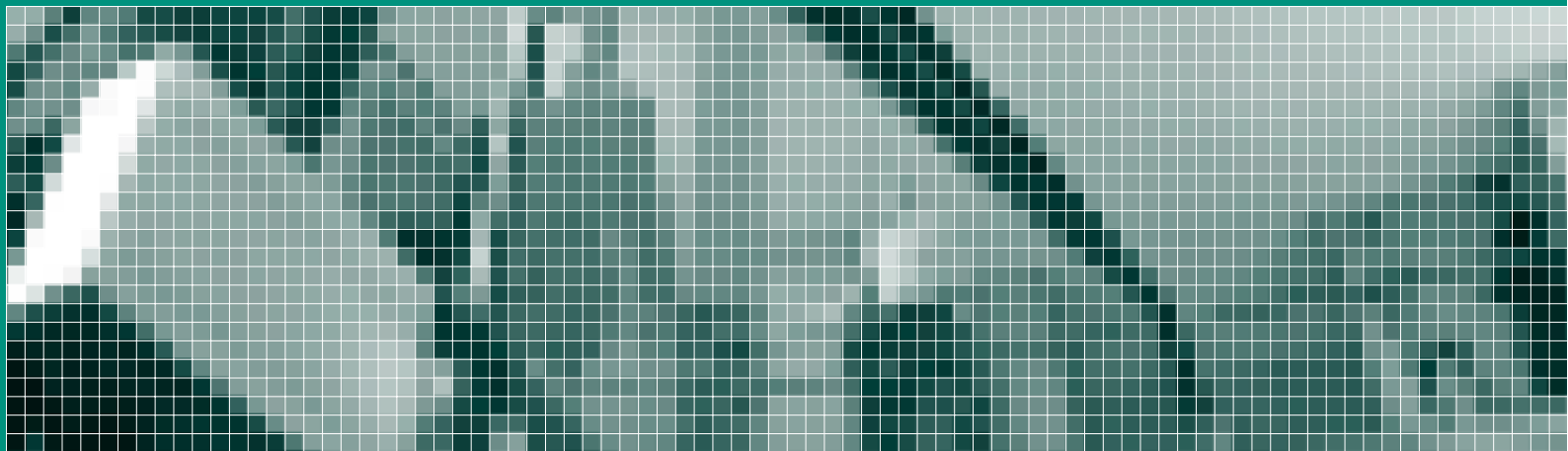


# National Statistics

## Annual Report 2005/06





# National Statistics

## Annual Report 2005/06

Presented to Parliament by  
the Financial Secretary to the Treasury  
by Command of Her Majesty, July 2006

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# Foreword by the National Statistician

This is the sixth National Statistics Annual Report and my first as National Statistician. It details the good progress that has been made by the statisticians and analysts in the Government Statistical Service (GSS) and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) towards meeting the plans which we set out in the *National Statistics Work Programme 2005/06–2007/08*.

Evidence-based policymaking has become increasingly important within government and this has led to a corresponding interest in, and demand for, timely and accurate data about government performance. It is important that the UK statistical system is able to meet these demands and produce statistics which are seen as authoritative and trustworthy. In November 2005 the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced his intention to make ONS independent from the Government and make the governance and publication of official statistics the responsibility of a wholly separate body at arms length from Government and fully independent of it. This will build on the arrangements introduced when National Statistics was launched in 2000 and will help to increase public confidence in official statistics by clearly putting statistical production at arm's length from ministers.

During the year, the statistical community has been doing a lot of work to improve the quality and relevance of the statistics currently produced by the GSS. There have been some very exciting developments in the last 12 months which will help to keep UK statistics at the cutting edge of statistical practice:

- The creation of the UK Centre for Measurement of Government Activity (UKCeMGA) has ensured that the UK remains at the forefront of the measurement of Public Sector Output. This is a high-profile activity which has attracted a lot of media interest. In the last 12 months the Centre has published some initial analyses of productivity for the Education and Health sectors and these have led to real improvements in the compilation of the UK National Accounts; which will continue over the coming years
- Measurement of the UK population and its characteristics is another extremely challenging task. This is because the UK population structure is changing rapidly, partly a reflection of increased personal mobility and different living arrangements. As such, demand for accurate population statistics has never been greater. ONS is well advanced in planning for the 2011 Census. The census is the biggest and most important statistical activity carried out in the UK and it is vital that it is planned effectively. Preparations are well advanced for the Census test in 2007.



