



EuReporting

The System of Social Surveys in the United Kingdom

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Editors' note:

'Official Social Surveys in Europe' is a series of commissioned working papers whose major aim is to provide basic information on the availability of and access to major official survey data in Western Europe relevant for problem-oriented social reporting on Europe.

The working papers provide

- background information on data infrastructures;
- a summary of survey profiles and access conditions for a set of major official social surveys;

The papers are supplemented by detailed, standardised survey documentation made available on the Internet at the homepage of the subproject at the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES)¹.

In addition to common documentation items, information also covers a set of major classification variables with respect to the availability and concepts/definitions. In compiling this information, authors could usually use as a point of reference meta-information made available to the project by Eurostat, Directorate E.

The information system on the Internet can be queried either to retrieve blocks of information for a single survey, or to compare single items (such as definition and measurement of household relationships) across a set of surveys.

¹ Currently accessible at <http://www.mzes.uni-mannheim.de/projekte/mikrodaten/comei.htm> (select 'Survey profiles')

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The System of Social Surveys in the United Kingdom

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This paper provides a short description of the basic characteristics of the British system of official social surveys. Section 1 gives a short introduction to legal and organisational settings of the statistics system in the UK. Section 2 shows some basic characteristics of the British system of official social surveys. Section 3 presents a textual description of major surveys, and section 4 presents some special microdatabases combining survey data with administrative data. Section 5 informs on how public access to microdata for scientific research is regulated. Appendix 1 deals with regional idiosyncracies of the recent Census of Population, and appendix 2 provides a detailed list of result publications and related material. Finally, appendix 3 provides standardised summary descriptions for some major social surveys; the detailed documentation is available online³ and can be queried not only for single surveys, but also by major items across country/survey.

1. The system of official statistics in the United Kingdom

The British system of official statistics exhibits a number of institutional peculiarities:

- strong decentralization of statistical work across countries of the United Kingdom and devolved government departments;
- fragmentation of the legal basis for statistics, and great reliance on behavioural and procedural codes;
- close cooperation between statistical offices and academic scholarship;

² Sections 1, 2, 4 and 5. All other parts (including detailed documentation) were written by Adam Guy and Alessio Fiacco.

³ Detailed documentation, compiled by Adam Guy and Alessio Fiacco, has been integrated into a cross-national survey documentation database, available for comparative queries via the Internet at <http://www.mzes.uni-mannheim.de/projekte/mikrodaten/come.htm>. Online documentations of official surveys are excellent in the United Kingdom. ONS offers detailed meta-information for single study queries via StatBase at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/mainmenu.asp> and the UK Data Archive meta-information including codebooks via the BIRON catalogue at <http://www.data-archive.ac.uk>. The Centre for Applied Social Surveys (CASS, <http://www.socstats.suton.ac.uk/cass>) and the Manchester Information & Associated Services (MIMAS, <http://www.mimas.ac.uk>) provide additional online information.

- easy and comprehensive access to major surveys on persons and households for scientific research.

In a comparative perspective, the statistics system in the UK is particularly interesting because a relative loose regulatory framework is coupled with the widespread use of official microdata by researchers in the social and economic sciences who have recourse to a research infrastructure that is unique in Europe.⁴

1.1 Legal and organisational issues⁵

Official statistics in the United Kingdom are decentralized. National statistics⁶ are produced by the Government Statistical Services (GSS), a network of statistical services. GSS consist of departmental statistical services both of the central government and the devolved administrations (Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland⁷) as well as of the Office for National Statistics (ONS). All in all, statistical work is carried out in more than 30 government departments and related agencies.

The legal framework within which GSS operate is defined by a general act on data privacy (Data Protection Act 1998)⁸ and a number of specific statistics acts. Until today, there is no uniform comprehensive law which defines the role and responsibilities of the official statistical services or provides the legal framework for compulsory surveys or confidentiality issues. Instead, there are a number of acts relating to certain statistics, such as the Census Act and the Population Statistics Act.⁹ Moreover, legislation may apply only to parts of the United Kingdom and, in addition, may differ across administrations. Instead of a uniform single statistics act, there are specific acts augmented by agreements as well as codes of practice and behaviour. During the last few years, the statistical system has been under scrutiny, and a major overhaul took place in June 2000 with the passing of 'The Framework for National Statistics'.¹⁰ Based on the 'Memorandum of Understanding' and the associated 'Concordat on Statistics' between the UK government and the devolved administrations in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, the responsible ministers established a new arrangement with respect to status and governance of National Statistics.

⁴ Cf. F. Kraus, B. Schimpl-Neimanns et. al. (2001):

⁵ Most of the text is based on Office for National Statistics (2000): Framework for National Statistics. *National Statistics*. London: HMSO.

⁶ The scope of national statistics has been defined in a separate document listing all initial sources to be regarded as national sources. Cf. http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about_ns/downloads/InitialScope1.pdf (accessed August 2001).

⁷ Formally, Northern Ireland is not part of the GSS; factually, however, it operates similarly to the other two devolved administrations. Cf. Office for National Statistics (2000).

⁸ Cf. <http://www.dataprotection.gov.uk/eurotalk.htm>

⁹ Cf. UN/ECE's 'Handbook of Official Statistics' at <http://www.unece.org/stats/handbook/legal/gbr.htm>

¹⁰ Cf. http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about_ns/downloads/FrameDoc1.pdf (last accessed in August 2001)

The agreement sets out

- the responsibilities of the Minister for National Statistics as well as of Ministers of the UK and of devolved administrations whose departments contribute to national statistics;
- the role and responsibilities of the National Statistician resp. his counterpart in the devolved administrations
- the role of the statistical Heads of Profession across government departments of the United Kingdom and of devolved administrations.
- the role and responsibilities of a newly established Statistics Commission.

The *Minister of National Statistics* is responsible for co-ordination across National Statistics. He appoints the chairman of the Statistics Commission as well as the National Statistician and decides on the scope and budget of National Statistics. *Departmental Ministers and ministers of the devolved administrations* have similar responsibilities within their own areas of operation. The final decisional power remains in the hands of the Minister for National Statistics, although the consultation of the Statistics Commission as well as of departmental ministers and ministers of devolved administrations is mandatory in many fields.

The *Statistics Commission* is an independent organisation. Its key role is to give advice to Ministers on the quality, quality assurance and priority setting for National Statistics. It does not have decisional power, but needs to be consulted in many key decisions and has its own resources to make use of high-level professional skill in statistics. Moreover, the Minister of National Statistics is obliged to respond to views of the Commission in a written form. The Commission has to report annually to the Minister of National Statistics commenting on the annual report of the National Statistician and on its own activities.

The *National Statistician* is the Head of GSS as well as Director of the Office for National Statistics and is the UK Government's chief professional adviser on statistics. He holds the operational power in the field of national statistics, including staff matters. He prepares an annual report submitted to the Minister of National Statistics on the performance of National Statistics and sets up a coherent high-level programme for National Statistics. Both the work programme and the annual activity report must be submitted to the Statistics Commission for final presentation to the Minister of National Statistics.

The *Heads of Profession for Statistics* operate at the level of Government departments with functions similar to those the National Statistician performs at the National level. Although appointed by the respective Head of Department, Heads of Profession for Statistics are responsible to the National Statistician for the professional integrity of

National Statistics produced by their departments or devolved administrations.

Transparency and publicity are key elements of the Framework for National Statistics. In this system, a clear division of power and function manifoldly combines with consultation liabilities, formal power is balanced out by institutionalised influence of statistical advice, and consensus building is the major strategy. Nevertheless, the need for uniform and comprehensive legislation has received heightened interest, last but not least, in the realm of recent activities of the Statistical Commission. The way statistical legislation and operational procedures are combined will have an impact on the flexibility of the statistical system with respect to informational challenges and possibilities.

1.2 Implementation of the new management structure of National Statistics¹¹

The adoption of the Framework for National Statistics is having a profound impact on the management structure of official statistics and its statistical infrastructure.

The production of statistics was re-organised and divided into 12 themes, and the National Statistics Planning Board was established. The National Statistics Planning Board acts as the senior decision-making body, being responsible for the co-ordination of planning and reporting processes on behalf of the National Statistician. For each of the 12 themes a working group has been set up consisting of the key providers of official statistics: ONS, government departments, devolved administrations. The major role of these Theme Working Groups is to develop coherent work plans for National Statistics outputs to meet the need of users. Their work is supplemented by the Economic and Social Committees representing user interests, periodic fora on methodology, the Quality Assurance Programme Board and Thematic Work Group Chairs dealing with cross-thematic issues. Besides the National Statistics Planning Board, ad hoc advisory groups and the committee of Heads of Professions provide additional advice and guidance directly to the National Statistician.

In the meanwhile, the first high-level statistical work programme (2001/02-2003/04) has been submitted¹², and the Annual Report 2000-2001 been published. In addition, a comprehensive database ('StatBase') was set up in 2000, providing free-of-charge statistics and comprehensive meta-information. Information is arranged by statistical theme, and meta-information is very detailed, including, for example, information on sources and standardised study descriptions. StatBase is available on-line at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/mainmenu.asp>.

¹¹ Cf. Office for National Statistics (2001).

¹² Office for National Statistics (2001)

1.3 The role of administrative microdata

As in most other countries of Europe, the exploitation of administrative records and the improvement of integrity across competing sources have become a matter of debate also in the United Kingdom. Survey response rates are declining, and the Framework for National Statistics' stipulates the obligation to make 'effective use of existing data sources including existing administrative sources'¹³. GSS use data at the level of individuals from many administrative sources, but the micro-linkage of administrative sources to statistical surveys is the exception rather than the rule. Major examples are certain microdatabases developed for research (cf. section 3). Investigations into data collection methodologies for increased use of administrative sources form part of the agenda of the current National Statistics Work Programme¹⁴. The United Kingdom does, however, not have a register-based data infrastructure as the Scandinavian countries do¹⁵; hence, prospects for the replacement of social surveys with administrative records are more limited. In the UK, statistical surveys are the major source for information on persons and households at the level of individuals.

1.4 Co-operation between official statistics and academia

In the United Kingdom, the co-operation between official statistics and the research community is very close. It stretches from regular informational meetings about official statistics, organized by the Royal Statistical Society and the UK Data Archive, to consultations with social scientists about new surveys, and from the modification of existing instruments (including the census) to the joint conduct of surveys as part of contract research.¹⁶ or to joint funding. The new English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA), for example, is carried out in collaboration with a number of academic institutions, with funding coming from a variety of government sources and a major contribution being made by the US National Institute on Ageing.¹⁷ Other examples are the European Time Use Survey, which is jointly financed by various government departments and the UK Economic and Social Research Council.¹⁸; or the British Household Panel Study (BHPS), funded by ESRC and led by the University of Essex, providing data for the British part of the European Community Household Panel. Other examples are research databases run jointly by ONS and academic institutions (see section 4).

¹³ Office for National Statistics (2000, b)

¹⁴ Cf. Office for National Statistics (2001)

¹⁵ In the UK a unique personal identification numbers does not exist. Thus, in contrast to the Scandinavian countries, a direct linkage of data to social surveys is not possible.

¹⁶ (see Marsh 2000, among others).

¹⁷ Cf. ELSA homepage at <http://www.ifs.org.uk/elsa/index.shtml>

¹⁸ Cf. Office for National Statistics (2001), pp. 104-105 and ONS StatBase on Internet.

