 2005/06–2007/08. It covers all official statistics, not just National Statistics. They are listed in no order of importance.

A. Research plans for improving population and migration statistics for England and Wales

Aims and objectives

ONS has an ongoing work programme to improve population estimates, projections and migration statistics. The aim of this programme is to reduce the risk that, when population estimates based on the 2011 Census are available, users of population statistics are again faced with large differences between these and the mid-year population estimates based on the 2001 Census. Research will also aim to ensure that ONS has a better understanding of the reasons underlying any large differences that do occur.

This work includes projects aimed at improving ONS's migration statistics, and ONS will also work with local authorities to conduct a number of population studies in England and Wales. The aim of the population studies is to investigate the potential for using alternative, high-quality, national and local data sources to improve the current methods for estimating population change to local levels in England and Wales. The plans

also recognise the need to feed through insights from this work that may benefit those planning the 2011 Census.

Migration, both international and internal, is the most difficult component of population change to measure reliably due to the paucity of available sources and the absence of a direct measure. Work is under way to implement recommendations of the *Review of International Migration Statistics*. Research is planned to improve the reliability of the national estimates on international migration, and the geographical distribution of migrants within England and Wales and between the countries of the UK.

The Allsopp *Review of Statistics for Economic Policymaking* recommended that ONS develop its programme of research to establish how internal migration can be estimated more reliably. The current patient register data source is being redeveloped as part of the National Health Service's (NHS) National Programme for IT (NPFIT) and ONS will seek opportunities to acquire improved data from the new systems. Furthermore, ONS plans to investigate other administrative sources to assess whether they can be used to resolve the known limitations of the patient register source.

It should be noted that these issues are common throughout the UK, and both the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) are involved in developing a UK-wide solution.

Progress to date

The *Report of the Inter-departmental Task Force on Migration Statistics* was published in December 2006 (see also chapter 13). The report is available on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14731

Also in December 2006 ONS announced improvements to the international migration component of the population estimates that have been developed for implementation in the mid-2006 population estimates for England and Wales.

Research has been conducted to assess the feasibility of estimating short-term migration statistics as current outputs relate to long-term migrants only. A feasibility report on short-term migrants was issued in January 2007 seeking feedback from users. ONS has continued to work collaboratively with local authorities to gain a better understanding of administrative sources at a local level and published the first of the local authority case study reports and held a workshop with local authorities to discuss the findings in February 2007.

Work has continued on population bases, particularly those that might be needed for outputs from 2011, and an article was published in the summer 2006 issue of *Population Trends*.

Planned future work

ONS is discussing with the Treasury, as part of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review, funding options for taking forward the recommendations of the Task Force. Subject to the work being funded, the plan for delivery in 2007/08 includes establishing the expert committee on migration statistics; a new migration volume that will integrate the reporting of key migration statistics across government; and governance arrangements for delivery of the recommendations in the Task Force report.

ONS will be holding three seminars in May 2007 to inform users about the improvements that are being implemented for the mid-2006 population estimates for England and Wales, and to give an indication of their likely impact on the existing estimates for 2002 to 2005. Further local authority case study reports will be issued by May 2007 and further workshops will be held in 2007.

Completion date

All projects will end formally by March 2008. In some cases the outcome will be to hand over improvement work to the Office for National Statistics Centre for Demography (ONSCD) development programme that is being established.

Cost

ONSCD funding includes around £1 million for improving migration and population statistics.

Contact

roma.chappell@ons.gsi.gov.uk

B. Research on demographic trends in Scotland

Aims and objectives

Scotland's population is changing; an ageing and declining population is posing critical challenges for policymakers. In April 2005 the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) announced a new two-year research initiative into demographic trends in Scotland. Funded in partnership with the Scottish Executive (SE), this research will investigate three key aspects of Scotland's demography: migration, fertility and the impact of an ageing population.

Six research projects, funded by this partnership initiative and supported by the GROS, will address some of the key issues underlying Scotland's changing demography. The projects include investigations into low fertility in Scotland and wide variations in fertility rates within Scotland; policy-relevant issues around Scotland's ageing population; macroeconomic impacts of demographic change in Scotland; and aspects of migration, including a study of Scottish graduate migration and retention.

Progress to date

The six projects will be completed in 2007. The final reports of two of the projects – *Macroeconomic Impact of Demographic Change in Scotland* and *Scottish Graduate Migration and Retention – A Case Study of the University of Edinburgh 2000 Cohort* – have been published and are available on the ESRC website. The emerging findings and their implications continue to be discussed in some detail with key policy users.

Planned future work

The ESRC and SE are working with the research teams to develop user engagement and communication events over the next year. There are plans to hold a large event in 2007 pulling together the findings and implications from each of the projects. The outcomes will feed into future analytical and policy developments to address Scotland's demographic issues in the longer term.

Completion date

Each project has its own timetable. The remaining four final reports will be published on the ESRC website during 2007.

Cost

£300,000

Contact

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C. Developing new population products Aims and objectives

ONS has three research projects aimed at developing new population products for England and Wales. The overall aim is to maintain the relevance of ONS population outputs and meet user needs in a timely fashion by producing quarterly estimates six weeks after the end of the quarter. However, continued delivery of these projects is dependent upon continued funding.

Small area estimates

This research project was set up to investigate the feasibility of producing authoritative population estimates below local authority level. These estimates are needed to meet the growing need for population information at geographic levels below local authority level.

Quarterly estimates

This project on quarterly population estimates will provide timely short-term forecasts, which will be updated at least once a year to be in line with the mid-year population estimates for England and Wales and will replace the current method used to produce 1 January estimates for Eurostat.

Ethnic projections

One of the Policy Action Team 18 (PAT18) recommendations was for ONS to improve ethnic statistics. As part of this, the Neighbourhood Statistics Service (NeSS) has funded an ongoing project looking at developing a methodology for producing population projections with an ethnic dimension. This research is examining existing data sources and developing methods, including setting assumptions about future levels of fertility, mortality, migration and inter-ethnic transitions over time so that population projections can be calculated on this basis.

Scotland

Developments in population statistics for Scotland, which are the responsibility of the GROS, include development of:

- a new national household estimates series based on council tax data

- data zone population estimates for 2001 to 2004
- data zone household estimates

Northern Ireland

Development of population statistics for Northern Ireland includes:

- publication of population estimates for Super Output Areas (SOAs) for 2001 to 2004 in May 2005
- development of a method for population estimates at SOA level as the 2001 Census benchmark becomes less timely, published by March 2006
- development and publication of a range of demographic statistics at SOA level by autumn 2005

Progress to date

Small area population estimates

ONS produces small area population estimates for Lower Layer and Middle Layer SOAs in England and Wales on an annual basis, the most recent estimates being for mid-2004. These estimates are consistent with the local authority mid-year estimates and have the status of experimental statistics, and are therefore undergoing evaluation. A 'Postcode Best Fit' methodology has been developed with the potential to produce population estimates for a variety of different geographies to meet user needs. The method uses the Lower Layer SOA estimates and patient register data to derive estimates for geographies that straddle those of existing outputs.

Quarterly population estimates

ONS Centre for Demography (ONSCD) has continued to produce the experimental Quarterly Population Estimates for England and Wales to the published timetable (six to eight weeks after the reference period). The release for 2006 Q4 included estimates down to regional (Government Office Region) level for the first time with this product, as well as a back series to June 1995.

Ethnic population estimates

The last ONS set of population estimates by ethnic group (PEEGs), for mid-2004, provided a breakdown of the population by age and sex and 16-way ethnic

group at local authority level within England. They were published in August 2006 and are consistent with the 2004 mid-year estimates. The PEEGs currently remain as experimental statistics and ONSCD is planning the work required to gain National Statistics status for them later in 2007/08.

Northern Ireland

NISRA has developed a wide range of statistical indicators at the SOA level, including demographic statistics covering fertility and mortality. These are disseminated through NISRA's Neighbourhood Information Service.

NISRA has not made the progress anticipated on small area population estimates owing to a lack of resources. The most recent small area population estimates (2003-based) were produced as part of a project on the spatial patterns of deprivation, and NISRA plans to review this work in 2007/08. Small area population estimates will be included in the review.