- Early in 2006 the National Statistics Centre for Demography (NSCD) was created. This brings demographic expertise together into a single organisation, and will lead to improved population statistics and provide easily accessible and coherent analysis for the UK
- ONS has continued to implement its Modernisation Programme. This will ensure that ONS is well placed to meet current statistical demands, but should also provide it with the flexibility to meet future challenges. Real progress has been made in the last 12 months, as evidenced by the successful development of a core part of the new system, the Central ONS Repository for Data. The benefits of this centralised system will become apparent to all users of ONS data, but particularly those who make use of National Accounts data in the coming months
- The GSS is also continuing to expand its use of administrative data through initiatives such as Defra's Whole Farm Approach which uses an intelligent questionnaire system to reduce the number of requests for information farmers receive from Defra and its agencies. These initiatives will not only allow publication of statistics at a finer geographical level but also help to reduce the burden placed on businesses and individuals by statistical surveys

All these developments will ensure that UK statistics will continue to be as relevant, timely and as well regarded in the future as they are today.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Dunnell".

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

# About this Report

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

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

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

This year’s report describes progress against the Work Programme during 2005/06, across three main areas of work:

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

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

## What are official statistics?

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

- collected statistics – any statistics gathered by government through formal censuses, statistical surveys and statistical inquiries, either directly or through sponsorship or contractual/outsourcing arrangements

- administrative or management statistics – any statistics generated as a by-product of any operational, management or administrative system established, for example, to collect taxes, provide benefits or deliver services
- other statistics – statistics generated to help the work of government, for example internal operational figures relating to personnel and performance

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

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

## Framework for National Statistics

The *Framework for National Statistics* was published in June 2000 and describes the governance and administration arrangements for National Statistics. It sets out the aims and objectives of National Statistics, outlining the roles and responsibilities of the major participants – ministers, the Statistics Commission, the

National Statistician, and Heads of Profession for Statistics (HoPs). The Framework also describes the equivalent governance arrangements for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

## Government Statistical Service

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

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

## Statistical Heads of Profession

Every government department or agency with a significant GSS presence, in terms of either its production or use of GSS statistics, has its own HoP, and each of the three devolved administrations has a Chief Statistician who performs the same functions. The National Statistician, along with her other roles, is the HoP for ONS, but delegates some of her HoP responsibilities, in equal shares, to the Heads of ONS's Statistical Directorates. Appendix B shows those organisations with a statistical Head of Profession.

## National Statistics Theme Working Groups

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

## National Statistics

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

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

## National Statistics Code of Practice – Statement of Principles

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

### Scope of National Statistics

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

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

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

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

withdrawn from, the scope of National Statistics in the last year.

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

### Departmental name change

In May 2006 the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) was established as the successor department to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM). In general, this report refers to DCLG, but please note that any actions taken during the period covered by this Annual Report would have been undertaken by ODPM.



# strategic developments

# National Statistics Strategy

## Background

The National Statistics Strategy presented below is little changed from the version published in last year's report, but is replicated here in order to place subsequent chapters within a strategic context.

Over the next year, however, the Strategy will have to be reviewed in the light of the Government's consultation document on statistical independence, published on 22 March 2006.

From a strategic perspective, the most significant feature of the Government's overall proposals is the intention to legislate, as with the Bank of England, for the creation of an independent governing board with responsibility for meeting an overall objective for statistical quality and integrity.

This provision imposes a clear requirement on ONS and the wider Government Statistical Service (GSS) to revisit the current National Statistics Strategy in order to ensure that it continues to complement the Government's overall objectives for the new statistical system; reflects the new governance arrangements; and matches the requirements of the new Governing Board.

## Introduction

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

If a statistical service is to be effective, the community which it serves must have a high degree of confidence not only in the statistics that it produces but also in the principles and practices which it espouses. Put simply, if stakeholders cannot place their trust in

official statistics then they are unlikely to base their decisions on those figures. To be fully effective, however, a statistical service needs to be trusted for more than just the reliability of the figures it produces. It needs to be trusted, as well, for the integrity of its people and processes, its freedom from political interference, and its ability to maintain the security of the information that data providers entrust to it.

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

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

## Becoming world class

The main focus of the National Statistics Strategy is to lay the foundations of trust by encouraging all staff involved in the production of National Statistics to emulate international best practice and become recognised as world leaders through the integrity of their methods, practices, systems and statistics.

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

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

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

### Relevance

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

### Integrity

The cost of accessing and analysing data is significantly reduced when data providers trust the statistical service to handle their personal and business information fairly, legally and sensitively, and with an absolute guarantee of confidentiality. The benefits of published statistics can be absorbed more rapidly, and their impact and value increased when users can depend on the independence and impartiality of the producers and place their trust in the information that they produce.