2. The system of official social surveys

2.1 Survey responsibilities

In the UK surveys are conducted not only by the Office for National Statistics ONS, but also by various government departments and the devolved administrations. In general, Northern Ireland runs separate survey programmes, but even within Great Britain not all surveys are carried out in a uniform way in all her home-countries (i.e. England, Wales, and Scotland). There are even some surveys which are carried out only for England or for England and Wales. The Labour Force Survey, for example, which is the largest household survey in the UK, is carried out by different agencies separately for Great Britain and Northern Ireland; the supplementary Local Labour Force Surveys are conducted separately for Wales (WLLFS) and England (ELLFS). Even for the population census, responsibilities are split between several agencies (see section 7, 'Regional idiosyncracies').

Over time, however, the Office for National Statistics has become the major house for official surveys: government departments increasingly commission their surveys to the ONS. For social surveys, ONS established a specialised unit as early as 1941, the Social Survey Division (SSD). Today SSD, either alone or in collaboration with other organisations, carries out survey research for government departments and other public agencies on a wide range of social issues. Major examples are the National Food Survey, the General Household Survey, the Omnibus Survey, the British Crime Survey, the Family Expenditure Survey, the European Adult Literacy Review Survey, the Survey of Student Achievement, a number of surveys on health and care, the Labour Force Survey, the pilot ONE survey, the Census Quality Survey, the Survey of Poverty and Social Exclusion, the Survey of Family Resources, the International Passenger Survey, the National Travel Survey.¹⁹

2.2 Time frames

Most of the major household surveys are cross-sectional. Several are carried out continuously throughout the year. Some of them have panel elements, such as the Labour Force Survey with its 5-wave rotating panel design, with interviews at quarterly intervals and the final interview in the anniversary week of the first one. Increasing attention has been paid in recent years to the generation of longitudinal databases, either through data linkage, such as the Longitudinal Census File and the Longitudinal Labour Force Survey File, or through panel surveys. ONS co-ordinates an interdepartmental group which sets priority areas for longitudinal data²⁰. The office, in collaboration with

¹⁹ Cf. ONS: StatBase (on Internet)

²⁰ The so-called Longitudinal Data Co-ordination Group (LDG).

other agencies both inside and outside of GSS, has recently launched major new longitudinal studies, such as the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA)²¹ and the new Millenium Birth Cohort (MCS)²², and plans a new large general-purpose survey.²³

2.3 Survey harmonisation

Most of the major surveys carried out today by ONS had initially been launched in isolation from each other by different government departments. Since the creation of National Statistics in 1996, many efforts have been made to harmonise them with respect to input and output, including the establishment of uniform concepts, definitions, and measurements for a number of key topics (such as household relationships and household composition, national identity and ethnic group, tenure, economic status, industry, occupation, employment status, socio economic class). Today, many of the key classificatory variables and some analysis variables are harmonised for most, if not all major government surveys, and question blocks containing the same question sequences are used in different surveys. (For details see <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/Harmony/about.asp> as well as pages of the Question Bank at <http://qb.soc.surrey.ac.uk/resources/harmonisation/harmonintro.htm>) These efforts are, of course, also influenced by international requirements, particularly by those of the European Communities (i.e., the Labour Force Survey, the Time Use Survey, the Labour Costs Survey and the European Community Household Panel Survey). Moreover, with the trend towards an increasing use of administrative data, and, in co-operation with Eurostat, the development of harmonised Key Social Indicators for Europe-wide social reporting, ONS is likely to extend the principles of harmonisation beyond surveys in the near future.

²¹ ELSA is an academia-based study on the quality of life of those aged 60 and above, living in England. It is a new data source, drawn from a pooled sample of the Health Survey for England (HSE), commissioned by the Department of Health. Funding comes from a variety of government departments and the US National Institute on Ageing. ELSA is an interdisciplinary study of various academic institutions. The survey, the first wave of which is scheduled for 2002-2007, will supplement baseline data derived from the HSE by a range of topics relevant to a full understanding of the ageing process. For more information visit the ELSA homepage at <http://www.ifs.org.uk/elsa/index.shtml>. For longitudinal studies on ageing in Wales, conducted since 1979 at the Centre for Social Policy Research and Development of the University of Wales, visit <http://www.bangor.ac.uk/csprd/cymraeg/blsa.htm>.

²² For more information visit <http://qb.soc.surrey.ac.uk/surveys/mcs/mcsintro.htm>

²³ cf. Statistics Commission (2001), p. 14.

3. Major socio-economic surveys

This section provides an introduction to major social surveys and two economic surveys. In addition to official surveys, the academia-based British Household Panel and the 1999 Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey are included as well. Descriptions are limited to basic survey characteristics. For most of them, detailed documentation has been compiled in a standardised way. This documentation is made available in a condensed form in the appendix and is, in a much more detailed form,¹ accessible for queries via Internet at <http://www.mzes.uni-mannheim.de/projekte/mikrodaten/come.htm>). Detailed documentation includes not only survey characteristics but also a whole range of classification variables. The database is cross-national and the information systems supports *comparative* queries across survey and/or country. It should be noted that at the level of single study descriptions several UK sites provide detailed documentation online.²⁴

3.1 2001 UK Census of Population

The aim of the Census is to obtain accurate and detailed data on the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the population. The Census is vital for resource allocation by central and local government and for planning for homes, jobs, schools, health and transport and other vital services.

The Census of Population is carried out once every ten years and the last Census took place on 21 April 1991. Every household and every communal establishment in the United Kingdom is given a questionnaire to complete so that the entire UK population is covered, apart from a small percentage of non-respondents. The questionnaire is for self-completion. This means that the number and detail of questions have to be kept to a minimum.

Census data are unique in providing information about employment and many other aspects of the population, down to small areas, at a particular point in each decade. The Census gives a picture of the entire nation. It counts the numbers of people living in each city, town and country area. It tells us something about each area and its population, including the status of their health, what jobs they do and the type of housing they live in.

An accurate count of the population in each local area helps central government calculate the size of grants it allocates each local authority and health authority. In turn,

²⁴ Official surveys are documented by ONS in the StatBase database (visit <http://www.statistics.gov.uk>); the UK Data Archive provides detailed database-supported documentation for academic as well as government surveys on households and persons (visit <http://www.data-archive.ac.uk>). Other sources (less comprehensive in coverage) are the Question Bank (provides also questionnaires; visit <http://qb.soc.surrey.ac.uk>) and MIDAS (large government surveys only; visit <http://www.mimas.ac.uk>).

these authorities use census information when planning services within their areas.

A count of the various types of dwelling and the people in them helps planners to identify inadequate accommodation and assess the demand for new housing.

The Census shows how many people work in different occupations and industries throughout the country, helping government and businesses to plan jobs and training policies and to make informed investment decisions.

Information collected on travel to and from work, and on the availability of cars, contributes to the planning of roads and public transport.

Data on general health, long-term illness and provision of care will enable the Government to plan health and social services and allocate resources to best effect.

Data on ethnic groups help to identify the extent and nature of racial disadvantage in Britain and to measure the success of equal opportunities policies. The information helps central and local government to allocate resources and plan programmes to take account of the needs of minority groups.

3.2 The Labour Force Survey (LFS)

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a very large, continuous survey of households living at private addresses in Great Britain. Its purpose is to provide information on the UK labour market which can then be used to develop, manage, evaluate and report on labour market policies. It is carried out by the Social Survey Division (SSD) of the Office for National Statistics (ONS)²⁵ in Great Britain and by the Central Survey Unit of the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland on behalf of the Department of Economic Development.

The LFS provides a wide range of data on labour market statistics and related topics such as training, qualifications, income and disability. The data from the survey are used extensively both within and outside government. The LFS has been running since spring 1992 in its present form although a LFS has been carried out in the UK since 1973. Between 1973 and 1983 a biennial survey was carried out during the spring. In 1984 the survey became annual. As well as ONS, government users include the Department for Education and Employment and the Department for Trade and Industry.

The UK is required by European Union Regulation of 1998 to carry out a labour force survey quarterly. The questions required for the European Labour Force Survey are integrated into the national labour force survey (about two thirds of the questions are

²⁵ Until 5 July 1995, the Employment Department (ED) was responsible for the LFS. On that day, ED was closed down, and the responsibility for the survey passed on to the Central Statistical Office (CSO). On 1 April 1996, the CSO merged with the Office for Population Censuses and Survey (OPCS) to form the ONS which now is responsible for the LFS.

related to the European survey programme). In addition to a range of broad topics which are mandatory, Eurostat have optional topics on 'main labour status' and 'income'. Eurostat specify a supplementary module each year. The current programme of modules for the next few years includes 'health and safety at work', 'the transition from school to work', 'length and pattern of working time', 'disabled people's employment'. The Regulation also specifies the way in which the survey should be conducted, in broad terms, and the quality of the results that member states should supply to Eurostat. The technical aspects of the EU labour force survey are discussed by Eurostat and representatives of the respective National Statistical Offices (as well as employment ministries) at the Employment Statistics Working Party meetings. This Working Party determines the content of the survey, the EU list of questions and the common coding of individual replies, as well as the principal definitions to be applied for the analyses of the results. The National Statistical Institutes are responsible for selecting the sample, preparing the questionnaires, conducting the direct interviews among households, and forwarding the results to Eurostat in accordance with the common coding scheme. During 2000-01, ONS for the first time delivered seasonal quarterly databases to Eurostat instead of annual databases; and implemented Eurostat requirements for questionnaire changes and ad hoc modules.

The LFS sample of addresses is taken from the Postcode Address File. In addition, a small sample of addresses of NHS and Health trust accommodation is included in the survey and anyone aged 16 or over and at boarding school or living in a hall of residence is included in their parent's household. The survey has a stratified random sample and within any continuous thirteen week period every postcode sector is sampled. This feature allows representative results to be produced for any thirteen week period and has been utilised in the ONS new First Release on Labour Market Statistics. From April 1998 the LFS figures have provided headline UK unemployment and employment figures each month for the preceding quarter.

The survey has a panel design where each sampled address is interviewed for five waves. Interviews take place at three month intervals with the fifth interview at an address taking place a year after the first. Each quarter interviews are achieved at about 59,000 addresses with about 138,000 respondents. During the year a response rate of 79% was achieved for the first wave of the survey.

All first interviews (with the exception of a very small sample located North of the Caledonian Canal) are carried out by a team of face-to-face interviewers who work exclusively on the LFS. Subsequent interviews are carried out, where the informant is willing, by telephone from a Telephone Interviewing Unit at ONS's Titchfield office. Over 60% of all LFS interviews are conducted by telephone.

A similar quarterly survey is conducted in Northern Ireland by the Central Survey Unit of the Northern Ireland Statistics Research Agency. Social Survey Division processes results from this survey for the Department of Economic Development. The results are combined with those from the Great Britain survey to produce UK figures.

The LFS was first carried out in the United Kingdom in 1973, as part of the UK's obligations as members of the European Economic Community. Until 1983 the survey was repeated every two years, and from 1984-1991 annually. In March 1992 the LFS for Great Britain moved onto a quarterly cycle, while Northern Ireland introduced a quarterly survey in December 1994. From April 1998, ONS started to publish quarterly UK LFS estimates every month, relating to the most recently available quarter.