Scotland

A new national household estimates series based on council tax data has been achieved. The method used to produce household estimates has been reviewed, and Scottish household estimates are now based on council tax data. This means that the figures are not reliant on census data, and additional information can be published on vacant dwellings and second homes. The figures are also far more timely, and three sets of household estimates have now been published using this approach:

www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/household-estimates-projections/index.html

Data zone estimates have now been published for 2001 to 2005, and these have been compared with a range of administrative sources as part of a quality control exercise. To date, comparisons have been made with child benefit data from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), school census data from the Scottish Executive Education Department and the Super Older Person's database from DWP.

Work is progressing well on the collection of data zone household estimates. A pilot exercise was

carried out in September 2006, and the first full data collection will be carried out in 2007. Work is under way to analyse the figures obtained from the pilot exercise, and to compare them with other sources of data.

Planned future work

Small area population estimates

ONS plans to publish, as experimental statistics, small area population estimates for other key geographies in England and Wales, such as wards, parliamentary constituencies and National Park areas.

Quarterly population estimates

The next ONS release for England and Wales will be in May 2007 and will cover 2007 Q1. Estimates for 2007 Q2 and revisions back to 2001 Q3 will be published after the new methodology for the distribution of international migration has been incorporated into the mid-year population estimates and this will probably be in September 2007.

Ethnic population estimates

The next set of PEEGs that ONS aims to produce will be consistent with 2005 mid-year estimates for England, and will be published in autumn 2007. They will incorporate changes to the distribution of international migration as developed in the ONSCD improvements to the international component of the population estimates.

Northern Ireland

NISRA launched the Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study in December 2006 and throughout 2007/08 will be encouraging its use as a research tool.

NISRA plans to produce a new annual statistical series on the number of households in 2007/08. This will be used as a base for a new household projections series to be produced based on the 2006-based population projections.

Scotland

GROS currently publishes small area statistics on the number of dwellings in each council tax band. From May 2007 it will also publish new information on type of property and number of rooms, and this will be available at:

www.sns.gov.uk

Quality control of the small area population estimates will be extended to compare with the Community Health Index data from the health service, and the methodology will be amended for 2007 to address the issues raised.

Project length

The ONS outputs are experimental estimates that will remain as part of the developing statistics programme until they gain National Statistics status, when they would transfer to become part of the suite of ONS's regular population statistics.

Cost

Not available

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D. Census

For information on changes planned for the 2011 Census of Population, please see chapter 8.

E. Stochastic forecasting

Aims and objectives

ONS, in collaboration with the University of Leeds, aims to develop probabilistic national population projections for the UK, thus enabling the uncertainty in national projections to be specified. This project was originally agreed between the Government Actuary's Department (GAD), which then had responsibility for the production of national population projections, and the University of Leeds. On 31 January 2006 responsibility for the production of national population projections was transferred from GAD to ONS when the new ONSCD was established.

Progress to date

A basic working model has been created based on the national population projections model. The stochastic model has been tested using 250 simulations of the future UK population derived from assumed probability distributions for future values of the total fertility rate, life expectancy at birth and net migration. Probability distributions have initially been prepared based on analysis of past projections errors. These have been derived from the extensive database of past national population projections published on the GAD website in January 2006.

Planned future work

During 2007/08 an alternative set of probability distributions will be prepared, based on views obtained in March 2007 from the National Population Projections Expert Advisory Panel. Past projection accuracy and expert opinion are two of the three standard methods (along with time series modelling) used, normally in combination, to specify probability distributions for stochastic forecasting. ONSCD will also explore the most appropriate ways for converting the stochastically derived overall variables (such as the total fertility rate) into the detailed age-specific fertility, mortality and migration rates or numbers which are required to run the model.

Completion date

Depending on the progress of the methodological issues being considered in 2007/08, ONS aims to publish a trial set of probabilistic projections, probably as ONS experimental statistics, during 2008/09.

Cost

The cost of this project cannot be identified as it is part of the ONSCD Population Statistics Development Programme.

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Theme Group Members

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Useful websites

Further information on the statistics covered by this Theme can be found at the following websites:

National Statistics

www.statistics.gov.uk

General Register Office for Scotland

www.gro-scotland.gov.uk

Home Office

www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

www.nisra.gov.uk

Scottish Executive

www.scotland.gov.uk

Welsh Assembly Government

www.wales.gov.uk

Introduction

The Social and Welfare Theme brings together information and statistics about the domestic, financial and social living arrangements of individuals and families. It covers: social trends and overviews; household finances; benefits and tax credits; welfare; socio-economic inequalities and poverty; social capital; culture, sport and leisure activities; household and family structure and projections; and households and housing (also covered by the Natural and Built Environment Theme).

The data are collected from a variety of sources, including the population census, household and employer surveys, and administrative data systems. The primary dissemination channel for the Theme is the National Statistics website, supplemented by the relevant departmental websites and paper publications.

Under the *Framework for National Statistics*, the Theme Working Group (TWG) is responsible for drawing up a three-year Work Programme. This chapter reports on progress made over the last 12 months on the most important projects being carried out by the Theme during 2005/06–2007/08. The projects are listed in no order of importance.

Priority projects

A. Development of a new publication on Pension Statistics

Aims and objectives

The aim of the project was to present a comprehensive set of statistics and analysis on UK pensions through a single publication.

This work has been completed and *Pension Trends* was published by ONS in October 2005.

For more details, please see the entry relating to this project in the *National Statistics Annual Report 2005/06*:

www.statistics.gov.uk/about_ns/downloads/NSAR2006.pdf

Further work is in progress to improve the quality and reliability of pension statistics – for information, please see Project B in the Commerce, Energy and Industry Theme.

B. Modernising Department for Work and Pensions statistical publications

Aims and objectives

The aim of the modernising statistics project is to review most Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) National Statistics publications in the light of Internet dissemination advances and to integrate more accurate data from the new Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS).

Progress to date

Since October 2005 DWP National Statistics about its customers have been available via an interactive tabulation tool which allows users to specify the statistical breakdowns they require. Feedback has been positive and there are around 60,000 visitors a year with 2.5 million hits. Since its launch, DWP has added data on the ethnicity of Jobseeker's Allowance claimants, second-tier pensions, and National Insurance contributions. The tabulation tool may be accessed at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

Planned future work

A review of the tabulation tool, including user consultation on its content and usability, is due to report in May 2007.

Work is also under way to provide data on flows on and off benefit and, using HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) data from the WPLS, this will expand to cover flows between benefit, employment scheme and work.

Project length

Ongoing

Cost

£300,000 for the whole life of the project, excluding live running costs

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C. Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2006

Aims and objectives

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2006 will identify small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across all of Scotland in a fair way. The Index will build on developments made in the SIMD 2004.

Progress to date

The SIMD 2006 was published in October 2006. It was an update to SIMD 2004, although several changes and improvements have been made to the data sources and methodology. SIMD 2006 also contained new crime domain and new public transport travel times in the access to services domain. Changes to SIMD are explained fully in the SIMD 2006 technical report at:

www.scotland.gov.uk/simd2006technical

The Scottish Executive (SE) published a general report on SIMD 2006 together with associated information, including an online interactive mapping website and an online statistical compendium. These can be found at:

www.scotland.gov.uk/simd

Planned future work

Work for 2007/08 includes further analysis of SIMD 2006 as well as development of data and new domains for the next update to SIMD. This includes a physical environment domain and improved small area housing data for the housing domain.

Completion date

SIMD 2006 was completed in October 2006. The next SIMD update is currently scheduled for 2009, although a specific date has not yet been announced.

Cost

Not available. SIMD is funded as part of the Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics Programme.

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D. Ethnicity classifications

Aims and objectives

This project is looking at the classifications that Scotland might use for the 2011 Census, with a view to designing a category system which will allow people to describe their ethnic identity in a way they want, while meeting the needs of the data users.

Progress to date

Following SE's recommendation to the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) in December 2005, a revised ethnicity classification scheme was included in GROS's Census Test in April 2006, comprising a separate question on national identity and ethnic group. The test was circulated to 50,000 households in selected areas of Scotland.

During 2006/07 SE continued to liaise with GROS regarding progress with the Census Test, and UK harmonisation issues were discussed with ONS and the Northern Ireland Statistics Research Agency (NISRA) via the Ethnicity, Identity, Language and Religion Topic Group led by ONS. In early 2007 a work plan was established, setting out proposals for further work required to progress the review and inform the final recommendation, with specific emphasis being placed on ensuring a collaborative approach with ONS.