### Quality

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

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

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

### Accessibility

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

### Efficiency

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

### Measuring achievement

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

- the extent to which National Statistics products and services are commonly perceived to embody

the values set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice and its complement, the European Statistics Code of Practice

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

## Putting the strategy into effect

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

- **Code of Practice** – the *National Statistics Code of Practice* and its 12 supporting Protocols and any future versions provide the GSS and NISRA with a detailed and codified framework of principles and practices designed to ensure the quality and credibility of their outputs. For further information see chapter 2
- **Communication** – an e-dissemination strategy designed to encourage the best and widest use of the mass of statistics and related data generated as National Statistics
- **Quality and methodology** – a re-engineered programme of monitoring and improvement designed to bring GSS and NISRA products up to world-class standards. For further information see chapter 3

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

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

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# National Statistics Code of Practice and Supporting Protocols

## Introduction

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

However, the Code and Protocols will have to be reviewed in the light of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's announcement on 28 November 2005 about 'ONS independence', and the subsequent consultation document, *Independence for Statistics: A Consultation Document*, published by HM Treasury on 22 March 2006.

From the perspective of the Code, the most significant feature of the Government's overall proposals is the intention to legislate, as with the Bank of England, for the creation of an independent governing board, which will have a statutory responsibility to assess and approve all National Statistics against a Code of Practice, also backed by statute.

## Developments in 2005/06

### European Statistics Code of Practice

One of the most significant developments during 2005/06 was the launch of the *European Statistics Code of Practice* by Eurostat in November 2005. The Code is based on 15 principles covering the institutional environment, statistical processes and outputs. A set of indicators of good practice for each of the 15 principles has been developed. As with all National Statistical Institutes, the UK's compliance with the Code was initially monitored by a process of self-assessment, but this will be supplemented, later, by a system of peer reviews.

A link to the European Code and to the self-assessment questionnaire that ONS completed in December 2005 can be accessed on the National Statistics website:

[www.statistics.gov.uk/about/ons/cop\\_eustats.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/ons/cop_eustats.asp)

## Supporting documentation

Work was also initiated on two other documents which will support implementation of the *National Statistics Code of Practice*:

- Statistical Classifications – preliminary work began on the draft of an additional Protocol which will supplement the *Protocol on Statistical Integration* and cover the application of National Statistics standards to the development and management of statistical classification systems
- Administrative Data – a consultant-led project was initiated with a view to the production of specific guidance on the application of National Statistics principles and procedures to data sourced from administrative records

## Background – the existing Code and Protocols

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

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





## Improving public confidence

To further these aims, the GSS:

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



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

## National Statistics Code of Practice

In December 2001 a draft of the new *National Statistics Code of Practice* was published on the 'About National Statistics' website, beginning a three-month period of public consultation.

Following this, a 'final' version was issued in September 2002 to all staff in the GSS and to equivalent staff in Northern Ireland. The Code was formally launched at the National Statistics Open Day on 11 October 2002 under the title *National Statistics Code of Practice – Statement of Principles*.



## National Statistics Protocols

Two supporting Protocols were published alongside the Code in October 2002, one relating to *Release Practices* and the other to *Consultation Arrangements between the National Statistician and UK Government Ministers*.



A further ten Protocols were published over the next two years and by the end of 2004/05 all 12 Protocols were published on the National Statistics website.

## Additional policy formulation – third-tier documentation

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

## Compliance with, and enforcement of, the Code

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

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

## Monitoring and reporting

The National Statistician considers any breach of the Code to be a serious matter and she requires all HoPs and Chief Statisticians to monitor compliance with the Code in their own department, administration or agency and to report any instance of non-compliance as and when it happens. These reports detail instances either of 'exceptions' to or 'breaches' of the Code:

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

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

## Compliance in 2005/06

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

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

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

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

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

## Application of the Code

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

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

## Contact

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## Quality and Methodology

### Introduction

This chapter describes the work undertaken in 2005/06 to improve quality and methodology across National Statistics. The theme chapters, which follow later in this report, contain detailed information on the work being undertaken on specific topics within each theme.

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

### Setting standards for quality, building on the principles of the Code of Practice

The *National Statistics Code of Practice* sets out the principles and standards applicable to all National Statistics. The Code has been underpinned by more detailed Protocols setting out the practices needed to give effect to the Code. All departments have now completed Protocol Implementation Plans for National Statistics.

Quality standards will become increasingly important with the announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in November 2005 of the Government's intention to legislate for ONS independence in statistics. The associated consultation document, published in March 2006, highlighted as a key principle for underpinning a strong statistical system: 'statistics should be of high quality, that is, produced to the highest professional standards and fit for purpose'. Furthermore, the options outline a proposal to, 'give the Code statutory backing by legislating to make the development and maintenance of the Code the specific responsibility of the board'.