3.3 General Household Survey (GHS)

The main aim of the *General Household Survey* is to collect data on a range of core topics, such as housing, employment, education, health and family information. The information is used by the sponsoring Departments and other organisations for planning, policy and monitoring purposes, and to present a picture of households, families and people in Great Britain.

The GHS is a continuous survey which has been running since 1971 and is based each year on a sample of the general population resident in private (that is, non-institutional) households in Great Britain. Since the 1988 survey, the fieldwork has been conducted on a financial rather than calendar year basis, so for the 1998 survey interviews were carried out from April 1998 to March 1999. During this period, interviews were obtained with 15,853 people aged 16 and over, either in person or occasionally by proxy, in 8636 households throughout the country. Since the 1994 survey, interviews have been conducted using computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) on laptop computers and the BLAISE software. This has had the effect of reducing costs, the amount of missing data at individual questions, the amount of office-based coding and editing and the output timetables. Since 1971, the GHS has included questions on population and fertility, family and household information, housing, health, employment and education. In so doing, it provides a unique opportunity to examine the inter-relationship between these important areas of social policy and to monitor changes in their associations over time. The survey is widely used by central government as a source of background information for decisions on resource allocation, and in making household and national population projections. It is also extensively used by a wide range of health professionals, and by researchers and secondary analysts with an interest in social policy and demographic issues.

The GHS provides valuable information about particular social groups, such as lone

parents. For smaller groups, it may be necessary to aggregate data over a number of years in order to obtain large enough subsamples for analysis. The survey also helps to fill in some of the gaps in information about social changes between decennial population censuses. As an interview-based sample survey, the GHS can also examine more topics, in much greater depth, than the decennial census at national and regional level. The GHS was designed as a 'modular' survey and, as a result, subjects other than those listed above are covered periodically and new topics are introduced from time to time. The 1998 survey repeated questions from earlier years on elderly people living in private households (the results of which are to be published in a separate report), smoking, drinking, contraception, hearing and childcare. A new section on tenure after marriage and cohabitation was also included.

In 1997 ONS carried out a review of the GHS. The review concluded that there was a continuing need for the GHS, but that the survey should be redesigned to ensure that it was being carried out in the most efficient and cost-effective way. GHS fieldwork was suspended for the 1999-2000 financial year while development work was carried out in preparation for the relaunch of the survey in April 2000.

From April 2000, the survey has a new structure. It will consist of two elements: the Continuous Survey and trailers. The Continuous Survey will remain unchanged for the five-year period April 2000-March 2005, apart from essential changes to take account of, for example, changes in benefits. It will consist of a household questionnaire, to be answered by the Household Reference Person or spouse (see below), and an individual questionnaire, to be completed by all adults aged 16 and over resident in the household.

The household questionnaire will cover the following topics:

- demographic information about household members
- household accommodation
- housing tenure
- consumer durables
- migration.

The *individual* questionnaire will include sections on:

- employment
- pensions
- education
- health and use of health services

- smoking
- drinking in the last seven days
- family information
- income.

As in previous years, the GHS will retain its modular structure, which will allow a number of trailers to be included each year; some will appear only once during the five years; others will be included on a regular basis.

The trailers which have been agreed for inclusion in 2000/1 are:

- usual alcohol consumption in the last 12 months
- informal carers
- social capital.

3.4 The Family Expenditure Survey (FES)

The primary use of the *Family Expenditure Survey* is to provide information about spending patterns for the Retail Price Index, although over recent years the usage of the FES has extended. The FES now regularly feeds into estimates of consumers' expenditure in the National Accounts, is used for tax benefit modelling, and is generally an important source of economic and social data for government and other research agencies.

The FES is a voluntary sample survey of private households in the United Kingdom carried out by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). It provides a wealth of information about household expenditure and household income. The survey has been conducted each year since 1957. The survey is continuous, interviews being spread evenly over the year to ensure that seasonal effects are covered. From time to time changes are made to the information sought. Some changes reflect new forms of expenditure or new sources of income, especially benefits. Detailed questions are asked about the income of each adult member of the household. In addition, personal information such as age, sex and marital status is recorded for each household member.

The FES sample for Great Britain is a multi-stage stratified random sample with clustering. It is drawn from the Small Users file of the Postcode Address File - the Post Office's list of addresses. All Scottish offshore islands and the Isles of Scilly are excluded from the sample because of excessive interview travel costs. Postal sectors (ward size) are the primary sample unit. 672 postal sectors are randomly selected during the year after being arranged in strata defined by standard regions (sub-divided into metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas) and two 1991 Census variables - socio-economic group and ownership of cars. These were new stratifiers introduced for the

1996-97 survey. The Northern Ireland sample is drawn as a random sample of addresses from the Valuation and Lands Agency list.

The FES has been in operation since 1957. The original reason for the survey was to provide information on spending patterns for the Retail Prices Index. Over the years the range of uses has grown and the survey is now multi-purpose. It provides an invaluable supply of economic and social data to central government, to other public and commercial organisations and to researchers in universities and independent research institutes.

From April 2001 the FES and the National Food Survey (NFS) will be replaced by the Expenditure and Food Survey (EFS).

3.5 The 1999 Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey (PSE)

The PSE was commissioned to ONS by a consortium of the Universities of York, Bristol and Loughborough. The work was funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

The Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey (also known as Survey of Living Standards in Britain) was designed:

- to update the Breadline Britain surveys, which were conducted by the Market and Opinion Research International (MORI) in 1983 and 1990;
- to measure the scale and severity of poverty and social exclusion in Britain;
- to estimate the size of groups of households in different circumstances;
- to explore movement in and out of poverty and to look at age and gender differences in experiences of and responses to poverty.

The PSE furthermore served the purpose of contributing to the cross-national investigation of poverty as well as informing policies, which aim at reducing poverty in Britain.

There were two parts to the PSE survey. The first part of the work was carried out on the June 1998 Office for National Statistics (ONS) Omnibus survey. The second part of the study was a follow-up survey of a sub-sample of respondents to the 1998/9 General Household Survey (GHS).

Questions which had been used in the previous Breadline Britain surveys were repeated to minimise differences for comparisons over time. However, the PSE survey included new questions, which aimed at measuring respondent's assessment of absolute and overall poverty, as defined at the United Nations World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995. The PSE survey also tried to measure intra-housing poverty.

3.6 The Time Use Survey (TUS)²⁶

The UK 's first full Time Use Survey is being carried out during 2000-01. The Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) produced a survey specification and design to be used across Europe with the aim of producing harmonised databases of time use throughout Europe. The UK Time Use Survey follows closely the key aspects of the survey specification developed by Eurostat, designed to be applicable Europe-wide, whilst incorporating modifications designed to meet the information needs of UK government departments. European Time Use surveys are carried out by the National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) on a voluntary basis.

The Time Use Survey is a survey in which individuals record how they spend their time over a specific period, typically 24 hours. Such surveys are often referred to as Time Budget Studies.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is currently managing a contract for the 2000 Time Use Survey on behalf of a number of Government Departments and the Economic & Social Research Council (ESRC), who are co-funders. The fieldwork is being conducted by Ipsos-RSL, and a team in ONS-SED (Socio-Economic Division) project manage the Survey.

Piloting and other testing took place in 1999, and in the early part of this year. The fieldwork began in June 2000, and will last a year. The cleaned dataset will be deposited at the Data Archive by the end of 2001.

In recent years, policy makers and academics in the UK have begun to recognise the value of measuring the amount of time spent on various activities. Time Use data informs a cross section of policy areas such as:

- • Satellite accounts
- • Employment & Education
- • Health
- • Culture
- • Travel

Some examples of specific areas are:

- Time spent on household chores
- Time taken to travel to work
- Amount of time spent volunteering

²⁶ Cf. also ONS homepage at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/themes/social_finances/timeusesurvey/introduction.asp

- Gender differences in child care
- Activities of the unemployed
- Time spent caring
- Participation in leisure activities
- Work/leisure balance.

The objectives of the Main Time Use Survey are:

- To carry out a large scale diary based survey to measure the amount of time spent by the UK population on various activities.
- To ensure that the Time Use Survey provides data to meet the policy needs of government departments.
- To meet the requirements of the academic community and beyond.
- To provide results comparable as far as possible with those envisaged by Eurostat. The Time Use Survey has, however, been modified to embrace UK government and academic needs and to take account of the relative costs and benefits of various methodologies.
- To deposit a well documented dataset in an easily understandable and accessible format with the ESRC Data Archive. This will be openly available for analysis by government and academic users.

The core of this survey will be a self-completion diary. In the diaries, respondents will be asked to record their time use in ten minute slots, recording both their main and secondary activities, as well as where they were and who they were with at the time.

The survey also collects contextual information on the individual and the household.

3.7 National Travel Survey (NTS)

The National Travel Survey is a continuous survey on personal travel, commissioned by the Department of the Environment and the Regions (DETR). It provides the department with data to answer a variety of policy and transport research questions. The survey has been running on an ad hoc basis since 1965 and continuously since 1988. The annual sample size is set at 5,796 private addresses in Great Britain (from the year 2000). The addresses are drawn from the Postcode Address File (a comprehensive list of all delivery points - postal addresses - in Great Britain).

A distinctive feature of the NTS is a travel diary which all sampled household members keep for seven consecutive days. The survey switched to computer assisted interviewing (CAI) in 1994 for the main interview. Respondents continue to complete a paper travel diary which the interviewers then input into a specially written program that checks the data. SSD conducts all processes up to the production of a fully edited data file and the publication of an annual technical report.

The National Travel Survey (NTS) provides regular, up-to-date data on personal travel and monitors changes in travel behaviour over time. The first NTS was commissioned by the Ministry of Transport in 1965/66. Further periodic surveys were carried out in 1972/73, 1975/76, 1978/79 and 1985/86. In 1988 the NTS became a continuous survey with field work being carried out every month of the year. Social Survey Division (SSD) of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) carried out the NTS in 1972/73 and 1985/86 and has been the contractor for the continuous NTS since its launch in 1988. SSD is responsible for questionnaire design, sample selection, data collection, data editing and data file production. Analysis and report production are carried out by the Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR), the commissioning department for the survey. An edited database is sent to DETR every 3 months and is produced 2 months after the end of fieldwork. The NTS provides detailed information on different types of travel; where people travel from and to (at county level), distance, time, purpose and what kinds of people are doing the travelling and how often. The NTS is the only source of national information on subjects such as cycling and walking which provide a context for the results of more local studies. The results of the survey are published by DETR and are available to users both within and outside Government. Travel research institutes such as the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) view the NTS as one of their major data sources and the NTS datasets are deposited at the Data Archive at the University of Essex.

The DETR has used the NTS to:

- build up a general picture of changes in personal travel over time, for all modes including walking, cycling, car and public transport
- examine travel among special groups in the population such as children, the elderly or disabled
- estimate accident rates on the basis of exposure to accident risk for different groups in the population
- establish the level of take up of concessionary fares among those entitled to such fare schemes such as the elderly
- estimate annual mileage for cars (as opposed to other light vehicles such as taxis or vans); this information is used when road tax and fuel tax payments are under consideration
- estimate the effect that a change in this balance of road tax to fuel tax would have on different kinds of households
- examine changes over time in travel for different purposes, such as commuting, business, education, shopping and leisure
- collect information about whether people use leaded or unleaded petrol or diesel in their vehicles

- assess the extent to which tax concessions available to those with company cars encourage extra mileage
- examine the relationship between the level of car ownership and the level of bus patronage at regional level
- examine car ownership levels and the availability of bus services in rural areas.