Planned future work

Six key projects are planned to run during 2007. These are:

- the (Scottish) Census User Consultation, assessing the data needs of census users, including data on ethnicity and national identity – this work is led by GROS with SE support
- a project to map individual response from the 2006 Scottish Census Test to responses given on the 2001 Census to investigate changes in response patterns caused by changes to the ethnicity question – this work is led by GROS with SE support
- focus groups will be held around Scotland with members of the public identifying as 'African', 'Caribbean' and/or 'Black' to gather more views

on using colour to monitor ethnicity in Scotland – this is a joint project between SE and ONS

- cognitive question testing will be conducted with a cross-section of Scottish ethnic groups to access the functionality and usability of a revised question or questions to ensure that the final question formulation is fit for purpose – this is a joint project with SE/ONS/contractors
- analysis and interpretation of the 2006 Scottish Census Test results – this work is led by GROS with some input from SE
- a planned fieldwork study with a Scottish local authority to yield information on how well a revised ethnicity classification works in a real world setting and the operational impact of any changes for an organisation that conducts ethnicity monitoring – this a joint project with SE and a Scottish local authority

Several of these projects will be conducted jointly with ONS around issues that have a bearing on UK Census harmonisation in order that resultant evidence can be compared and contrasted robustly across each country.

Completion date

A final recommendation will be made to the GROS in early 2008 for inclusion in the Census White Paper (2008) and the Census Rehearsal (2009).

Cost

Not available – project ongoing

E. Production of a bulletin on household circumstances in Northern Ireland

Aims and objectives

The aim of this work was to improve and expand the available Northern Ireland data coverage of household circumstances to match that of, and be able to contribute to, data for Great Britain.

This work was completed in February 2006 and a range of bulletins based on Family Resources Survey (FRS) data have been published.

For more details, please see the entry relating to this project in the *National Statistics Annual Report 2005/06*:

www.statistics.gov.uk/about_ns/downloads/NSAR2006.pdf

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F. Improving the quality of the analytical dataset derived from tax credits administrative data

Aims and objectives

The aim of the project is to improve analytical capabilities via data matching, by merging HMRC employment data into the Social and Welfare Longitudinal Database (SWLD). This process of data matching enables the tracking of benefit claimants in and out of employment. Further work is aimed at developing databases such as:

- Working Age Database (to include people of working age on key benefits)
- Pensioner Database (to include people of pensionable age on key benefits)

The outcome of the project will be a database containing Social Security Agency data matched with employment data, allowing the tracking of customers from benefit to employment and vice versa. This will allow measurement to be made of the success of those policies aimed at getting benefit claimants back to work.

Progress to date

The database is now up and running. It is currently being used to report on numbers of social security benefit customers moving from benefit and into employment.

Planned future work

Work has started that will look at the possibility of adding employment earnings and savings data into the database in order to allow the characteristics of those individuals on low incomes to be studied. At present there are no plans to produce separate working age and pensioner databases.

Completion date

The project was completed in October 2006.

Cost

£32,000 a year

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G. Updating the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation

Aims and objectives

The main objective of this project was to update and revise the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2000 in order to provide a more up-to-date snapshot of deprivation in Wales, at lower Super Output Area geography. Other objectives included:

- producing a supplementary subset of indicators on 'life stages', that is children and the elderly, where reliable results can be produced
- producing specific information for each local authority
- reporting on the changes to the compilation of the Index since it was prepared in 2000

This work was completed in November 2005.

For more details, please see the entry relating to this project in the *National Statistics Annual Report 2005/06*:

www.statistics.gov.uk/about_ns/downloads/NSAR2006.pdf

H. Development of a new household survey for culture and sporting activities on attendance, participation and attitudes

Aims and objectives

Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), working in partnership with its non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) and others, is aiming to improve current understanding of participants and non-participants in DCMS sectors and activities. To meet this aim, a new household survey and publication called Taking Part is being developed to collect information from around 27,000 adults in England each year.

Progress to date

The survey is currently in its second annual sweep. Several reports have been released based on the provisional quarterly data collected during the first year, including a headline report on levers and barriers to engagement in culture and sport. Provisional estimates were also published on baselines for Public Service Agreement target 3 (PSA3), with final baselines released in December 2006.

The reports can be found on the DCMS website at:

www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Research/taking_part_survey

Planned future work

DCMS, working in partnership with its NDPBs, will continue to develop the survey tool to ensure it evolves to reflect departmental objectives and produce a programme of analytical outputs to exploit these data to maximum effect.

A series of reports are planned for release, including a detailed report on the first annual dataset which will be published in May 2007. Following this, the first of the quarterly series of reports on PSA3 will be released from the second year of the survey. Other reports are currently being scoped.

Data from the first annual sweep of the child component will be available in summer 2007. At this point, the third annual phase of the adult survey will be launched.

Project length

Ongoing

Cost

£2.7 million a year

Contact

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I. Improving the quality of the analytical dataset derived from tax credits administrative data

Aims and objectives

To maximise the value of administrative data on Child and Working Tax Credits to customers inside and outside central government.

This work was completed in 2006. For more details, please see the entry relating to this project in the *National Statistics Annual Report 2005/06*:

www.statistics.gov.uk/about_ns/downloads/NSAR2006.pdf

J. Family Resources Survey linking project

Aims and objectives

The aim of the project is to link records held on the Family Resources Survey (FRS) with administrative data held by DWP. The project, which relates to Great Britain, was set up as a result of the FRS Strategic Review in 2004 which consulted key users as to their future requirements.

DWP plans to seek consent from FRS respondents to link their records to information held by the department within the DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

The greatest potential early gain from this project will be in the DWP estimates of take-up of income-related benefits. Customers across DWP also expressed a need for longitudinal information that will enable them to track movements on and off benefits in addition to having a wealth of information available through the FRS. These improvements will be beneficial to all areas of policy development.

Progress to date

During May and June 2006 a quantitative pilot was carried out to test the proposed question and documentation to seek consent from FRS respondents to link their information to administrative data held by DWP.

Although the consent rate from the pilot was below the level anticipated, it did indicate that overall survey response rates were unlikely to fall as a consequence of introducing the consent questions. So, after consultation, DWP has decided to carry out further testing by introducing the question into the full survey for 2006/07. This will allow a longer run on the question and the opportunity to see whether the consent rate improves with increasing interviewer experience. It will also allow improvements to data linking to take place.

The data linking question was included in the full survey from November 2006. Consent rates for November 2006 to January 2007 show the number of respondents agreeing to have their information linked is around the same as for the pilot.

An initial analysis has been carried out using the results from the pilot FRS data to link to administrative data. The purpose of this is to assess the quality of the match and develop agreed linking algorithms for the future. This first stage of the work has shown that overall 86 per cent of those respondents who consented to have their information linked could be linked back to the administrative data reliably. It is likely that this can be improved by refining the linking methodology.

Planned future work

FRS data from November 2006 to March 2007 will be available around the end of 2007. This will provide five full months of linkable FRS data.

Work will continue on the development of linking algorithms in time for the release of the full FRS dataset. There are three phases of work outstanding:

- to refine linking methodology and decide on an acceptable level of match
- to run a 'fuzzy matching' exercise to examine whether National Insurance numbers are required for linking, and
- to perform matching on the November 2006 FRS data onwards

Completion date

The first full year's linked FRS data are expected to become available to analysts within DWP and HMRC at the end of 2008.

Cost

The estimated cost of the project during 2006/07 was £150,000.

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Theme Group Members

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Useful websites

Further information on the statistics covered by this Theme can be found at the following websites:

National Statistics
www.statistics.gov.uk

Department for Communities and Local Government
www.communities.gov.uk

Department for Culture, Media and Sport
www.culture.gov.uk

Department for Work and Pensions
www.dwp.gov.uk

HM Revenue & Customs
www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/index.htm

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
www.nisra.gov.uk

Scottish Executive
www.scotland.gov.uk

Welsh Assembly Government
www.wales.gov.uk

Introduction

Transport, travel and tourism statistics cover a range of topics from national traffic counts and large-scale surveys of road freight operators to assessment of the role of tourism in the economy, and statistics about the relative safety of different transport modes.