Additionally, the *European Statistics Code of Practice* was promulgated in the Commission recommendation of 25 May 2005 on the

independence, integrity and accountability of the national and Community statistical institutes. The Code is based on 15 principles covering the institutional environment, statistical processes and outputs. A set of indicators of good practice for each of the 15 principles has been developed and ONS completed a self-assessment questionnaire against these indicators in December 2005. Those areas where ONS fails to meet the principles are around the governance questions, but this is an issue which should be addressed when the Government implements its plans to introduce UK legislation to guarantee the independence of the statistical system.

### Building sound methodologies and tools into statistical sources and outputs

The National Statistics Methodology Advisory Committee is a forum designed to allow interested and experienced professional statisticians from outside government to provide peer reviews on methodological issues. It met twice in 2005/06, holding one-day meetings in May and October, and discussed 11 papers, ranging from methodologies for a survey of students in higher education to testing for significance in revisions of ONS data.

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

A cross-departmental steer on issues around quality management is provided by the National Statistics Quality and Methodology Programme Board. The



Board consists of Heads of Profession for Statistics who are responsible for progressing the quality strategy, sharing best practice and supporting the uptake of good statistical methods across National Statistics.

The tenth GSS Methodology Conference was held in 2005/06. The event is designed to bring together people working on methodological developments and applications from around the GSS, in order to share experiences and provide a forum for learning about different methods and techniques. The conference was titled 'Changes and flows: design and analysis of repeating and longitudinal surveys'. It focused on regular and repeating surveys within government, which provide data for monitoring changes through time, and also on purpose-designed longitudinal surveys for measuring flows and changes; 21 papers were presented at the conference.

### **Common tools and systematised processes**

As part of the programme of statistical modernisation within ONS (see chapter 7), the ONS Methodology Directorate has undertaken work to introduce common statistical software tools within ONS. These have been chosen as the standard methods for implementation across coding, editing and imputation, estimation and sampling, time series, index number construction, tabulation and quality measurement and reporting.

### **Effective management: project management, risk management and skills development**

ONS has continued to strengthen its management capability with the Human Resources modernisation programme. Senior managers have participated in the Henley Management College programme. The new Continuing Professional Development initiative for the GSS Statistician Group has been developed, agreed and implemented. This fits with the Government's Professional Skills in Government programme (see chapter 5).

The ONS Strategic Reporting and Delivery Unit has continued to provide support for the major ONS development programmes and more generally across ONS. More work has been undertaken on looking at dependencies across these major programmes. The Unit has also worked with the programmes to develop cases for the Office of Government Commerce Gateway process.

ONS has continued to implement risk management, along with other departments, following the lead of the Treasury Risk Support team.

### **Comprehensive and accessible documentation**

Quality reports have been developed by ONS as a means of documenting the strengths and limitations of its data. They provide clear and up-to-date documentation of surveys, outputs and processes. They will facilitate effective use of the statistics and support continued improvement in the processes.

Quality reports for National Accounts were introduced in June 2005 and reports have also been released for Labour Market Statistics in 2006. These reports have improved the level of documentation presented for users. Further quality reports are being developed for other statistical outputs.

### **Quality measurement**

The ONS *Guidelines for Measuring Statistical Quality* provide a set of standards for measuring and reporting on quality of survey data. The Guidelines contain a wide range of quality measures and indicators, grouped together in stages of the statistical production process. They also record the dimension of quality being measured in each case, using the six European Statistical System dimensions of quality.

These Guidelines have been further refined and a second version published. Standard quality measures as they relate to administrative data have also been developed and will be published in 2006. This will be increasingly important as departments look to reduce respondent load through the use of administrative sources.

## Quality assurance, monitoring and improving quality

The National Statistics Quality Review programme provides a means of looking at continuous improvement for outputs. The programme was a key requirement of the *Framework for National Statistics*, providing for a review of key statistics every five years. By the end of April 2006, 44 reviews had been published. It is planned that the Quality Review Programme will be replaced by a Quality Improvement Programme, but implementation of the new programme is currently on hold pending the outcome of decisions regarding ONS independence.

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# International Activity

## Introduction

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

## Strategic influences and policy drivers

The most significant policy driver for 2005/06 was the cross-government objective to run a successful UK Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2005. During this period, the key responsibility which falls to the Presidency country's National Statistical Institute (NSI) is to Chair the Council Working Party on Statistics. Other influences and policy drivers were: the continued development of statistical capacity across the globe and providing technical assistance in support of this to be able to monitor progress against the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and national development plans; the need to be accountable for the Department for International Development's (DFID) aid; and the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS).

## Aims and objectives

The objectives set for statistics at the outset of the UK Presidency were to:

- strengthen the governance of the EU statistical system, including for the Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP)
- reprioritise the statistical agenda
- reach agreement on proposed new statistical regulations

Other objectives were to continue implementation of the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics and building capacity to effectively monitor the Millennium Development Goals.