The NTS is based on a random sample of private households. The 1999 sample size was 5,040 addresses drawn from the Postcode Address File. The addresses selected were allocated into interviewer quotas in such a way that each quarter's sample was nationally representative.

The NTS sampled allocation month ran from mid-month to mid-month. The interviewer would usually start to make contact with the household at the beginning of the calendar month in which the seven day keeping week (travel week) specified for that household. At the placement call, the interviewer would conduct an interview. After the interview, the inter-viewer explained the travel record keeping procedure in detail.

3.8 The European Community Household Panel (ECHP)

The ECHP was originally proposed by the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) in 1989/90, and initiated in 1994. The survey is intended to meet the need for data at the Community level on the distribution of incomes and social exclusion. The survey is longitudinal in order to provide information on mobility and transition. The ECHP is a multi-dimensional survey based on a common questionnaire ('blue-print'), involving annual interviewing of a representative panel of households and individuals in each Member State. Design, coverage, comparability issues and data accessibility are discussed elsewhere²⁷ and are therefore not repeated here.

From Wave 4, a subset of the UK panel for ECHP was effectively merged with the British Household Panel survey administered by the Institute for Social and Economic Research. From wave 5 onwards, the ECHP was no longer carried out in the United Kingdom. Instead, data were derived from the British Household Panel Survey.

3.9 British Household Panel Survey (BHPS)

The main objective of this academia-based survey is to further our understanding of social and economic change at the individual and household level in Britain, to identify, model and forecast such changes, their causes and consequences in relation to a range of socio-economic variables. The BHPS is designed as a research resource for a wide range of social science disciplines and to support interdisciplinary research in many areas.

²⁷ Cf. CIRCA server of the European Communities at <http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/dsis/Home/main>

The sponsor of the survey is the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

Data are collected from:

- Individuals: A face to face interview is conducted with all adults in the household aged 16 and over. They also undertake a self-completion questionnaire. A proxy schedule is used to collect information about absent household members. A telephone questionnaire is used as a final resort when all efforts to achieve a face to face interview have failed.
- Households: Information is collected at the level of the household from the household reference person or spouse

3.10 Other surveys

The Omnibus Survey

The Omnibus Survey provides a service to government departments, public bodies, charities and academics. The Omnibus serves a number of purposes. It is used to:

- Provide quick answers to questions of immediate interest;
- Provide information on topics that don't require a full survey;
- Provide information on trends if the same module is repeated at different times;
- Develop and pilot questions for other surveys;
- Sift for sub-groups that can be followed up in another survey.

The survey is carried out in two months of each quarter.

*The Family Resources Survey (FRS)*²⁸

The FRS is a continuous survey of about 24 thousand households (per year), living in Great Britain south of the Caledonian Canal. It is commissioned to ONS and to the National Social Research Centre by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The FRS has been carried out since 1992. The survey is particularly informative with respect to social security benefits and also provides data by benefit units. DWP uses the survey for policy monitoring, simulation, and analyses of Households Below Average Income.

The National Food Survey

The many uses of the National Food Survey include: providing information for the Retail Price Index; identifying changes in food and drink expenditure and consumption over time; monitoring the progression towards targets set out in the White Paper 'The Health of the Nation'. This latter has set targets for the proportion of food energy from total fat and saturated fatty acids to be no more than 35% and 11%, respectively, by the year 2005.

²⁸ See also documentation at DWP's homepage (<http://www.dss.gov.uk/publications/dss/2001/frs>)

The International Passenger Survey

The main users of data from the International Passenger Survey are: ONS, in compiling the travel account of the balance of payments and in estimating the numbers and characteristics of migrants into and out of the UK; the Department of Culture, Media and Sport; British Tourist Authority (BTA); and the National Tourist Boards, for whom the survey provides information on international tourism. Others users of the IPS data include HM Customs and Excise, the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR), the Department of Health (DH), the Civil Aviation Authority and Eurotunnel.

The European Labour Costs Survey

The UK (that is, Great Britain and Northern Ireland) is required by European Union Regulation (the most recent of which [i.e. No 530/1999] was agreed on 9 March 1999) to carry out a Labour Costs Survey at four-yearly intervals. Harmonised methods and definitions are used on the Labour Costs Survey in order to provide data, which allows comparisons between Member States.

The Office for National Statistics carries out the UK Labour Costs Survey for the European Union. In the UK Labour Costs data are derived from existing national surveys (such as the New Earnings Survey), as well as administrative data. The information that the Labour Costs Surveys provides is used, within the UK, for the National Accounts and for the calculation of labour costs per unit output. In the UK the survey was last carried out in respect of 1996. The Regulation requires member states to produce statistics on the level and composition of labour costs for publication circa eighteen months after the end of the reference year.

4. Special microdatabases for research

Longitudinal research is quite developed in the United Kingdom. In addition to the BHPS the academic community runs a variety of interdisciplinary longitudinal studies, such as the 1970 British Cohort Study and the Millenium Cohort Study. Longitudinal research is supported through specialised organisations, such as the Centre for Longitudinal Studies²⁹ and the recently established ESRC UK Longitudinal Studies Centre (ULSC).³⁰ One of the functions of ULSC is to develop a national strategy for the

²⁹ Cf. <http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk>

³⁰ Visit ISER at Essex University (<http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/ulsc/index.php>).

future of longitudinal studies in the UK.³¹, first and foremost for social science research.³². Improvement of access to longitudinal files derived from administrative records is one of the explicit tasks of the Centre.

In the following, two prominent and already widely used data sources for longitudinal research are presented from the field of *official* statistics: the ONS Longitudinal Study and JUVOS.

4.1 ONS Longitudinal Study (LS)

The LS is a large and complex longitudinal database which is based on linked microdata from population censuses and vital events records (health and demography). Since 1971 for each census year the same sample is linked and merged with registered live events data. The sample covers 1 % of the population of England and Wales, aged 25 and above.

The database contains data on³³

- Date of birth, sex, marital status;
- Family, household or communal establishment;
- Housing;
- Country of birth and ethnicity;
- Education;
- Economic activity;
- Occupation and social class;
- Migration and travel to work;
- Fertility;
- Morbidity;
- Cancer;
- Births and deaths ;
- Immigration and emigration.

The data are anonymised, and the linkage of data with microdata from other government departments is not allowed.

³¹ Nina Bullen, MIMAS (2000): The future of UK Longitudinal Studies. Report on the meeting held at the Royal Statistical Society on 16 May 2000. Available online at <http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/ulsc/natstrat/docs> .

³² Cf. ISER/ULSC at <http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/ulsc/natstrat/docs>. 'The idea of developing a joined-up national strategy (to meet the needs of both government and academia) has come out of concurrent reviews by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Office for National Statistics.' Cf. Nina Bullen (2000) at <http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/ulsc/natstrat/docs>

³³ Source: ONS: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/themes/compendia_reference/articles/longitudinal.asp . Last accessed in August 2001.

The LS database offers a unique range of analytical and methodological possibilities. ONS aims at the greatest possible use of data for research, but special access conditions had to be applied to protect data against unlawful disclosure.

Access to data is, however, more restricted than in the case of other government microdata.³⁴ Academic researchers are supported by staff from the Centre for Longitudinal Study at the University of London.³⁵

4.2 'JUVOS' cohort database³⁶

JUVOS - the 'Joint Unemployment & Vacancies Operating System' - is a longitudinal database of a 5 % sample of claim records for unemployment-related benefits. Making use of the national insurance number, each time a person included in the sample asks for benefits, details are added to the cohort database. JUVOS was established in 1982. The database is used by government departments and researchers to analyse labour market mobility and geographical mobility. An additional potential for analysis has been added by linking JUVOS records to the Panel Dataset of the New Earnings Survey.

5. Access to microdata for scientific research³⁷

In the United Kingdom, an overarching, national legal basis to regulate public access to microdata from the official statistics³⁸ does not exist at present. However, one can find an implicit privilege accorded to researchers enshrined in the Code of Practice,³⁹ a document which transforms a multiplicity of individual legal determinations into procedural rules.⁴⁰ These rules and regulations specifically permit the dissemination of anonymized information to governmental organizations and bona fide researchers as long as no contradictory legal regulations or obligations exist (Government Statistical Service 1984: 5). As a consequence of the tightening of data privacy provisions after 1998, access to genuine anonymized official microdata in Great Britain is almost

³⁴ Cf. http://www.statistics.gov.uk/themes/compendia_reference/articles/longitudinal.asp

³⁵ For details visit <http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk> (last accessed in August 2001).

³⁶ Cf. Office for National Statistics at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/themes/labour_market/surveys/juvos.asp and Central Statistical Office (1996)

³⁷ Text for this section has been provided by Franz Kraus, Mannheim Centre for European Social Research who is exclusively responsible for form and content.

³⁸ The Data Protection Act, last amended in 1998, sets forth important principles to provide for the protection and confidentiality of personal information. Various court rulings related to individual surveys, following the English case law tradition, have also set legal precedents.

³⁹ See the Government Statistical Service 1984. The Code is being revised, as the 1998 Data Protection Act altered a number of key requirements.

⁴⁰ "If proper safeguards on confidentiality are applied, it is to the general advantage if data collected for statistical purposes inside Government are also available to outside analysts and researchers" (Government Statistical Service 1984: 4).

exclusively⁴¹ confined to bona fide researchers.⁴²

The range of microdata available to researchers about persons and households is extraordinarily broad, and includes traditional cross-sectional surveys (Census, Labour Force Survey, General Household Survey, etc.) as well as the longitudinal surveys that are connected to Census data, such as the ONS Longitudinal Study⁴³ and the JUVOS [The Joint Unemployment & Vacancies Operating System] Cohort Database.⁴⁴

Scientific Use Files are supplied exclusively by the UK Data Archive⁴⁵ or its online analog, the Manchester Information & Associated Services [MIMAS].⁴⁶ Except for the census samples, data are provided at virtually no cost by the Data Archive. The purchase of Census data is funded by the British research community and other granting agencies; use of these data is limited to funding member institutions. Fees for end users are levied for documentation and for data carriers.

The British academic community makes extensive microdata research support available in a breadth that is unique in Europe. In addition to the UK Data Archive and MIMAS, there also is the Cathie March Centre,⁴⁷ the Centre for Joint Longitudinal Studies,⁴⁸ and the Centre for Applied Social Surveys (CASS).⁴⁹ In these institutions, exemplary data documentation is produced, user groups are aided, and feedback about user experience is collected and communicated to the statistical office.

⁴¹The Labour Force Survey is currently offered online as a Public Use Microdata File through SPSS MR (formerly Quantime).

⁴²The access to sensitive data, as contained in the ONS Longitudinal Study, is permitted to qualified researchers in restricted areas of the Statistical Office. The remote use of the data, under secure conditions, is supported by the British research community through a service institution it financially supports. See <http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk/>.

⁴³See <http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk/Ls/homepage.html>.