Sources and data collection methods for transport and tourism statistics are wide-ranging. They include surveys involving direct observation, other surveys and administrative sources.

Under the *Framework for National Statistics*, the Theme Working Group (TWG) is responsible for drawing up a three-year Work Programme. This chapter highlights and provides an update for the priority projects being carried out by the Theme during 2005/06–2007/08. It covers all official statistics, not just National Statistics. They are listed in no order of importance.

A. Undertake and implement recommendations of the Quality Review Programme

Aims and objectives

The aim is to undertake and implement Quality Reviews as listed in the schedule of the National Statistics Quality Review Programme, including reviews of the Scottish Household Survey (SHS), Road Traffic Statistics, Maritime Statistics, National Road Maintenance Condition Survey and Vehicle Licensing Statistics.

Progress to date

Scottish Household Survey

Following the review of the Scottish Household Survey (SHS) in 2005, the Scottish Executive (SE) consulted users regarding the detailed questions for 2007 onwards. During 2006/07 SE let the contract for the SHS for four years from 2007 to 2010, and decided how the questionnaire should be changed for 2007. In the Transport part of the survey, the Travel Diary was redesigned to improve its coverage of adult journeys, and many questions were allocated to subsamples in order to make room for new questions on other aspects of Transport. For 2007 and 2008, the SHS also has

a module on Culture and Sport (covering a separate subsample) which asks about participation, barriers, levers (to encourage participation) and volunteering in culture and sport, and will provide nationally representative results on an annual basis. The main survey also has a few questions on culture and sport, which will provide information at local authority level about participation and frequency. The new questionnaire was piloted and was then used on the survey from January 2007.

Other reviews

The Road Traffic and Road Length Statistics Quality Review has been completed. The final report on the review was published in January 2007 and is available on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/quality/reviews/transport.asp

A user consultation exercise has been carried out about the National Road Maintenance Condition Survey of roads in England and Wales, and the results of the exercise have been published. The arrangements for reporting on road condition will be substantially changed for the 2007 reporting year (with the report due to be published in 2008), as a new data source will come into use.

Planned future work

Scottish Household Survey

Despite changes made in the light of the pilots, the main questionnaire's interviews now take markedly longer than before. SE will therefore reduce the average interview length to its previous level by dropping some questions or asking them of smaller subsamples. SE will scrutinise the first few months of data from the new 'modularised' questionnaire to ensure that it is working correctly.

Other reviews

Work is now in hand on the Road Traffic and Road Length Statistics Quality Review to take forward the recommendations. Work on the National Road Maintenance Condition Survey will be focused on developing the new report for 2008, based on the new data source.

Completion date

Scottish Household Survey

SE will release results for the first quarter of 2007 in August 2007, and for further quarters regularly thereafter. The first publication of SHS results for 2007 as a whole will appear in summer 2008. More detailed analysis of the main Transport results will follow in the *Household Transport* bulletin in autumn 2008, and of the Transport results for individual local authority areas (for the two years 2007 and 2008 combined) in the biennial *Transport across Scotland* and *SHS Travel Diary* results bulletins during 2009/10.

Other reviews

Road Traffic and Road Length Statistics Quality Review – January 2007

National Road Maintenance Condition Survey – summer 2008

Cost

Scottish Household Survey

The cost of the review and revision of the SHS cannot be identified separately from the other costs involved in the survey. The fieldwork related to the Culture and Sport module is being funded from a separate departmental budget from that of the main SHS survey.

Other reviews

Road Traffic and Road Length Statistics Quality Review – £4,000

National Road Maintenance Condition Survey – not available

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B. Implementation of the Statistical Modernisation Programme on the International Passenger Survey

Aims and objectives

This ONS project would have involved upgrading the processing system used on the International Passenger Survey (IPS) as part of the ONS Statistical Modernisation Programme. However, work on the IPS has been removed from the scope of the Modernisation Programme and as a result there has been no progress and no future work is planned at present. ONS is currently carrying out a review of the IPS (see also Project K).

Contact

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C. Development of the replacement methodology for the UK Tourism Survey

The aim of this project was to develop a new methodology for the UK Tourism Survey, which is the main source of data on domestic overnight tourism.

This project has successfully been completed and a new methodology was introduced in April 2005.

For more details, please see the entry relating to this project in the *National Statistics Annual Report 2005/06*:

www.statistics.gov.uk/about_ns/downloads/NSAR2006.pdf

Contact

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D. Improve dissemination of Transport Statistics

Aims and objectives

The aim of the project is to improve dissemination of statistics by considering new outputs and by improved access to data through web-based enhancements.

Progress to date

Scottish Executive

Various improvements were made to SE Transport Statistics publications during 2006/07. In June 2006 one-page summaries of high-level statistics on a range of topics (including 20 Transport ones) were added to the SE Statistics website and each page is updated following the publication of new figures on the topic.

The first edition of a new annual bulletin, *Main Transport Trends*, was published in August 2006. This gives the main trends for Scotland and some comparisons with figures for Great Britain or the UK as whole. At the same time, SE made updated versions of almost all the tables from *Scottish Transport Statistics* available electronically. Subsequently, further updated tables were put on the SE website following the publication of new figures.

In November 2006 *Road Accidents Scotland* was expanded greatly, adding new sections on contributory factors (data collected for the first time in 2005) and comparisons with casualty figures from other sources.

After consultation with SE's Transport and Travel Statistics Advisory Committee, the publication month for *Scottish Transport Statistics* was changed from August to December, in order that the figures in some tables would not become out of date soon after publication due to new figures on those topics being released in the autumn.

Department for Transport

Further restructuring of the themes and outputs on the statistics section of the Department for Transport (DfT) website have been carried out to improve accessibility to the data and a redesigned DfT website was launched in February 2007.

Planned future work

Scottish Executive

Further improvements will be made to SE Transport Statistics publications and web outputs by, for example, making more statistics available for the areas of the new Regional Transport Partnerships, and by contributing to the development and publication of the statistical indicators that will be used to inform and monitor the development of SE's National Transport Strategy.

Department for Transport

Further improvements to the presentation of transport statistics data on the DfT website will continue. Several traffic publications will be consolidated during 2007/08 into a single new output.

Completion date

Scottish Executive

The work scheduled for 2006/07 has been completed and it is expected that the work scheduled for 2007/08 will be completed during that year.

Department for Transport

Ongoing

Cost

Scottish Executive

The cost of making such improvements cannot be identified separately from the other costs involved in producing statistics for publications and the website.

Department for Transport

Not available

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E. Improving the congestion measuring project

Aims and objectives

The purpose of the project is to enhance capability to monitor congestion in England by developing existing and new data sources and measures which capture the key aspects of congestion and better reflect road users' experiences. In particular, the intention is to introduce new measures that reflect the variability of journey times. The project involves the Highways Agency and local highway authorities.

Progress to date

DfT announced two Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets in July 2005. PSA1 focuses on improving journey time reliability on the Strategic Road Network, while PSA4 relates to person journey times on key routes in England's ten largest urban areas.

The baseline for the PSA1 target was published in February 2006. The target will be achieved if the average vehicle delay on the Strategic Road Network's 10 per cent slowest journeys is less in 2007/08 than in the baseline year 2004/05. The Highways Agency is using the new data to monitor performance across the network. Data underpinning the target relate to each junction-to-junction link on the network at 15-minute intervals. A comparison between the year ended July 2006 and the baseline year was published in DfT's *Autumn Performance Report 2006* for a reduced set of routes following data concerns. The Highways Agency has carried out a programme to address these concerns, improve data processing methods and timeliness, and reprocess the full set of historic data.

The baselines and targets for the ten largest urban areas in England were published in July 2006. These targets relate to the change in person journey time on key roads into city centres to 2010/11. The national target (PSA4) is built from these local targets. Data underpinning the targets include journey times on major roads sourced centrally by DfT, and surveys of vehicle flow and occupancy conducted by local authorities.

DfT is now preparing to update the baseline in May 2007, using newly available 2005/06 journey time data so that the PSA target will be wholly based on 2005/06 data.

Planned future work

DfT continues to work with the Highways Agency and local highways authorities to quality assure the existing data used to monitor the department's PSA targets. There are also work packages to develop further indicators of congestion and to explore new data sources that could improve congestion monitoring in the future.