## Strengthening governance

The aim of this objective was to ensure an effective, but not disproportionate, response to weaknesses that had been identified in reporting and control of EU member states' debt and deficit statistics, which are key to monitoring the Stability and Growth Pact. This followed some significant revisions to deficit figures for 2000 to 2003 which were reported to the European Commission in 2004.

## Statistical reprioritisation

The aim was twofold:

- with resources for statistics limited in most other member states as well as the UK, demands for new statistics, for example on services and the new economy, can only be met by cutting back on resources elsewhere, such as detailed statistics on manufacturing
- to support the UK's Better Regulation agenda by reducing the compliance burden of statistical surveys

## New regulations

As Chair of the Council Working Party on Statistics, the key responsibility of the chairing country is to broker agreement across all EU member states on new statistical legislative proposals.

## Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS) and capacity to monitor MDGs

MAPS calls for a number of actions to enable substantial improvements in the operation of national statistical systems across the globe and in the quality of data available for monitoring development outcomes. The actions fall broadly into two groups: those directed at improving national statistical systems and those directed at the activities of international statistical agencies, the multilateral development banks, and bilateral donors. The UK

GSS's role is to support these developments through provision of technical assistance to national statistical systems, and to work with the international agencies in making the improvements.

## Work in 2005/06

Good progress was made towards all objectives listed above. The first two came together in a statistical package agreed at the November 2005 meeting of EU Economic and Finance Ministers (Ecofin). This package, the result of close co-operation between HM Treasury (HMT) and ONS, had three main elements:

- promulgation of a Code of Practice for European Statistics
- improvements to the EDP
- reprioritisation of EU statistical requirements (also in conjunction with HM Revenue & Customs)

### European Statistics Code of Practice

The *European Statistics Code of Practice*, analogous to the UK *National Statistics Code of Practice*, was largely agreed under the Luxembourg Presidency (January to June 2005). The main achievement of the UK Presidency was to secure agreement that the EU Code applied to all producers of European statistics and to help Eurostat make good progress in developing ways of monitoring compliance with the Code. A new high-level advisory body will report annually on the implementation of the Code by the European Statistical System (ESS), including compliance by Eurostat.

### Excessive Deficit Procedure

A new regulation strengthening the EDP, following problems with figures for the Greek deficit, was largely agreed under the Luxembourg Presidency. However, final agreement was held up by differences of view on the nature of new Eurostat methodological visits to member states. The large member states wanted to ensure that these visits were properly targeted and based on risk assessments. This was resolved by adding an annex to the regulation setting out material on the nature of the visits. As a result, the regulation has now been adopted.

## Reprioritising EU statistics

This was a top priority for the UK because any reprioritisation activity in the UK is in many areas constrained by EU regulations. ONS was active in a Eurostat-led taskforce, producing two papers advocating a new approach to setting priorities that was adopted in the Ecofin Conclusions. This approach involves both a top-down and bottom-up approach to reprioritisation, including evaluation of costs and benefits. A number of areas that might be cut back were identified, thereby reducing costs and making room for new outputs. These included agricultural statistics, Intrastat (the VAT-based collection system for trade statistics), Prodcom (detailed statistics on manufacturing products), structural business statistics and transport statistics. Pilot studies will be undertaken and Eurostat was asked to produce definitive results by July 2006.

## New regulations

In order to achieve comparability between national estimates and a capacity to devise EU totals on a consistent basis, the form of member state statistics is determined by EU regulations. Under the UK Presidency, agreement was reached in the Council on two new important regulations: one on statistics of foreign affiliates, and another on a framework for business registers. Both of these offer the prospect of significant improvement to statistics on multinational enterprises, with direct benefit to international trade negotiations and better understanding of globalisation.

Agreement was also reached on two other regulations concerning inland waterways transport statistics and statistics on the landings of fishery products. The first regulation promotes water transport as being environmentally friendly, tightens up definitions and broadens the scope of existing statistics to include containers. The second regulation, which simplifies an existing regulation, reduces data frequency from monthly to annual, and permits more cost-effective methods such as sampling.

All four regulations where agreement was reached are subject to approval by the European Parliament under the co-decision procedure.

There was one major proposal where there was only time for an initial discussion. This involved a new regulation seeking to improve harmonisation of migration and asylum statistics. This is a complex and difficult area which falls to the Austrian Presidency (January to June 2006) to take forward.

The UK was also successful in securing the agreement of the Commission to undertake Impact Assessments for all new draft regulations. This links with the 'Better Regulation' agenda and is a tool for ensuring that the legislative proposal is sufficiently justified and warranted. This was in the face of arguments that statistical regulations, by their very nature, are not sufficiently significant to warrant a formal Impact Assessment presented alongside the draft Regulation itself.