⁴⁴See http://www.statistics.gov.uk/themes/labour_market/surveys/juvos.asp. Compare this with the Cohort Study financed by the research community. See <http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk/Cohort/cstudie.html>.

⁴⁵See <http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>.

⁴⁶See <http://www.mimas.ac.uk/>.

⁴⁷See <http://les.man.ac.uk/ccsr/Default.htm>.

⁴⁸See <http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk/Research/jclr.htm>.

⁴⁹See <http://www.socstats.suton.ac.uk/cass>.

6. Appendix 1: Regional idiosyncrasies: the Census of Population

The 2001 Census is being planned as one operation throughout the United Kingdom by the three Census Offices – ONS in England and Wales, the General Register Office (Scotland) in Scotland, and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency in Northern Ireland. Responsibility for the conduct of the Census rests with the respective Registrars General of these countries.

There are some differences in the questions asked in England Wales and Scotland, for example:

- knowledge of Welsh will be asked in Wales only;
- knowledge of Scottish Gaelic will be asked in Scotland only;
- knowledge of Irish will be asked in Northern Ireland only.

The following sections, which have been extracted from the White Paper “*The 2001 Census of Population*”, highlight issues relating to the Census legislation, such as the fact that the Census in Scotland and Northern Ireland is devolved.

1. The Census Act

The statutory authority for taking a Census in Great Britain (that is in England, Wales and Scotland) is the Census Act of 1920. This makes provision for the taking of a census from time to time (but no more frequently than every five years). The Act gives power to the Government of the day, if Parliament agrees, to ask the Queen to make an Order in Council directing that a census be taken on a particular day. The duty for carrying out a census rests with the Registrar General for England and Wales (whose office is part of the Office for National Statistics) and the registrar General for Scotland (General Register Office for Scotland)

Separate, but similar, legislation (the Census Act (Northern Ireland) 1969) applies in Northern Ireland, where the Registrar General for Northern Ireland (whose office is part of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency) is responsible for carrying out the census.

2. The Census Order

An Order in Council is made, after Parliamentary approval, prior to each census, specifying the date when the census will be taken, the people who are required to fill in the forms, and the people to be included on the forms. It also sets out the topics on which questions will be asked. Separate Orders are required for England and Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

2.1 Census Regulations

For each census, Regulations are also approved by Parliament, specifying the detailed arrangements for the conduct of the census, separately in England and Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

2.2 Confidentiality

Although participation in the census in the UK is a statutory requirement, the confidentiality of the information supplied by the public is protected by the same legislation. In Great Britain, the Census Act 1920 as amended by the Census (Confidentiality) Act 1991, and provisions set out in the Census Regulations lay down penalties for the unlawful disclosure of information from the census by anyone involved in taking a census. Separate legislation, the Census (Confidentiality) (Northern Ireland) Order applies in Northern Ireland.

The confidentiality of any individual's census information is an issue which the three Census Offices take very seriously indeed. It is unlawful, for example, for the Census Offices to pass any census information to other Government departments or any other organisation except for the purposes of the Census Act itself or the Public Records Act 1958. Under this latter legislation, the Lord Chancellor has made an Instrument closing census returns to public inspection for 100 years.

3. Separate consideration of the proposals for the Censuses in England and Wales, in Scotland and in Northern Ireland

To undertake a census requires the passage of subordinate legislation. For England and Wales, towards the end of this year the Government will prepare a draft Order in Council, embodying proposals for the Census, which will be laid before the Westminster Parliament. In Scotland and in Northern Ireland, the Census will be devolved. Accordingly, separate secondary legislation will be a matter for the new administrations there to promote. The Government envisages that Scotland and Northern Ireland will wish to proceed on a similar timescale to that in England and Wales to ensure that there will be time to plan the Census properly and organise the work efficiently.

The arrangements described in this White Paper for the conduct of the Censuses in Scotland and Northern Ireland, whether in common with the approach taken in England and Wales or in its references to proposals particular to Scotland or Northern Ireland, will, of course, be subject to the consideration of the respective local administrations. The Government, however, commends to them the detailed planning and preparations already in progress for the conduct of the Censuses in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Not only do the proposals permit the necessary degree of harmonisation required across the United Kingdom, they also provide the basis for the Censuses to be carried out efficiently while acknowledging differences in approach, where appropriate, following the systematic consultations that have taken place about the Censuses in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Continued close co-operation and joint working on the Census is also consonant with the aim of the concordat on statistics which the Government proposes between the United Kingdom administrations.

7. Appendix 2: Relevant literature

7.1 Major results publications of ONS

7.1.1 *UK Census of Population*

Metadata from the 1991 Census comprised over 70 separate user guides. A general manual to all the 1991 Census datasets is:

Dale, A. and Marsh, C. (eds) (1993) *The 1991 Census User's Guide*. HMSO, London.

7.1.2 *General Household Survey*

Living in Britain: Results from the 1998 General Household Survey. The Stationery Office 2000. (By Ann Bridgwood, Robert Lilly, Margaret Thomas, Jo Bacon, Wendy Sykes, Stephen Morris.) ISBN=0116212543, ISSN=14692759

Living in Britain Preliminary results from the 1994 General Household Survey. HMSO 1995

Living in Britain Results from the 1994 General Household Survey. HMSO 1996. (By Nikki Bennett, Lindsey Jarvis, Olwen Rowlands, Nicola Singleton, Lucy Haselden)

1994 General Household Survey: follow-up survey of the health of people aged 65 and over . ONS 1998 (By Eileen Goddard)

Living in Britain. Preliminary results from the 1995 General Household Survey. The Stationery Office 1996

Living in Britain Results from the 1995 General Household Survey. The Stationery Office 1997. (By Olwen Rowlands, Nicola Singleton, Joanne Maher, Vanessa Higgins)

General Household Survey 1995 Supplement A: Informal carers. The Stationery Office 1998 (by Olwen Rowlands)

Living in Britain Preliminary results from the 1996 General Household Survey. The Stationery Office 1997

Living in Britain Results from the 1996 General Household Survey. The Stationery Office 1998. (By Margaret Thomas, Alison Walker, Amanda Wilmot, Nikki Bennett)

First release of results from the 1998 General Household Survey. ONS 1999

7.1.3 *1999 Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey*

Poverty and Social Exclusion in Britain. (By Gordon, D. et al.). Joseph Rowntree Foundation. ISBN 1859350593

7.1.4 *Labour Force Survey*

Labour Force Survey Historical Supplement 1999

Labour Market Trends

Labour Market Statistics First Release, ONS (published every month)

Key results for the previous three months are published monthly in ONS's **First Release** on Labour Market Statistics, and available from ONS's web site in the section called Latest Figures. More detailed results are published each quarter in the Labour Force Survey quarterly supplement of **Labour Market Trends**. Articles on particular topics covered by the LFS are published regularly in Labour Market Trends.

7.1.5 *Time Use Survey*

The 1997 UK Pilot of the Eurostat Time Use Survey. By Sturgis, P. and Lynn, P., Government Statistical Service (GSS) Methodology Series no. 11, ONS, ISBN 1857742931

7.1.6 *New Earnings Survey*

The New Earnings Survey is available in 6 volumes covering the following:

- Part A: Streamlined and Summary Analyses Description of the Survey (part UK)
- Part B: Analyses by Agreement.
- Part C: Analyses by Industry.
- Part D: Analyses by Occupation.
- Part E: Analyses by Region Analysis by Age Group.
- Part F: Distribution of Hours; Joint Distributions of Earnings and Hours; Analyses of Earnings and Hours for Part-time Employees

The NES is available online (<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/>).

Hardcopy Publication: ISSN reference: 0262-0553, ISBN reference: 185774 401 2

7.1.7 *Family Expenditure Survey*

The *Family Spending report* presents information from the Family Expenditure Survey (FES). Office for National Statistics, Annual, ISBN=0116213698, ISSN=09651403, Hardcopy Publication, Disk, CD-Rom

7.1.8 *National Travel Survey*

National Travel Survey: Technical Report 1999, Ashley Kershaw, ONS, 2000. DETR, Annual, ISBN=1857743857, Hardcopy Publication

The main analysis of the 1999 National Travel Survey is in '*Focus on Personal Travel*', published by the Stationery Office. Published by The Stationery Office (on behalf of DETR). ISBN: 0-11-552083-X.

NTS data also appears in the annual publication '*Transport Trends*'. ISBN reference: 0-11-552215-8

DETR reports on the National Travel Surveys:

National Travel Survey 1985/86 Report, HMSO 1988.

National Travel Survey 1989/91, HMSO, 1993.

National Travel Survey 1991/93, HMSO, 1994.

National Travel Survey 1992/94, HMSO, 1995.

National Travel Survey 1993/95, HMSO, 1996.

National Travel Survey 1994/96, HMSO, 1997.

Focus on Personal Travel, TSO, 1998..

National Travel Survey 1996/98 update, DETR, 1999.

NTS Technical reports

National Travel Survey Technical Report 1985/6, Bob Butcher, ONS.

National Travel Survey Technical Report, July 1988 - December 1991, Amanda Wilmot, ONS, 1993.

National Travel Survey Technical Report 1992, Amanda Wilmot, ONS, 1994.

National Travel Survey Technical Report 1994, Amanda Wilmot, ONS, 1995.

National Travel Survey Technical Report 1995, Amanda Wilmot, ONS, 1996.

National Travel Survey Technical Report 1996, Stephanie Freeth, ONS, 1997.

National Travel Survey Technical Report 1996, Stephanie Freeth, Jeremy Barton, Barbara Noble, Chris Sullivan and Darren Williams, ONS, 1999

National Travel Survey Technical Report 1997, Stephanie Freeth, ONS, 1999.

Other ONS reports

Report on the pilot work for 1985/6 survey, ONS.

'The use of reinterviewing on the National Travel Survey pilot', Tricia Dodd, ONS. *SSD Survey Methodology Bulletin* No. 17, June 1985.

'The use of diaries in data collection' Butcher R and Eldridge J, ONS. *The statistician* (1990) 39 pp 25-41.

'The National Travel Survey Report of the 1991 Census-linked study of survey non-respondents', Diane Bushnell, 1994 (unpublished).

'Weighting the National Travel Survey to compensate for non-response. An investigation into Census-based weighting schemes', Diane Bushnell, 1995 (*unpublished*).

- ‘Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing Techniques on the National Travel Survey’, Wilmot A and Bateson B, Survey Methodology Bulletin No. 37, July 1995.
- ‘Investigating stratification options for the National Travel Survey’, Barton J, 1996, (*unpublished*).
- ‘Using a range of methods to collect travel data, the experience of the British National Travel Survey’, Stephanie Freeth. Paper for the International Conference on Transport Survey Quality and Innovation, Grainau, Germany, May 1997.
- National Travel Survey 1997 ‘Validation of Cycle Journeys’, Beverley Jackson, 1998 (*unpublished*).

Other result publications:

- Adult Dental Health Survey: Oral Health in the United Kingdom 1998 (Summary)
- Psychiatric Morbidity Among Prisoners in England and Wales: Summary Report
- Travel Trends - A report on the 1999 International Passenger Survey London: The Stationery Office
- Family resources survey statistical report 1998-99 Corporate Document Services (CDS), ISBN 1 84123 237 8.
- National Food Survey, UK & Northern Ireland Report 2000, ISBN 0112430597

7.2 Classifications manuals

7.2.1 *UK SIC 92*

Standard Industrial Classifications of economic activities - 1992. Available online at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/nsbase/themes/compendia_reference/Articles/downloads/structur.pdf

The UK SIC 1992 Methodological Guide. 1996 (ISBN 0-11-620817-1).