Similarly, DfT will be monitoring local authorities' progress towards their own targets, and progress towards the aggregate urban PSA target. The first monitoring report is due in November 2007.

Completion date

Work will be ongoing to monitor progress against these targets until 2007/08 (PSA1) and 2010/11 (PSA4), and to develop understanding of congestion and improve the management of roads.

The data acquisition contract has been extended to December 2007 and data processing will continue for a few months beyond that. A new contract commencing in 2007 is being arranged so that DfT can continue to develop new indicators of congestion and monitor its progress towards achieving the PSA targets.

Cost

Data acquisition and processing costs for DfT currently run at about £1.3 million a year and will continue to the end of 2007. Beyond that, a new contract will be in place.

Contact

PSA1: dorothy.salathiel@dft.gsi.gov.uk

PSA4: eric.crane@dft.gsi.gov.uk

F. Improvements to road accident statistics in Great Britain

Aims and objectives

The main objective of this project is to collect additional information to ensure that road accident statistics meet current needs. A further objective is to strengthen the statistics by ensuring consistency in the way that road accident information is collected by the police, while minimising the collection burden.

Progress to date

There has been full adoption and integration of a new national accident reporting form, including an enhanced contributory factor (CF) dataset, and the second full year of results from the new national form will be published in June 2007 in *Road Casualties in Great Britain – Main Results*. The results from the CF dataset will be published in an article in *Road Casualties Great Britain – Annual report* in September 2007.

A collision reporting website has been commissioned for police forces and police officers throughout Great Britain. Police officers can log onto the website and be guided through the new accident reporting form online.

Planned future work

Preliminary enquiries into the possible research topics will be included in the next quinquennial review of the national accident reporting form (formerly known as the STATS19 form).

There will be a review of the impact and quality of the data collected on the new format, in particular the enhanced CF variables.

Work will continue on the Police Information Technology Organisation (PITO) project. The aim of this project is to enable police officers to record accident information electronically using mobile data capture devices.

Completion date

For the national accident report the results from the second year of the CF dataset will be published in September 2007 as part of the *Road Casualties Great Britain* report. There is no

completion date agreed at the present time for the PITO project.

Cost

DfT's contribution to the PITO project over the years 2005 to 2008 is approximately £3 million.

Contact

pat.kilbey@dft.gsi.gov.uk

G. Monitoring local transport

Aims and objectives

This project aims to assist local authorities in England with monitoring local transport, by further development of common resources.

Progress to date

In 2006/07 DfT, in conjunction with the National Centre for Social Research, ran two training seminars relating to the *Local Travel Survey Toolkit*. The toolkit was designed for use by local authorities and others wishing to carry out Local Household Travel Surveys.

DfT published its 2005 Core Accessibility Indicators in March 2007. These Indicators provide a number of measures of accessibility by public transport, walking and, where appropriate, cycling to seven service types: primary schools, secondary schools, further education, GPs, hospitals, food shops and employment. With the exception of further education, indicators have also been produced for an 'at-risk' subgroup of the population.

The core indicators have been calculated to help local authorities develop their evidence base for their accessibility strategies. Using nationally consistent datasets, they give local authorities a picture of journey time barriers to accessibility to some services in their area.

The indicators have been released as a series of spreadsheet data tables on the DfT Transport Statistics website. The spreadsheets cover England (excluding London) at Lower Super Output Area as well as District and Local Transport Authorities. An accompanying technical report has also been released.

Planned future work

Future training seminars may be conducted, depending on demand. DfT will be working with other government departments to ensure best use is made of the indicators.

Completion date

Ongoing

Cost

Local Travel Survey Toolkit: £2,000

Core Accessibility Indicators: £82,000

Contact

richard.campbell@dft.gsi.gov.uk

H. Weighting the National Travel Survey

Aims and objectives

The purpose of the project is to complete the weighting of the National Travel Survey (NTS), improving the representativeness of results. This was one of the key recommendations from the *Review of the National Travel Survey*.

Progress to date

A strategy for weighting the NTS was developed and published in September 2005, together with a report comparing weighted and unweighted data for one survey year (2002). NTS data for other survey years (1995 to 2004) were then weighted retrospectively, and a report comparing weighted and unweighted trend data for 1995 to 2004 was published in September 2006. The weighting methodology was refined slightly during this second stage of the project and a report giving the revised methodology was published at the same time. The results from the 2005 NTS were also published in September 2006 and were based on weighted data. All NTS figures for 1995 onwards that are published or released are now based on weighted data.

Planned future work

No future work is planned.

Completion date

September 2006

Cost

2004/05: £43,000

2005/06: £22,000

Contact

olivia.christophersen@dft.gsi.gov.uk

I. Develop use of spatial analysis for informing transport policy and development monitoring

Aims and objectives

The availability of spatially referenced data is increasing all the time and, when allied to geographic map-based information, it can lead to improved understanding of data. The purpose of this project is to develop awareness of the potential of the spatial analysis in transport policymaking, provide an analytical mapping service in DfT, and increase the value gained from spatially referenced data.

Progress to date

The Geographical Information System (GIS) Unit set up in DfT Transport Statistics has continued to provide a mapping and spatial analysis service to increasing numbers of users across the Department. It has also encouraged the co-ordination of different applications of spatial data across DfT, including contributing to work on a Roads Information Framework. This should offer both efficiency gains and benefits from the ability to share datasets. During 2006/07 a new website facility was launched which integrates traffic flow information in a mapping solution. The Unit has also continued to promote wider awareness of the value of spatial analysis among those areas in DfT not so familiar with GIS.

Planned future work

The work to co-ordinate spatial data across DfT, and promotion of the value of spatial analysis, will continue.

Project length

Ongoing

Cost

Not available

Contact

paul.swallow@dft.gsi.gov.uk

J. Explore the potential of Intelligent Transport Systems to provide better quality and more cost-effective means of data collection

Aims and objectives

A number of companies in the road haulage industry are using electronic tracking systems to monitor the movements of their vehicle fleet. It is hoped that in time it will be possible to use these systems to collect at least some of the statistics that are currently collected using questionnaires.

Progress to date

Consultants carried out a study to investigate the potential for capturing road goods survey data from operators' electronic vehicle tracking systems. As only about 15 per cent of the vehicle fleet have such systems installed, and as they do not all capture the information needed by DfT, it is unlikely that it will be possible to introduce electronic data capture for road goods surveys in the near future. There has therefore been no further progress during 2006/07. For the annual bus and coach survey, operators are given a choice of completing the annual survey on paper, on a spreadsheet, or online. About a third of small operators complete online.

Planned future work

The project will be resurrected at a time in the future when developments in the industry offer the opportunity to collect representative data from haulage operators.

Completion date

Ongoing

Cost

None

Contact

stephen.reynolds@dft.gsi.gov.uk

K. Review of the weighting process on the International Passenger Survey (IPS)

Aims and objectives

The survey data collected on the International Passenger Survey (IPS) is weighted by passenger data supplied by BAA, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), DfT, Eurotunnel and Eurostar. The weighting process used on the IPS is complex in needing to take account of a number of different variables. This review, to be carried out by the ONS Methodology Directorate, will investigate the need for all these variables, whether the process can be simplified and become more transparent, and whether there are additional or alternative variables that should be considered.

Progress to date

A preliminary report was produced at the end of 2006 and recommended changes to the weighting system that would make it more easily maintained.

Planned future work

No further work is planned at present. A review of the IPS is currently being carried out. Although concentrating on the migration aspects of the survey, it is likely to produce ramifications for the survey overall, including the weighting. Until the results of this review have been published there will be no further work on the recommendations of the weighting review.

Contact

david.savage@ons.gsi.gov.uk

L. Review of Northern Ireland Vehicle Kilometrage Travelled Survey

Aims and objectives

The aim of the project is to perform a comprehensive review of the Northern Ireland Vehicle Kilometrage Travelled (NI VKT) Survey in order to ensure that it provides full and robust estimates of VKT in Northern Ireland and fulfils as many user requirements as are practical.

Progress to date

A report on the review of the current methodology, with recommendations for change, was produced in September 2006 and these recommendations were accepted by the Roads Service Board in October 2006. Significant recommendations include adopting the methodology currently used by DfT in Great Britain and carrying out a one-off large-scale survey of traffic flows on minor roads to provide a robust base year figure. Work is currently ongoing to produce the sampling frame for the revised survey.