Reaching agreement on the above regulations necessitated close co-operation across the GSS – in particular the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Department for Transport (DfT) and the Home Office – as well as between ONS, Eurostat and member states.

### **Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS) and capacity to monitor MDGs**

Continued progress has been achieved in working with other stakeholders to develop strategic planning of statistical systems and prepare national statistical development strategies for all low-income countries by 2006. DFID has supported development of plans in several countries, and is providing technical assistance to implement these plans, improve statistical capacity and monitoring/evaluation in 18 countries. Increased financing and co-ordination of donors for statistical capacity building is a step closer to reality through continued work by the UK. DFID is an active member of the International Household Survey Network (IHSN), and has been successful in establishing a technical secondment to the secretariat from 2006. The IHSN's purpose is to foster better use of survey data for policy making and monitoring. By implementing joint activities, IHSN members seek to identify, promote and

implement coordinated and sustainable solutions to problems of availability and timeliness, reliability and relevance, comparability, and dissemination and use of household survey data.

ONS and DFID also worked jointly to present proposals to the ESS on a pan-European approach on the provision of technical assistance to African countries and were successful in raising the profile of the issues of statistical capacity building in the ESS.

### **Outcomes and outputs realised**

Holding the Presidency of the EU in the second half of 2005 provided a unique opportunity to increase knowledge of European matters and enhance networks, a legacy that ONS will seek to build on to increase the influence of the UK on EU statistical developments, and develop international strategic planning, policies and co-ordinated practices in the ESS.

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

ONS will also look to develop a strategy, working with partners in the ESS, for a more joined-up approach to statistical capacity building, especially in Africa, and will link this with proposals to take forward the work agreed at the Conference of Commonwealth Statisticians in September 2005.

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# Human Resources

## Introduction

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

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

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

## Work Programme for 2005/06

GSS HRC's Work Programme had nine main themes:

- Value and Values Strategy
- recruitment
- Continuing Professional Development and Professional Skills for Government
- guidance for Assistant Statisticians and Statistical Officers
- recruitment and promotion standards for the Statistician Group
- communications
- input into ONS independence consultation (human resources issues)
- GSS HoPs' roles, accountability and development, and
- career guidance for numerate generalist staff

Overall GSS HRC had a successful year in 2005/06. Despite the Work Programme being ambitious, good progress was made on all priority areas of the Programme. However, a few intended projects were not completed, due mainly to heavy demands on GSS HRC members from their day jobs.

## Work during 2005/06

### Value and Values Strategy

This piece of work was fuelled, in part, by concerns expressed at the GSS Brighton Conference in May 2005 about the general health of the GSS. The aim of the work was 'to improve the value, cohesion and standing of the GSS Statistician Group'. If this were successful, then members of the Statistician Group would not only value their membership and feel more pride in working in the GSS, but it is hoped they would also become more effective ambassadors for the GSS.

GSS HRC identified 16 components or building blocks that help, or could help, to bind the GSS Statistician Group together. The 16 components fell into four broad groups:

- people and careers
- personal development
- participation
- governance

An action plan was then developed covering the contributions to each of the components that GSS HRC could make within its 2005/06 and future Work Programmes. Other issues, such as those concerning GSS outputs, stakeholders' consultations

and common databases, were left to other groups and initiatives.

Following agreement by HoPs, the Value and Values document was distributed to all members of the GSS Statistician Group.

## Recruitment

There was significant recruitment activity during 2005/06 across both the fast stream Assistant Statistician (AS) scheme and the mainstream Statistical Officer (StO) scheme.

### Assistant Statistician scheme

For fast stream recruitment a high number of applications were again received during 2005 (579, compared with 586 for 2004), and 45 ASs were recommended for appointment, the highest number in recent years. In addition, major changes have been introduced to the recruitment process for 2006. The assessment is now split between non-statistical competences assessed by the one-day Graduate Fast Stream process, followed by a half-day assessment of statistical competences. The training of assessors and the first boards run along these lines have all gone well.

A substantial amount of this recruitment activity is run and funded by the Cabinet Office, and work on an operational-level Service Level Agreement covering 2006 and looking ahead to 2007 was completed. Discussions have also started on a higher-level document, which will be agreed between the Cabinet Office and SiGT on behalf of the GSS, and which will record overarching responsibilities.

### Statistical Officer scheme

For mainstream recruitment there were a record number of successes in 2005, with 57 StOs from centrally run boards taking up offers of appointment in the GSS. The basic format of the recruitment has proved successful, and has been used as the basis for the new fast stream assessment process. Developments on this scheme included the first regional board, which was held in York. In addition, a few of the more experienced assessors from the GSS have been inducted as recruitment board chairs to increase

administrative flexibility and to provide them with development opportunities.