The Indexes to the UK Standard Industrial Classification of economic activities 1992. 1997 (ISBN 0 11 620 9240).

7.2.2 *SOC 1990*

The Standard Occupation Classification (SOC) was published in 1990 (Volume 1; ISBN 0-11-691284-7).

7.2.3 *SOC 2000*

Standard Occupational Classification 2000 - SOC2000

SOC Volume 1: Structure and descriptions of unit groups, ISBN 0-11-621388-4

SOC Volume 2: The coding index, ISBN 0-11-621389-2

7.2.4 NS-SEC

SOC 1990 was used to derive the two government social classifications; Social Class based on Occupation and Socio-economic Group. The National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) is replacing both of these classifications and SOC 2000 is used to derive the NS-SEC.

The complete description of the development of the NS-SEC, including its re-basing on SOC 2000, will be published in 2001.

Further information on the NS-SEC is available online at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/nsbase/methods_quality/ns_sec/default.asp

7.3 Other documentation and literature

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Office for National Statistics (2001). National Statistics Work Programme, 2001/02 to 2003/04. London: National Statistics.

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____ *Survey Methodology Bulletin*, ONS, ISBN 1857744179. (The bulletin is published twice a year, in January and July)

____, Social Survey Division. Annual Report. ISBN 1857743873

Rees, Philip (1996). Access to Population Census Data for Research Purposes in the UK. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Australian Population Association, University of Adelaide.

Smith, Jillian (1999). The History and Future of Record Linkage in the ONS Longitudinal Study. Invited paper for session 3 of Joint ECE/Eurostat Work Session on Registers and Administrative Records for Social and Demographic Statistics. Working paper no. 15. Geneva: ECE. Published also in *Statistical Journal of the United Nations ECE*, 16 (1999), 197-205.

Statistics Commission (2001). Annual Report 2000-01. London: The Stationery Office Ltd..

8. Appendix 3: Survey descriptions in summarized form

For details and comparative queries visit

<http://www.mzes.uni-mannheim.de/projekte/mikrodaten/comi.htm>

8.1 New Earnings Survey - GB 2000

Title

New Earnings Survey for Great Britain

Parallel title

New Earnings Survey for Great Britain

Investigator

Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Subject items

Employees detail (Name, National Insurance Number, Works number, Branch, Department); Whether employee is still with the employer; Occupation (Employee's job title and grade and brief job description); Place of work (employees workplace postcode); Pension arrangements (what pension provisions has the employee made with the company); Collective agreement (whether the employees pay set with reference to a collective agreement); Pay-period, absence and pay rates (length of pay-period until the 12 April 2000; whether the employee's earnings were affected by absence; rate at which the employee is being paid); Hours of work (Basic weekly hours of work; overtime work); Earnings for the pay-period (breakdown of the employee's earnings for the pay-period, including Overtime; Earnings from the Inland Revenue approved profit sharing cash schemes; Incentive payments; Shift premium etc payments; Basic pay); Gross annual earnings (for the tax year ending 5 April 2000)

Statistics domains

Labour market and Employment

Abstract (Study Purpose)

The main purpose of the survey is to obtain annual information about the levels, distribution and make-up of earnings of employees in all industries and occupations and for the collective agreements which cover them. The NES is used as a source of the earnings of full-time employees, and of the average hourly earnings of all employees.

Reference period

2000

Institutional universe

The NES collects information from employers about the earnings of their employees. The coverage of full-time adult employees is virtually complete but the coverage of part-time employees is not comprehensive.

Many of those with earnings below the income tax threshold - in this survey equivalent to full-time earnings of £84.33 a week or £365.42 per month - are not covered, which excludes mainly women with part-time jobs and a small proportion of young people. An individual who is a member of more than one PAYE scheme may appear more than once in the sample - as both a full-time and part-time employee, or twice or more as a part-time employee.

Adults - Employees on adult rates of pay irrespective of age, except that all employees aged 25 years or over are deemed to be on adult rather than junior/trainee rates.

Geographic universe

Employees in employment (in businesses of all kind and size) in Great Britain in April of each year for whom satisfactorily completed survey questionnaires are received and available for computer processing by August of that year.

Type of source

Business survey.

The FES is an employer-based survey. Information on earnings and hours of employees (in employment), is obtained in confidence from employers.

Study frequency

Annually (continuous survey).

The survey has been held, broadly in the same form, each year since 1970 following its introduction in September 1968.

Sample Size

The New Earnings Survey (NES) based on a 1 per cent sample of employees who are members of Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) income tax schemes. Achieved sample size of the latest survey conducted: 160,400 (April pay period).

Sampling method

Two broadly equivalent methods are used to identify the employees in the survey sample and their current employers. Around 90 per cent of the sample is identified from lists supplied by Inland Revenue containing the selected National Insurance numbers, the names and addresses of the employers concerned and, for ease of identification for employers, the names of individual employees. This disclosure of information is authorised, for the purpose of this survey, by section 58 of the Finance Act 1969. The information is taken from PAYE records about a month before the beginning of the financial year and the survey pay-period. The identifying details of the remaining 10 per cent of the sample are obtained directly from the large organisations (in both the public and private sectors) who employ them. A sample drawn in this way is likely to be more up-to-date than PAYE records can provide and will include some employees not in a PAYE scheme

Total response rate

87.4 per cent of questionnaires issued in 2000 were returned.

Class of survey

Structure of earnings survey

Core Variables

status in employment, working hours, occupation, industry, socio-economic classification, income

Standard Codes

NUTS, ISCO-88, NACE R.1

First year of conduction

1968

Conduction history

The survey has been held, broadly in the same form, each year since 1970 following its introduction in September 1968.

Data disseminators

NOMIS (tabular data) at <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

Statistical disclosure control methods

Removal of personal identifiers (name and address of employees and employers). The NES enquiry is conducted under the provisions of the Statistics of Trade Act (1947). Under the terms of this Act, data so obtained and relating solely to any individual may not be released into the public domain. The information provided by employers is treated strictly in confidence and used only for statistical and research purposes. The individuals about whom information is obtained are regarded simply as representatives of the industries, occupations, sex, age-groups, regions etc to which they belong. The data extracted from the questionnaires for computer processing include neither the name nor address of either the employee or the employer. The resulting analyses show no information about identifiable persons.

Part title(s)

ONS: New Earnings Survey 2000

8.2 Family Expenditure Survey 1999

Title

Family Expenditure Survey

Parallel title

Family Expenditure Survey

Investigator

Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Subject items

HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE:

Administrative Variables; Household Composition; Benefit Units; Accommodation; Type of Tenure; Rent and Housing Benefit; Services in Rent; Northern Ireland Rates; Water Charges (not paid as part of rent); Accommodation Charges; Mortgages; Structural Insurance; Council Tax; Private Pension Contributions; Life Insurance; Medical and Other Insurances; Consumer Durables; Telephone Payments; Electricity Payments; Gas Payments; Central Heating; TV, video, satellite rental and subscription; TV licences; Vehicles; Season Tickets; Credit Cards; Formal Loans; Items obtained with loan(s); Social Fund Loans; Hire Purchase (Instalments being paid); Hire Purchase (No Instalments paid); Club Credit (Payments); Club Credit (Items obtained);

Second Dwellings; Central Heating (Installation); Central Heating (Maintenance); Capital Improvements; House Maintenance; Moving House Fees; Removal / Storage of Furniture; purchase of furniture; purchase of carpets; Holiday Expenditure; Flight from UK; Bank Charges; Standing Orders / Direct Debits; Welfare Milk; Free School Milk; School Meals; School Travel; Education Grants; Student Loans; Education Fees; Leisure Classes : Fees; Education Fees : Non-Household Members; Separation / Maintenance Allowances; employers refunds; Money given to household members; Items Paid Direct from Outside Household.

INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONNAIRE: INCOME SECTION

[The income section of the questionnaire is repeated for each adult (aged 16 and over) in the household]: Employment Status; Job Description (Main Job, Second & Third Jobs); Main Job as an Employee: Pay Details; Self Employment Income; Pay from Subsidiary Job as Employee; National Insurance Contributions (not covered elsewhere); Income as Mail Order Agent or Baby Sitter; Income from Odd Jobs; Redundancy Payments; Concessionary Bus Tickets; State Benefits; Income from Pensions and Trusts; Miscellaneous Income; Regular Allowances; Direct Payments and Refunds of Income Tax; Money Sent Abroad; ISAs; TESSAs; Building Society accounts; Bank Accounts; National Savings Ordinary accounts; National Savings Investment accounts; Other Bank or Society Accounts; Gilts, Unit Trusts, PEPs, Other Shares and Securities; Children's Income; Industry and Occupation Codes.

Statistics domains

Household Expenditure and Household income.

Abstract (Study Purpose)

The main reason, historically, for instituting a regular survey on expenditure by households has been to provide information on spending patterns for the Retail Prices Index (RPI). Over recent years the uses of the FES have extended. The FES feeds into estimates of consumers' expenditure in the National Accounts, is used for tax benefits modelling and is generally an important source of economic and social data for central government, other public and commercial organisations and researchers in universities and independent research institutes.

Reference period

1999-2000

Institutional universe

General population resident in private households. The members of a household are not necessarily related by blood or marriage. Resident domestic servants are included.

Geographic universe

Households are not excluded if some or all members are not British subjects.

Type of source

Person/Household survey

Study frequency

Continuous.

Sample Size

The set sample for the FES in Great Britain is 11,500 addresses per year. The set sample for the Northern Ireland FES (NIFES) is 1,200 addresses per year.

Sampling method

The sample is drawn in two stages, first a sample of areas (primary sampling units) then a sample of addresses within each of these areas. Postal sectors (ward size) are the primary sample unit (PSU). Within each PSU a random sample of households is drawn.

In Northern Ireland, however, the sample is drawn in a single stage and there is no clustering.

Total response rate

In all, around 6,500 households in Great Britain co-operated fully in the survey in 1999-2000, that is they answered the household questionnaire and all adults in the household answered the income questionnaire and kept the expenditure diary. The response rate for the 1999-2000 FES was 63 per cent in Great Britain. FES response is based on complete households responding.

Class of survey

Household budget survey Multi-purpose

Core Variables

age, marital status, household relationships, continued education, labour status, status in employment, working hours, occupation, industry, main social status, socio-economic classification, income, tenure status

Standard Codes

NUTS, ISCO-88, NACE R.1

First year of conduction

1957

Conduction history

Annually

Data disseminators

The UK Data Archive - University of Essex (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk>)

Statistical disclosure control methods

Removal of personal identifiers (name, address, etc.); grouping of Council Tax Band information and suppression of some expenditure items.