Planned future work

To initiate the new survey, including tendering for the survey of traffic flows on the minor road network.

Completion date

December 2007

Cost

The one-off large scale survey of the minor road network will cost approximately £200,000.

Contact

stephanie.harcourt@drdni.gsi.gov.uk

Theme Group Members

This Work Programme was developed by:

Antonia Roberts (Chair)
Department for Transport

Colin Brailsford
Department for Transport

Frank Dixon
Scottish Executive

Barbara Noble
Department for Transport

Alan Oliver
Department for Transport

Ed Pickering
Department for Culture, Media and Sport

Rodney Redmond
Department for Regional Development, Northern Ireland

David Savage
Office for National Statistics

Henry Small
Welsh Assembly Government

Paul Swallow
Department for Transport

Philippa Brimicombe (Secretary)
Office for National Statistics

Useful websites

Further information on the statistics covered by this Theme can be found at the following websites:

National Statistics
www.statistics.gov.uk

Department for Culture, Media and Sport
www.culture.gov.uk

Department for Regional Development, Northern Ireland
www.drdni.gov.uk

Department for Transport
www.dft.gov.uk

Scottish Executive
www.scotland.gov.uk/transtat

Welsh Assembly Government
www.wales.gov.uk/statistics

Other National Statistics

Report of progress against plans 2006/07

Introduction

The Other National Statistics Theme covers statistics on a wide range of topics. It includes numbers of people working in the public sector and Armed Forces; the provision of public and community services, such as the Fire and Rescue Service; compendia publications (those that contain statistics from a number of Themes); and statistics on international developments.

Under the *Framework for National Statistics*, the Theme Working Group (TWG) is responsible for drawing up a three-year Work Programme. This chapter reports on progress made over the last 12 months on the most important projects being carried out by the Theme during 2005/06–2007/08.

Priority projects

A. Quarterly survey of Civil Service staff in post

Aims and objectives

The survey will provide timely statistics on Civil Service headcount via the ONS public sector surveys.

Progress to date

The Quarterly Public Sector Employee Survey (QPSES) was launched in 2004/05 and the statistics were first published in May 2005.

Completion date

This project was completed in May 2005.

Cost

Not available

Contact

donna.livesey@ons.gsi.gov.uk

B. Introduction of the Common Employee Record

Aims and objectives

The purpose of the project is to collect data on civil servants more relevant to Civil Service need, particularly data on skilling and qualifications of civil servants.

Progress to date

Following a strategic review of the role of the Cabinet Office in the data collection and analysis of Civil Service personnel statistics announced by the Cabinet Secretary in 2005, responsibility for annual Civil Service statistics transferred to ONS in summer 2006.

In September 2006 ONS issued the Mandate survey (which was due to be replaced by the Common Employee Record). The resulting Civil Service statistics will be published in early summer 2007 on the National Statistics website, reconciled with the quarterly headline Civil Service employment numbers.

ONS is working closely with the Cabinet Office and other government departments on a development programme to replace Mandate with a streamlined and more relevant collection, the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (ACSES), from 2007 onwards. This replaces the original Cabinet Office plans for the Common Employee Record.

A draft specification for ACSES has been drawn up, including proposals for the collection of professional skills and qualifications statistics, and a consultation exercise commenced in February 2007.

Planned future work

The specification for ACSES will be finalised in May 2007 and communicated to departments to allow time to prepare for the next survey in September 2007. At the same time ONS will conduct a full methodological review of the survey to support the delivery of high-quality robust statistics.

From 2008 onwards, the reference date for the survey will move from September to March.

Completion date

March 2008

Cost

Not available

Contact

donna.livesey@ons.gsi.gov.uk

C. Introduction of electronic data collection for fire and rescue incident statistics

Aims and objectives

The introduction of an electronic data collection process will meet the following objectives:

- to end the use of paper forms for the collection of incident data by the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS)
- to provide 100 per cent reporting of incidents attended by the FRS
- to expand the collection and to provide more details on non-fire incidents
- to provide more timely statistics

Progress to date

An eight-week pilot for the new Incident Recording System (IRS) took place between 30 October 2006 and 22 December 2006. Nine English FRSs took part in this pilot. The nine were chosen to ensure a broad range of participants with a mixture of metropolitan, combined and county FRSs.

Following the pilot, feedback was sought from those participating and issues of usability have been addressed. Each of the pilot FRSs has completed an impact assessment that will help inform other FRSs of the business changes and associated costs that the full rollout of IRS is likely to involve.

Work is now being carried out to finalise the reporting requirements needed from IRS to fulfil both National Statistics needs and individual FRS demands.

Planned future work

The updated IRS system will be robustly tested to ensure it is ready to be rolled out nationally. Training will be provided to all FRSs to ensure that they have the correct knowledge and skills to successfully operate the system.

The IRS will be available for use in July 2007 and FRSs will have one year to opt into the system. The first year of data from IRS will be 2009.

Completion date

July 2008

Cost

£800,000

Contact

cath.reynolds@communities.gsi.gov.uk

D. Establishing a Neighbourhood Statistics database for primary fire incidents and all incidents attended by the Fire and Rescue Service in England and Wales

Aims and objectives

The 'fires attended' project provides counts of primary fires by location (that is, dwelling, other building, road vehicle, or other outdoors), and whether the cause was accidental or deliberate, as well as counts of any associated casualties. This is reported for areas smaller than FRS areas. The aim was to facilitate identification of those most at risk from having a fire, falling victim to a deliberate fire attack or being injured.

The 'all incidents attended' project provides information on the types of fire attended ('primary', 'secondary' and 'chimney'), 'special service' incidents attended, including road traffic incidents and 'false alarms', either malicious, in good faith or initiated by apparatus. These data also include counts of fatal and non-fatal casualties, along with individuals rescued.

The aim is to help users identify areas most at risk from having a fire, being involved in a special service incident or being subject to some types of anti-social behaviour (such as malicious false alarms). Figures will also assist the targeting of urban renewal programmes and community safety initiatives, as well as being used to support the Fire Service Emergency Cover Toolkit, a risk assessment tool for FRSs.

Progress to date

Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has successfully produced and published, on the Neighbourhood Statistics website, three years of geo-coded primary fires attended by the FRS since 2002. It has also successfully produced and published 'All Incidents Attended by the FRS' datasets covering the 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 periods.

Planned future work

The 'All Incidents Attended by the FRS 2005' dataset and 'All Fires Attended by the FRS 2005' datasets are due to be published in April/May

2007. DCLG will be collecting 2006 data for both projects in autumn 2007, and plans to publish these in early 2008.

Completion date

The collection and publication of Neighbourhood Statistics on fires and all incidents attended by the FRS are ongoing projects.

Cost

In 2006/07 the total programme and administration cost was £105,000 and in 2007/08 the planned cost is £102,500.

Theme Group Members

This Work Programme was developed by:

Richard Laux (Chair)
Office for National Statistics

Siobhan Carey
Department for International Development

Janet Dougharty
Defence Analytical Services Agency

Andrew Roberts
Cabinet Office

Wilma Schofield
Scottish Executive

Dave Sharp
Office for National Statistics

Darran Tucker (Secretary)
Office for National Statistics

Useful websites

Further information on the statistics covered by this Theme can be found at the following websites:

National Statistics
www.statistics.gov.uk

Defence Analytical Services Agency
www.dasa.mod.uk

Department for Communities and Local Government
www.communities.gov.uk

Department for International Development
www.dfid.gov.uk

Home Office
www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
www.nisra.gov.uk

Scottish Executive
www.scotland.gov.uk

Welsh Assembly Government
www.wales.gov.uk

Contact

peter.antoniades@communities.gsi.gov.uk



appendices



Appendix A

Aims and Objectives of National Statistics

(Extract from the
*Framework for
National Statistics*)

The *Framework for National Statistics*, published in June 2000, set out the aims and objectives of National Statistics as follows:

The primary aim of National Statistics is to provide an accurate, up-to-date, comprehensive and meaningful picture of the economy and society and to support the formulation and monitoring of economic and social policies by government at all levels. National Statistics also aims:

- to inform the Parliaments and Assemblies and the citizen about the state of the nation and provide a window on the work and performance of government, allowing the impact of government policies and actions to be assessed
- to provide business with a statistical service which promotes the efficient functioning of commerce and industry
- to provide researchers, analysts and other customers with a statistical service that assists their work and studies
- to promote these aims within the UK, the European Union and internationally and to provide a statistical service to meet European Union and international requirements

The Framework document goes on to describe the three main objectives of National Statistics in pursuit of these aims which are to:

- improve the quality, timeliness and relevance of its services to customers, both within government and the wider community
- improve public confidence in official statistics by demonstrating that they are produced to best professional standards and free from political interference
- operate efficiently by improving value for money in the production of its outputs and minimising the burden on those who supply it with data

Appendix B

Relationship between GSS-affiliated Departments, Agencies and Administrations and Theme Working Groups

Department/Agency	Head of Profession	National Statistics Theme Working Groups			
		Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry	Commerce, Energy and Industry	Crime and Justice	Economy
Bank of England	✓				
Cabinet Office	✓				
Civil Service College					
Competition Commission					
Crown Prosecution Service					
Defence Analytical Services Agency	✓				
Department for Communities and Local Government	✓				
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	✓		X		
Department for Education and Skills	✓				
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	✓	X			
Department for International Development	✓				
Department for Transport	✓				
Department for Work and Pensions	✓				
Department of Health	✓				
Department of Trade and Industry	✓		X		X
Employment Service					
Equal Opportunities Commission					
Foreign and Commonwealth Office					
Forestry Commission	✓	X			
General Register Office for Scotland	✓				
Government Actuary's Department	✓				
Health and Safety Executive	✓				
HM Courts Service				X	
Higher Education Funding Council for England					
Higher Education Statistics Agency					
HM Revenue and Customs	✓		X		X
HM Treasury	✓				X
Home Office	✓			X	
House of Commons Library					
Learning and Skills Council					
Local Government Data Unit					
Ministry of Justice	✓			X	
National Audit Office					
National Savings and Investments					
NHS Information Centre	✓				
NHS Scotland					
Northern Ireland Civil Service*	✓	X		X	
Office for National Statistics	✓	X	X	X	X
Office for Standards in Education	✓				
Office of Communications					
Office of Fair Trading					
Office of Manpower Economics	✓				
Office of Water Services	✓				
Scottish Executive	✓	X	X	X	X
Welsh Assembly Government	✓	X		X	X

An X denotes departmental participation in a particular Theme Working Group.

* Statisticians working in the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and other Northern Ireland Departments are not members of the GSS.

Appendix C

National Statistics Quality Review Programme

Details of completed reviews as at 31 March 2007

The current National Statistics Quality Review Programme was due to end in June 2005, with a new updated programme commencing in April 2006. Due to the announcement by the Chancellor in November 2005 that ONS would become independent, it was decided not to end the current programme but to continue it until the new structure for an independent ONS was in place.

Theme Review topic	Completed							Lead department
	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	
Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry								
Forestry Statistics			✓					Forestry Commission
Strategic Review of Farming and Food Statistics					✓			Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Commerce, Energy and Industry								
Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR)		✓						Office for National Statistics
Crime and Justice								
Forecasting the Prison and Probation Populations			✓					Home Office
Crime Statistics				(✓)				Home Office ¹
Efficacy of Sentencing				(✓)				Home Office ¹
Homicide Statistics				(✓)				Home Office ¹
Motoring Statistics				(✓)				Home Office ¹
Administration of Justice Statistics				(✓)				Home Office ¹
Drug Seizure and Offender Statistics				✓				Home Office
Economy								
Short Term Output Indicators	✓							Office for National Statistics
Government Accounts and Indicators			✓					Office for National Statistics
Balance of Payments and Trade Statistic					✓			Office for National Statistics
Review of UK Regional Accounts						✓		Office for National Statistics
Education and Training								
Higher Education Student Statistics			✓					Department for Education and Skills
Initial Entry Rate into Higher Education				✓				Department for Education and Skills
School Workforce Statistics					✓			Department for Education and Skills
Measurement of Attainment of Young People					✓			Department for Education and Skills
Review of School Statistics in Northern Ireland						✓		Department of Education (Northern Ireland)
Higher Education Destinations Data							✓	Higher Education Statistics Agency

✓ denotes completed Reviews

¹ These Home Office Reviews were started/completed prior to the formal launch of National Statistics and were published formally under the National Statistics banner in 2003/04.

Theme Review topic	Completed							Lead department
	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	
Health and Care								
Reviews will be subject to the outcome of work on the Framework for Health and Care Statistics and the wide-ranging review of public health information sources								
Labour Market								
Distribution of Earnings Statistics			✓					Office for National Statistics
Framework for Labour Market Statistics			✓					Office for National Statistics
Labour Force Survey			✓					Office for National Statistics
Review of Employment and Jobs Statistics						✓		Office for National Statistics
Natural and Built Environment								
Construction Statistics		✓						Department of Trade and Industry
Survey of English Housing and Related Sources					✓			Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (now DCLG)
Population and Migration								
National Population Projections: Review of Methodology for Projecting Mortality		✓						Government Actuary's Department
International Migration Statistics				✓				Office for National Statistics
Home Office Publications of Control of Immigration Statistics							✓	Home Office
Social and Welfare								
Income Support Statistics		✓						Department for Work and Pensions
Jobseeker's Allowance Statistics		✓						Department for Work and Pensions
Child Support Agency Statistics		✓						Department for Work and Pensions
Households Below Average Income and the Pensioners' Incomes Series				✓				Department for Work and Pensions
Issues in Measuring Household Income and the Redistribution of Income				✓				Office for National Statistics
Take-up of Income-related Benefit Statistics							✓	Department for Work and Pensions
Transport, Travel and Tourism								
National Travel Survey		✓						Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (now DfT)
Bus, Coach and Light Rail Statistics				✓				Department for Transport
Road Freight Statistics				✓				Department for Transport

✓ denotes completed Reviews

1 These Home Office Reviews were started/completed prior to the formal launch of National Statistics and were published formally under the National Statistics banner in 2003/04.

Theme Review topic	Completed							Lead department
	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	
Transport, Travel and Tourism (continued)								
Tourism Statistics					✓			Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Domestic Waterborne Freight in the UK					✓			Department for Transport
Road Accident Statistics							✓	Department for Transport
Road Traffic and Road Length Statistics							✓	Department for Transport
Other National Statistics								
Defence Personnel Statistics		✓						Defence Analytical Services Agency – MoD
United Kingdom Defence Statistics Annual Publication			✓					Defence Analytical Services Agency – MoD
Armed Forces Medical Statistics			✓					Defence Analytical Services Agency – MoD
DFID's Statistical Information Systems			✓					Department for International Development
Ministry of Defence Finance and Economic Statistics					✓			Defence Analytical Services Agency – MoD
Statistics on Defence Logistics					✓			Defence Analytical Services Agency – MoD
Review of Service Pensioners' Statistics						✓		Defence Analytical Services Agency – MoD
Yearly totals								
	1	8	10	12	9	4	5	Total = 49

✓ denotes completed Reviews

1 These Home Office Reviews were started/completed prior to the formal launch of National Statistics and were published formally under the National Statistics banner in 2003/04.

Appendix D

Changes to the Scope of National Statistics during 2006/07

Series brought into scope

DCA (now MoJ)

Statistics on Deaths reported to Coroners – new addition to the department's National Statistics effective from 2006 edition, due to be published in April 2007.

Mortgage and Landlord Repossession Statistics – this is a substantial expansion to the existing National Statistics volume entitled *Mortgage Repossession Statistics* and it brings significant additional material into the public domain as National Statistics, including information on court actions for housing repossession by social and private landlords as mortgage lenders.

DSD – Northern Ireland

National Insurance Number Allocations to Overseas Nationals entering Northern Ireland – new publication from the Department for Social Development, due to be published in July 2007.

Welsh Assembly Government

Education Maintenance Allowances Awarded in Wales – the previously experimental series of Statistical First Releases was brought into scope following agreement by the Chief Statistician in Wales and the National Statistician.

DfT

Road Casualties in GB: Provisional Estimates – a quarterly publication, which was brought into the scope of National Statistics in August 2006.

Withdrawals from scope

DCA (now MoJ)

Judicial Statistics – publication withdrawn from the scope of National Statistics but will continue to be published.