## Continuing Professional Development and Professional Skills for Government

The new Continuing Professional Development (CPD) initiative for the GSS Statistician Group has been developed, agreed and implemented. A set of guidance, which includes a log book and catalogue of statistical learning activities, has been developed to support the Statistician Group CPD Policy. It is aimed at all members of the Statistician Group in order to develop and safeguard the professional competence underpinning all GSS activity. This approach forms a key part of the GSS response to the Government's Professional Skills for Government (PSG) initiative.

PSG is a key part of the Government's Delivery and Reform agenda. It is a major long-term change programme designed to ensure that civil servants, wherever they work, have the right mix of skills and expertise to enable their departments or agencies to deliver effective services. PSG will also provide clarity to individuals about the skills they need to develop to progress in the Civil Service and will give access to more consistent opportunities to develop those skills. In developing the PSG framework, three career groupings have been identified – Corporate Service, Operational Delivery or Policy Delivery – all with associated competences. These groupings are not restrictive and people can, and are encouraged to, move between them during the course of their careers.

To fully comply with the PSG initiative, and the need for professional groups to link their competence frameworks to PSG competences, statistical competences for the Senior Civil Service were added to the well-established Statistician Competence Framework. Competence areas most pertinent to a statistician working in a policy delivery or operational delivery area (where most GSS Statisticians are grouped) have also been identified. All of this information can be found on the Cabinet Office PSG website –

[www.psg.civilservice.gov.uk/content](http://www.psg.civilservice.gov.uk/content)

## Guidance notes

Two sets of comprehensive guidance notes have been developed for ASs, StOs and their managers. The guidance notes will help to put specific roles and behaviours into perspective; help to set recruitment and performance standards; and provide a useful tool for career development and management. Key themes of the guidance notes were tested in a workshop at the December 2005 AS/StO conference and with a cross-section of GSS staff. The final drafts reflect comments made. The notes will be launched across the GSS once comments from HoPs are incorporated.

## Recruitment and promotion standards for the Statistician Group

A set of guidance material has been drafted for further discussion and refinement. The guidance defines the means by which the GSS Statistician Group is recruited and promoted, and in effect defines the Statistician Group. It focuses on the following areas:

- harmonising the approach to achieving the principles of the *Protocol on Professional Competence*
- *Statistician Competence Framework*
- external recruitment
- recruitment and transfers from within the Civil Service
- promotion/progression at AS and StO level

Work on this will continue in 2006/07.

## Communications (StatNet)

StatNet is the intranet site for the GSS. The site holds a staff directory and relevant background information about the GSS, National Statistics policy and international activity. It also contains details about GSS recruitment, including internal job vacancies and professional development opportunities. A cross-departmental group helps to steer development. During 2005/06 the StatNet *e-Bulletin* was introduced by SiGT to help provide information to people and highlight important news; this has been welcomed. The GSS Directory on StatNet has been thoroughly updated and now holds an up-to-date record of over 1,000 government statisticians. The site has also had a makeover, navigation has been simplified and there is less information on the home

page. A new CPD micro-site has also been developed within StatNet to support the CPD initiative. A StatNet readership survey was planned for 2005/06, but did not take place because the site was being redeveloped.

## Input into ONS independence consultation

GSS HRC contributed a paper on GSS HR issues which fed into the initial discussions held by the HM Treasury (HMT) Independence Steering Group. The Chair of GSS HRC and members have contributed to discussions in HoP meetings and to one-to-one meetings with HMT and will continue to do so.

## GSS HoPs' roles, accountability and development

This area of work will be heavily affected by the outcome of the decisions taken regarding ONS independence and will be revived in the next Work Programme.

## Career guidance for numerate generalist staff

This work is still very much at a developmental stage. A paper has been produced that identifies some themes to focus on: general principles; attractiveness of GSS posts; learning and development; career development; giving respect; champions; competence framework; and support. Work will continue in 2006/07.

## Future work

The focus for 2006/07 will be on supporting the Head of the Civil Service's vision for a Civil Service that exudes pride, pace, passion and professionalism, and this work will be underpinned by the ONS independence agenda. It will cover five broad strands:

- recruitment, promotion and redeployment
- learning and development
- breaking down barriers
- ONS independence
- working closer with other analytical professionals

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# Relationships with Stakeholders

## Introduction

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

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

## National Statistics Code of Practice

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

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

## Data providers

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

## Survey Control Unit

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

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

Each year, SCU produces the *GSS Report on Survey Activity*, a summary report that highlights the impact of government surveys on business.

SCU helps all departments to limit the load placed on respondents to their surveys. It is currently engaged on drawing up a full list of all GSS Statistical Surveys of business and local authorities. Where possible, this will include survey metadata, such as the variables collected and sample size. This information will be used to prevent proposed new surveys across the GSS from duplicating data already collected elsewhere. Publication of the list on the National Statistics

website is planned for September 2006. This will be a major step forward in helping identify alternative data sources and providing a mechanism for SCU to ensure that proposed new surveys are necessary.