Use restrictions

Administered by national Data Archive (see <http://www.data-archive.ac.uk>)

Access conditions to previous files

No change

Acquisition costs

Fees charged depend on the source of funding of the project. For the vast majority of our users, the only cost is the price of the medium (CD or disk) and postage/packing (details about fees and charges are available at: <http://www.data-archive.ac.uk>)

Special user support

UK Data Archive (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk>)

Part title(s)

The Stationery Office: "Family Spending. A report on the 1999/2000 Family Expenditure Survey" (the report is available online at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/nsbase/downloads/theme_social/FamSpend99-00v2.pdf). Results from the Northern Ireland sample are published in a separate report, The Northern Ireland Family Expenditure Survey

8.3 British Household Panel Survey 1999

Title

British Household Panel Survey

Parallel title

British Household Panel Survey

Investigator

University of Essex, Institute for Social and Economic Research

Subject items

Household Coversheet: type of accommodation. Household Composition Form: lists all household members, marital status and employment status. Household Questionnaire: accommodation tenure, consumption. Individual Schedule: neighbourhood, demography, mobility, health and caring, employment, opinions and values and household finances. Self Completion Questionnaire: health and social support

Statistics domains

Living Conditions, Education, Health, Household and Family, Labour market, Income, Housing

Abstract (Study Purpose)

To further our understanding of social and economic change at the household and individual level in Britain, to identify, model and forecast such changes, their causes and consequences in relation to a range of socio-economic variables.

Reference period

1999

Institutional universe

Population in Private Households

Geographic universe

Resident Population

Type of source

Person/household survey

Study frequency

Annual since 1989

Sample Size

10,000 individual interviews from 5,000 sampled households

Sampling method

2 stage stratified systematic sample

Total response rate

10,000 individual interviews

Class of survey

Household panel

Core Variables

country of birth, citizenship, age, marital status, household relationships, education, continued education, labour status, status in employment, working hours, occupation, industry, socio-economic classification, income, health status, tenure status

Standard Codes

NUTS, ISCO-88, NACE R.1

First year of conduction

1989

Conduction history

Waves 1 - 9 1991 - 2000 Annually

Data disseminators

The UK Data Archive: <http://www.data-archive.ac.uk>

Statistical disclosure control methods

Use of primary variable numbers. Each individual given a personal identification number [PID] and each household is also given an identification code.

Use restrictions

Administered by Data Archive. Free access for bona fide academic research; for others consultation with the Data Archive is required

Access conditions to previous files

See the Data Archive site

Acquisition costs

Marginal; see UK Data Archive for details

Special user support

Data Archive as above

Part title(s)

N/A Technical Report - data in data archive

8.4 Quarterly Labour Force Survey 1999

Title

Quarterly Labour Force Survey

Parallel title

Quarterly Labour Force Survey

Investigator

Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) and Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Subject items

Household and respondent characteristics; Government Training scheme; Main job; Home workers (main job); Travel to work; Sickness; Hours worked (main job); Employment Pattern; Union Representation; Second job; Home workers (second job); Looking for work; Benefit entitlement; Employment 12 months ago; Education and training; Health; Income; Religious denomination.

By EU regulation, information is required on the following broad topics: demographic background; labour

status; characteristics of the main job; hours worked; second job; visible underemployment (in relation to hours worked); the search for employment; education and training; previous work experience (of people not in employment); situation one year ago. In addition, the Regulation requires the provision of information on the optional topics 'main labour status' and 'income'. Finally, each year there is the possibility of collecting extra information on a one-off basis in the form of an ad hoc module. The topics for such modules are discussed and agreed by Member States and are typically focussed on areas where there is particular policy interest. The current programme of modules for the next few years includes: length and patterns of working time; disabled people's employment; lifelong learning.

Statistics domains

Labour Market, Household and Family, Health, Employment, Housing.

Abstract (Study Purpose)

The main purpose of the survey is to provide the information need to help Government decide its economic (especially labour market) policy. The 'labour market' covers all aspects of people's work, including the education and training needed to equip them to work, the jobs themselves, job-search for those out of work, and income from work and benefits.

Reference period

1999 and 2000

Institutional universe

General population resident in private households and communal establishments - e.g. students living in halls of residence (or similar institutions) or people living in National Health Service (NHS) accommodation (ie nurses) - in the United Kingdom (Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Geographic universe

Population resident in the UK

Type of source

Person/Household survey

Study frequency

Great Britain: Quarterly since spring 1992

Northern Ireland: Quarterly since winter 1994-95

Sample Size

The household is the primary sampling unit (PSU).

In any three month period approx. 61,000 households in the UK will be interviewed and approx. 120,000 people aged 16 and over will be interviewed. Achieved sample in 1999: 47,786 (all waves)

Sampling method

Two-stage stratified random sample. The first stage is a stratified random sample of areas and the second stage a systematic sample of addresses. The survey has a panel design where each sampled address is interviewed on five occasions. Each quarter's LFS sample of 61,000 UK households is made up of five "waves", each of approximately 12,000 private households. Each wave is interviewed in five successive quarters, such that in any one quarter, one wave will be receiving their first interview, one wave their second, and so on, with one wave receiving their fifth and final interview. Thus there is an 80% overlap in the samples for each successive quarter. The Northern Ireland sample includes 260 addresses as part of a boost sample.

Total response rate

66% (1999)

Class of survey

Labour Force Survey

Core Variables

country of birth, citizenship, age, marital status, household relationships, education, continued education, labour status, status in employment, working hours, occupation, industry, socio-economic classification, income, health status, tenure status

Standard Codes

NUTS, ISCED, ISCO-88, NACE R.1

First year of conduction

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) in the United Kingdom was first carried out in 1973, as part of obligations as a member of the European Economic Community. The survey was repeated every two years until 1983. From 1984, the survey was carried out every year. The last annual LFS was carried out in 1991. From spring (March to May) 1992 the survey in Great Britain was carried out on a quarterly basis. In Northern Ireland the LFS was conducted in spring 1992 and spring 1993, and was then carried out quarterly from winter 1994–95.

Conduction history

For about the last six years, there has been a quarterly survey covering the whole of the UK.

Data disseminators

The UK Data Archive - University of Essex (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk>)

Statistical disclosure control methods

Removal of personal identifiers (name, address, etc.)

Use restrictions

Administered by national Data Archive (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk>)

Access conditions to previous files

No change

Acquisition costs

Fees charged depend on the source of funding of the project. For the vast majority of our users, the only cost is the price of the medium (CD or disk) and postage/packing (details about fees and charges are available at: <http://www.data-archive.ac.uk>)

Special user support

UK Data Archive (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk>)

Part title(s)

ONS: First Release - Labour Market Statistics; Labour Market Trends.

ONS: Labour Force Survey User Guide [Ten Volume Guide to Using LFS Data] The multi-volume LFS User Guide contains detailed information about the LFS. This covers the following topics:

Volume 1: Background and Methodology

Volume 2: The LFS Questionnaire

Volume 3: Details of LFS Variables

Volume 4: LFS Standard and Eurostat Derived Variables

Volume 5: Classifications used on the LFS

Volume 6: Local Area Data

Volume 7: LFS variables 1979 to 1991

Volume 8: Household and Family Data

Apart from Volume 1, the User Guide is intended primarily for users of the electronic databases.

(The user guide for the 2001-02 questionnaire, incorporating the New Labour Force Survey questionnaire, will be available in May)

8.5 National Travel Survey 1999

Title

National Travel Survey

Parallel title

National Travel Survey

Investigator

Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Statistics domains

Transport

Abstract (Study Purpose)

The NTS is carried out in order to provide a better understanding of the use of transport facilities made by different sectors of the population, and trends in these patterns of demand. The survey is carried out for government purposes, to develop transport policies.

Reference period

1999 National Travel Survey Technical Report

Institutional universe

Population in private households

Geographic universe

Resident population

Type of source

Individual/Household survey

Sample Size

23 Households per unit

Sampling method

Stratified two-stage probability sample

Total response rate

66% (1999 NTS)

Class of survey

Time Use Survey

Core Variables

age, marital status, household relationships, continued education, labour status, status in employment, occupation, industry, socio-economic classification, income, health status, tenure status

Standard Codes

NUTS, ISCO-88

First year of conduction

1965

Conduction history

The survey has been running on an ad hoc basis since 1965 and annually since 1988.

Data disseminators

The UK Data Archive - University of Essex (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk>)

Statistical disclosure control methods

Removal of personal identifiers (name, address, etc.)

Use restrictions

Restricted by terms of use of national Data Archive:

Microdata under contract:

- bona fide academic and government research use
- duration of use limited

For more information visit The UK Data Archive at

<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/usingData/introduction.asp>

Access conditions to previous files

No change.

Acquisition costs

Fees charged depend on the source of funding of the project. For the vast majority of our users, the only cost is the price of the medium (CD or disk) and postage/packing (details about fees and charges are available at: <http://www.data-archive.ac.uk>)

Special user support

The UK Data Archive (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk>)

Part title(s)

ONS: National Travel Survey: Technical Report

8.6 General Household Survey 2001

Title

General Household Survey

Parallel title

General Household Survey

Investigator

Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Subject items

Household questionnaire:

Demographic information about household members; household accommodation; consumer durables; housing tenure; migration.

Individual questionnaire:

Employment; pensions; education; health and use of health services; smoking; drinking in the last 7 days; family information; income.

In the 2000/1 GHS the following supplements (or 'trailers') are included in the individual section: usual alcohol consumption in the last 12 months; informal carers; social capital.

Statistics domains

Household and Family, Health, Employment, Housing.

Abstract (Study Purpose)

The main aim of the GHS is to collect information on a range of topics (e.g. housing, employment, education, health and family information) from people living in private households. The information is used by sponsoring Government departments and other agencies for planning, policy and monitoring purposes, and to present a picture of households, families and people in Great Britain.

Reference period

2000/01 and 1998/99

Institutional universe

Private Households in Great Britain

Geographic universe

General population resident in private (i.e. non-institutional) households in Great Britain

Type of source

Household survey

Study frequency

Continuous survey (carried out yearly since 1971, except for a break in 1997-98 and 1999-2000)

Sample Size

During the period April 1998 to March 1999, interviews were obtained with 15,853 people aged 16 and over, either in person or occasionally by proxy, in 8636 households throughout the country .

Sampling method

Two-stage, stratified random sample of addresses was used where addresses were sampled from a stratified sample of postcode sectors.

Total response rate

In 1998 the minimum response rate was 66% (The minimum response rate includes only completely co-operating households as responders and treats all partially responding households as non-responders). In 1998 the maximum response rate was 73% (The maximum response rate accepts all partials as responders). In 1998 the middle response rate was 72% (The middle response rate, which accepts some of the partials as responders - that is, it includes households where information is missing for only certain questions, but does not include those where information is missing altogether for one or more household members. This middle rate can be thought of as the proportion of the eligible sample of households from whom all or nearly all the information was obtained. This is the rate generally used as the performance index for the survey).

Further information on the response rate is available in Appendix B of the report "Living in Britain http://www.statistics.gov.uk/nsbase/downloads/theme_compendia/GHS98.pdf

Class of survey

Multi-purpose survey

Core Variables

country of birth, age, marital status, household relationships, education, continued education, labour status, status in employment, working hours, occupation, industry, socio-economic classification, income, health status, tenure status

Standard Codes

NUTS, ISCED, ISCO-88, NACE R.1

First year of conduction

1971

Conduction history

1971-2001: yearly (except for breaks in 1997-98 and 1999-2000)

Data disseminators

The Data Archive - University of Essex (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk>)

Statistical disclosure control methods

Removal of personal identifiers (name, address, etc.)