Magistrates' Court Defendant Waiting Time Statistics – publication ceased as the data collection has been discontinued.

Appendix E

Glossary

A

ACSES Annual Civil Service Employment Survey

AEI Average Earnings Index

AER Average Earnings Ratio

AFF Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry

AITIS Annual International Trade in Services

APHO Association of Public Health Observatories

APS Annual Population Survey

AS Assistant Statistician

ASHE Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

A&UofE Analysis and Use of Evidence

AWE Average Weekly Earnings

B

BCS British Crime Survey

BoP Balance of Payments

BRE Better Regulation Executive

BRES Business Register Employment Survey

C

CAP Common Agricultural Policy

CDEWAS Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste Arisings Survey

CEI Commerce, Energy and Industry

CF Contributory Factor

CIWAS Commercial and Industrial Waste Arisings Survey

CJB MI Criminal Justice Board Management Information

CJS Criminal Justice System

CLA Children Looked After

CLIP Central and Local Government Information Partnership

COA Census Output Area

COFOG Classification of the Functions of the Government

COINS Combined Online Information System

CORD Central ONS Repository for Data

CPD Continuing Professional Development

CPI Consumer Prices Index

CPS Continuous Population Survey, Crown Prosecution Service

CSC Children's Social Care

CSSR Councils with Social Service Responsibilities

D

DCA Department for Constitutional Affairs

DCLG Department for Communities and Local Government

DCMS Department for Culture, Media and Sport

Defra Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

DELNI Department for Employment and Learning, Northern Ireland

DENI Department of Education, Northern Ireland

DET DCMS Evidence Toolkit

DETI Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Northern Ireland

DfES Department for Education and Skills

DFID Department for International Development

DfT Department for Transport

DH Department of Health

DHSSPS Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Northern Ireland

DLHE Destination of Leavers from Higher Education

DSD Department for Social Development, Northern Ireland

DSM Data Sharing Mechanism

DSP Data Sub-Programme

DTI Department of Trade and Industry

DWP Department for Work and Pensions

E

EDD Education Data Dictionary

EIG England Implementation Group

ELWa Education and Learning Wales

ESA95 European System of Accounts 1995

ESR Electronic Staff Record

ESRC Economic and Social Research Council

ESS European Statistical System

EU European Union

Eurostat Statistical Office of the European Union

F

FBS Farm Business Survey

FE Further Education

FFE Framework for Excellence

FIT Field Interviewer Training

FRS Family Resources Survey, Fire and Rescue Service

FST Financial Secretary to the Treasury

FTE Full-Time Equivalent

FTV Film and Television Survey

G

GAD Government Actuary's Department

GB Great Britain

GDP Gross Domestic Product

GIS Geographic Information System

GP General Practitioner

GRO General Register Office

GROS General Register Office for Scotland

GSS Government Statistical Service

GSS HRC Government Statistical Service Human Resources Committee

GVA Gross Value Added

H

HE Higher Education

HESA Higher Education Statistics Agency

HH1 Home help/Home Care Return

HMRC Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs

HMT Her Majesty's Treasury (the Treasury)

HO Home Office

HoP Head of Profession (for Statistics)/Statistical Head of Profession

HOPNC Home Office Police National Computer database

HR Human Resources

HSC Health & Safety Commission

HSE Health & Safety Executive, Health Survey for England

I

IC NHS Information Centre

ICT Information and Communication Technology

IDBR Inter-Departmental Business Register

IHS Integrated Household Survey

ILCH Index of Labour Costs per Hour

ILO International Labour Organisation

IMD Index of Multiple Deprivation

Intrastat Intra-EC Trade Statistics

IoP Index of Production

IoS Index of Services

IPS International Passenger Survey

IPSS Integrated Population Statistics System

IRS Incident Recording System

ISD Information and Statistics Division (NHS Scotland)

IT Information Technology

ITIS International Trade in Services

ITT Initial Teacher Training

J

JSA Jobseeker's Allowance

K

KS Key Stage

L

LA Local Authority

LAT Learning Achievement Tracker

LCI Labour Cost Index

LFS Labour Force Survey

LLUK Lifelong Learning UK

LLWR Lifelong Learning Wales Record

LMS Labour Market Statistics

LSC Learning and Skills Council

LSYPE Longitudinal Survey of Young People

M

MAPS Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics

MDG Millennium Development Goal

MIAP Managing Information Across Partners

MIS Management Information System

MLSOA Middle Layer Super Output Area

MoD Ministry of Defence

MoJ Ministry of Justice

N

NAO National Audit Office

NAREP National Accounts Re-engineering Project

NCHOD National Centre for Health Outcomes Development

NDPB Non-Departmental Public Body

NeSS Neighbourhood Statistics Service

NESS National Employer Skills Survey

NHS National Health Service

NHSCRS NHS Care Records Service

NI Northern Ireland

NICS Northern Ireland Crime Survey

NIESR National Institute of Economic and Social Research

NINIS Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service

NIO Northern Ireland Office

NISRA Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

NLPG National Land and Property Gazetteer

NLSS National Learner Satisfaction Survey

NMIS National Management Information System

NMS New Measures for Success

Nomis® National Online Manpower Information Service

NPD National Pupil Database

NPfIT National Programme for Information Technology (Department of Health)

NRwS New Relationship with Schools

NS National Statistics

NSI National Statistical Institute

NTS National Travel Survey

NUTS Nomenclature for Units of Territorial Statistics

O

OAC Output Area Classification

OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development

Ofsted Office for Standards in Education

OGC Office of Government Commerce

ONS Office for National Statistics

ONSCD ONS Centre for Demography

OPSS Occupational Pension Schemes Survey

P

PAT18 Policy Action Team 18

PAU Pensions Analysis Unit

PBC Practice-based Commissioning

PEEG Population Estimates by Ethnic Groups

PESA Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses

PIM Perpetual Inventory Method

PITO Police Information Technology Organisation

PSA Public Service Agreement

PSAG Pension Statistics Advisory Group

PSE Public Sector Employment

PSG Professional Skills for Government

PSNI Police Service of Northern Ireland

PSSRU Personal Social Services Research Unit (University of Kent)

Q

QITIS Quarterly International Trade In Services

QMF Quality Measurement Framework

QOF Quality and Outcomes Framework

R

RAP Referrals, Assessments and Packages of Care return

RARPA Recognising and Recording Progress and Achievement

R&D Research & Development

REAAD Regional Economic Analysis and Allsopp Division (ONS)

RNOAD Regional and Neighbourhood Outputs and Analysis Division (ONS)

RPI Retail Prices Index

RSS Royal Statistical Society

RTT Referral to Treatment

S

SCMS Survey Case Management System

SCORE Scottish Continuous Recording System

ScotPHO Scottish Public Health Observatory

ScotXed Scottish Exchange of Educational Data

SCP Sustainable Consumption and Production

SCU Survey Control Unit

SDS Single Data System

SE Scottish Executive

SEED Scottish Executive Education Department

SEFT Secure Electronic File Transfer

SFA Success for all

SFFS Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy

SFR Statistical First Release

SHS Scottish Household Survey

SIC Standard Industrial Classification

SiGT Statisticians in Government Team (ONS)

SIMD Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

SIP School Improvement Partners

SIR Staff Individualised Record

SMIS Scottish Criminal Justice Statistical and Management Information System

SMP Statistical Modernisation Programme

SOA Super Output Area

SQA Scottish Qualifications Authority

SR1 Supported Residents Return 1

StO Statistical Officer

SUF Statistics User Forum

SUS Secondary Uses Service

SWLD Social and Welfare Longitudinal Database

T

TDE Telephone Data Entry

TTWA Travel to Work Area

TWG Theme Working Group

U

UK United Kingdom

UKCeMGA UK Centre for the Measurement of Government Activity

UKHS United Kingdom Health Statistics

ULN Unique Learner Number

UN United Nations

UNECE United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

UPN Unique Pupil Number

V

VA Value Added

VAT Value Added Tax

VKT Vehicle Kilometrage Travelled

VML Virtual Microdata Laboratory

W

WBL Work Based Learning

WGA Whole of Government Accounts

WHO World Health Organisation

WPLS Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

X

XML Extensible Mark-up Language

Y

YCS Youth Cohort Study