Use restrictions

Administered by national Data Archive (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk>)

Access conditions to previous files

No change

Acquisition costs

Fees charged depend on the source of funding of the project. For the vast majority of our users, the only cost is the price of the medium (CD or disk) and postage/packing (details about fees and charges are available at: <http://www.data-archive.ac.uk>)

Special user support

Data Archive (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk>)

Part title(s)

HMSO: Living in Britain

8.7 Census of Population and Housing 2001

Title

2001 UK Census of Population

Parallel title

2001 UK Census of Population

Investigator

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for the Census in England and Wales;
The General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) is responsible for the Census in Scotland;
The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) is responsible for the Census in Northern Ireland.

Subject items

The following set of questions are answered by the householder / joint householder for those living in private households: Household accommodation; Relationships within the household.

The remaining questions are addressed to each individual (in private and non-private households): Demographic characteristics (sex, age, marital status etc.); State of health/long-term illness/provision of care; Qualifications; Cultural characteristics (e.g. ethnic group); Migration (address one year ago); Employment/Economic activity; Workplace and journey to work.

Statistics domains

Demography; Living Conditions; Educational Qualifications; Health; Household and Family; Labour Market; Housing; Other (questions on cultural attributes including religion and ethnic group).

Abstract (Study Purpose)

The aim of the Census is to obtain accurate and detailed data on the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the population. The Census is vital for resource allocation by central and local government and for planning for homes, jobs, schools, health, transport and other vital services.

Reference period

2001

Institutional universe

Total population. The decennial Census covers all the people in the United Kingdom. Each private household and each person in a non-private household (communal establishment) will be given a census form to complete. In private households the Census will collect information on each person resident in the household as well as data on general household accommodation. In non-private households information on the type of establishment will be collected together with information for each person resident in the establishment.

Geographic universe

Resident population. Every individual who is usually resident in the UK will take part in the Census including persons sleeping rough. The Census will include British citizens who are abroad on temporary postings with the Armed Forces if they return to the United Kingdom within 6 months of Census Day. Census forms will not be sent to armed forces posted overseas.

Type of source

Census of Housing and Population

Study frequency

Decennial

Sample Size

Full enumeration (100%).

Sampling method

N/A

Total response rate

In 1991 the Census achieved 98% coverage of the population.

Class of survey

Population and housing survey

Core Variables

country of birth, age, marital status, household relationships, education, continued education, labour status, status in employment, working hours, occupation, industry, main social status, socio-economic classification, health status, tenure status

Standard Codes

NUTS, ISCO-88, NACE R.1

First year of conduction

1801

Conduction history

1801 - 2001 (every ten years except for 1941).

Data disseminators

The Census Offices made an exclusive arrangement for 1991 SARs with the University of Manchester to cover the use of the SARs in the academic community, to supply other potential users and deal with enquiries. In some circumstances the suppliers may make a further change for their services.

Statistical disclosure control methods

The primary means of anonymisation are small sample sizes, limited detail in geographic coding and grouping.

A number of measures are taken to reduce the risk of population uniques appearing in the SARs.

Use restrictions

In general terms there are no restrictions on who may use the SARs as great care is taken by the Census Offices to ensure that no disclosive data are included.

Access conditions to previous files

None - anyone can use the SARs.

Acquisition costs

The organisation that commissioned the SARs paid the full marginal additional costs beyond the cost of creating a validated output database which is paid for by Government. The precise charges depend on the volume and complexity of production costs.

It is anticipated that similar arrangements will apply in 2001.

Special user support

Provided from MIMAS - a small expert team funded by the ESRC provides support.

Manchester Information and Associated Services (MIMAS) helpdesk info@mimas.ac.uk + 44 161 275 6109.

Part title(s)

Sample of Anonymised Records

8.8 Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey 1999

Title

Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey (also known as Survey of Living Standards in Britain)

Parallel title

Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey (also known as Survey of Living Standards in Britain)

Investigator

The PSE was commissioned by a consortium of the Universities of York, Bristol and Loughborough. The work was funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

The research was carried out jointly by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and a group of researchers from four universities (York; Bristol; Loughborough and Heriot-Watt).

Subject items

Housing (including the condition of accommodation and satisfaction with accommodation); health (including disability; isolation and depression); time (time poverty); social networks and support; necessities (these questions were conducted as a card-sorting exercise); finance and debts; intra-household poverty; poverty over time; absolute and overall poverty; area deprivation; local services; crime; child's school; perceptions of poverty; activism.

Statistics domains

Living Conditions; Social and Welfare

Abstract (Study Purpose)

The PSE survey was designed to update the Breadline Britain surveys; to measure the scale and severity of poverty and social exclusion in Britain; to estimate the size of groups of households in different circumstances; to explore movement in and out of poverty and to look at age and gender differences in experiences of and responses to poverty. The PSE furthermore served the purpose of contributing to the cross-national investigation of poverty as well as informing policies which aim at reducing poverty in Britain.

Reference period

1999/2000

Institutional universe

General population resident in private (i.e. non-institutional) households in Great Britain

Geographic universe

Resident population

Type of source

Person/Household survey
(the PSE interviewed one person per household)

Study frequency

Varying.

The PSE is an update of two Breadline Britain surveys carried out in 1983 and 1990

Sample Size

Achieved sample: 1,534

Sampling method

Stratified probability sample. For the first part of the study (ie the one carried out on the 1998 Omnibus survey) a sample of 3,000 addresses was selected from the Postcode Address File of 'small users'. The sample from 100 postal sectors was stratified (by region; proportion of households renting from local authorities and proportion of households with heads in the professional, employer and manager socio-economic groups).

The 100 postal sectors were selected with probability proportionate to size, and within each sector 30 addresses were selected at random. One adult aged 16 or over was selected at random from each sampled households, using a random number table.

For the follow-up survey of respondents to the 1998/9 GHS survey identifying individuals involved three stages. First, a number of areas were selected from all of those used for the 1998/9 GHS. Second, a

number of households were selected from each of the areas. Third, one individual was selected from each household.

The PSE sample was selected from 414 primary sampling units (PSUs) based on postcode sectors [360 areas in England and Wales and 54 areas in Scotland]. A sample of households was taken from each selected area

Total response rate

In total 1,534 interviews were carried out with a response rate of 63% of the (GHS) follow-up sample. The 'necessities of life' questions asked on the June 1999 ONS Omnibus survey obtained a response rate of 69%.

Class of survey

Survey on living conditions

Core Variables

age, marital status, health status, tenure status, other information previously collected for 1988/9 GHS

Standard Codes

NUTS, other information previously collected for 1988/9 GHS

First year of conduction

1999

Conduction history

Ad hoc

Data disseminators

The Data Archive - University of Essex (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk>)

The title used for the PSE is the following: Poverty in the United Kingdom: a Survey of Household Resources and Standards of Living

Statistical disclosure control methods

Removal of personal identifiers (name, address, etc.)

Use restrictions

Written permission of the depositor (ie Peter Townsend, University of Essex. Department of Sociology) required.

Access conditions to previous files

No change.

Acquisition costs

Fees charged depend on the source of funding of the project. For the vast majority of our users, the only cost is the price of the medium (CD or disk) and postage/packing (details about fees and charges are available at: <http://www.data-archive.ac.uk>)

Special user support

Data Archive (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk>)

Part title(s)

Joseph Rowntree Foundation: Poverty and Social Exclusion in Britain.

The full report, Poverty and social exclusion in Britain by David Gordon et al., is published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (ISBN 1 85935 059 3, price £15.95). It is available from York Publishing Services Ltd, 64

Hallfield Road, Layerthorpe, York YO31 7ZQ, Tel: 01904 430033, Fax: 01904 430868, email: orders@yps.ymn.co.uk. Please add £2.00 p&p per order.

A summary of findings is available, free of charge, from JRF, The Homestead, 40 Water End, York YO30 6WP or from <http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/pdf/930.pdf>

8.9 The UK Time Use Survey 2000

Title

UK Time Use Survey 2000

Parallel title

UK Time Use Survey 2000

Investigator

Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Subject items

HOUSEHOLD questionnaire:

Household composition; Tenure; Landlord; Consumer Durables; Internet access; Household vehicles; Own

plants (whether growing own fruit or vegetables); Do-It-Yourself (DIY) (house repairs etc); Receiving Help and Services; Sources of Income; Income of the Household; Caring for Children; Household accommodation (coded from observation)

INDIVIDUAL questionnaire:

Employment status; Job Description; Employee pay details; whether working on his/her own or with employees; income from self-employment; whether working full-time or part-time in self-employed work; Benefits; Education and (work-related) training; Voluntary work; Help and service for others; Like/dislike for household activities; Leisure activities; Health; Child care; Carers; Classification (Nationality; Marital Status; Living as married)

Statistics domains

- Satellite accounts (ie programme of work to measure and value unpaid work, this is linked to the main National Accounts);
- Employment and Education;
- Health;
- Culture;
- Travel.

Abstract (Study Purpose)

Objectives of the Main Time Use Survey:

- To carry out a large scale diary based survey to measure the amount of time spent by the UK population on various activities.
- To ensure that the Time Use Survey provides data for the policy needs of government departments.
- To meet the requirements of the academic community and beyond.
- To provide results comparable as far as possible with those envisaged by Eurostat. However, the Time Use Survey will be modified to embrace UK government and academic needs and to take account of the relative costs and benefits of various methodologies.
- To deposit a well documented dataset in an easily understandable and accessible format with the Data Archive. This will be openly available for analysis by government and academic users.

It is a survey in which individuals record how they spend their time over a specific period, typically 24 hours. Such surveys are often referred to as Time Budget Studies. In recent years, policy makers and academics in the UK have begun to recognise the value of measuring the amount of time spent on various activities. Time Use data informs a cross section of policy areas such as :

- unpaid work
- education
- leisure
- transport
- child care
- the hidden economy
- labour market
- health
- the elderly
- disabled
- regional planning

Reference period

2000/1

Institutional universe

UK population living in private households

Geographic universe

Resident population

The following rules apply:

By household it is meant the people

- who have the accommodation as their only or main residence and

- who either share at least one meal a day or share the living accommodation, that is, a living room or sitting room.

Type of source

Individual/Household survey

Study frequency

Currently under review

Sample Size

Not known at this stage (April 2001)

Sampling method

Random probability sample

Total response rate

Over the year a sample of 11,000 households will be approached. Some will be non-contactable, ineligible or will not respond. It is therefore estimated that responses will be achieved from about 12,000 individuals within these households.

Class of survey

Time Use Survey

Core Variables

age, marital status, household relationships, education, continued education, labour status, status in employment, working hours, occupation, main social status, income, health status, tenure status

Standard Codes

-

Data disseminators

The UK Data Archive - University of Essex (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk>)

Statistical disclosure control methods

Removal of personal identifiers (name, address, etc.)

Use restrictions

For bona- fide research and government research)

Administered by national Data Archive

Access conditions to previous files

Access to international time use data provided by MTUS visit ISER, University of Essex, at

<http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/mtus/access.php>

Acquisition costs

Fees charged depend on the source of funding of the project. For the vast majority of our users, the only cost is the price of the medium (CD or disk) and postage/packing (details about fees and charges are available at: <http://www.data-archive.ac.uk>)

Special user support

Data Archive (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk>)