SCU has also been working on updating the *Prime Minister's Instructions on the Control of Statistical Surveys* in order to clarify departmental responsibilities for limiting the burden on respondents. This work is almost complete, but new instructions will not be issued until the position is clearer regarding ONS independence and also to allow incorporation of the work being carried out by the Better Regulation Executive on burden reduction initiatives.

SCU will also start soon a programme of visits to government departments to ensure compliance with the Prime Minister's Instructions and to give advice tailored to the individual department. This was to have started in 2005/06, but was delayed while SCU procured some audit training. The first visit, to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), is planned for June 2006.

### ONS Statistical Modernisation Programme

ONS has taken the first steps towards a strategy of rationalisation and integration of business surveys, by beginning a project to integrate and redesign two of the surveys that respectively provide data to update the business register and produce the annual employment estimates. This work is part of the wider ONS Statistical Modernisation Programme (SMP), more details of which can be found in chapter 7.

### Data collection initiatives

Improving communication with respondents continues to be a major programme of work for ONS. Work has been initiated to review the questionnaires used to gather data from businesses, and ONS is also reviewing the way it communicates directly with respondents, in particular how they are approached to complete survey questionnaires. In addition, work is continuing to align the definitions used in surveys with those used by the businesses themselves. The layout of questionnaires is being further improved, with an increased emphasis being placed on those surveys causing particular problems for contributors.

Another new initiative has been to provide information to survey respondents using the National Statistics website. Some pilot web pages aimed at assisting businesses to complete ONS surveys have been introduced and these explain how a business is selected for a survey; what the data are used for; and some general information regarding ONS. Initial evaluation indicates that this initiative is proving useful to respondents and ONS will continue its programme of extending these pages to cover all business surveys.

ONS also published the Survey Charter during 2005/06. The Charter describes how ONS applies the *National Statistics Code of Practice* to survey work. It also spells out the obligations ONS has to the people and organisations providing information for ONS surveys and gives information on how survey data are used.

ONS has also contributed to the current Better Regulation Executive cross-government Review of Administrative Burdens, both by providing methodological advice and by meeting the challenging deadlines for providing information relating to ONS survey activities. Each regulatory body is to be set a target for reducing burdens on business and will be required to produce an annual Simplification Plan showing progress towards this target. For more details, please see chapter 10.

### Improving response rates for social surveys

During 2005/06 the benefits of the major investment in Avoiding Refusal Training for interviewers were noticeable in a general improvement of overall response rates. However, there has been a decline in overall response rates for the General Household Survey, but this resulted from changing it to a longitudinal survey which had the major advantage of providing a richer source of social statistics.

There are two main strands to the programme to improve response rates over the next few years. The first strand is longer-term and forms part of ONS-wide plans to modernise its structure and systems to create a world-class data collection capability. ONS plans to introduce a new Survey Case Management

System, which will enable early and focused interventions in the field to maximise survey response. Work is progressing well and implementation of the system is scheduled for January 2007. In addition, a new, simpler organisational structure was introduced during 2005/06. This places more responsibility and resources in the field at a regional level in order to deliver local response targets, and is already delivering benefits. Work is also under way to integrate and standardise working practices across all social survey interviewers and this work will be completed in 2006.

The second strand focuses on more short-term operational changes designed to stop, and then reverse, the decline in response rates. These changes are about 'doing what we currently do better' and they are being taken forward via a Response Project Board that meets regularly to review and monitor the programme.

- ONS Social Survey staff are working closely with their colleagues within ONS Methodology, and one of the main areas of focus is reducing non-contacts. In addition, work has been undertaken by Southampton University, as part of the Census Non Response Link project, to identify better reasons for non-contact, in order to better inform ONS work planning
- As part of the new Survey Case Management System, ONS is introducing a new Work Allocation module, which will greatly improve planning and efficiency
- Avoiding Refusal Training (ART) was rolled out to all social survey interviewers in 2005/06. This builds on the positive outcomes from the pilot training undertaken in 2004/05
- Some progress has also been made on making more use of targeted reissues of interviews and using managers in the field to optimise allocation of work to maximise results, but some additional work is required
- ONS has also continued to review and standardise its survey materials (such as leaflets and cards) across all surveys. ONS also launched a Public

Enquiry Line in 2005 to minimise possible refusals at the earliest opportunity and this has proved to be a great success

### Response rates for business surveys

Chapter 13 describes the adjustments to the survey programme that ONS undertook in 2005/06 in order to contain costs and allow the forward programme of work to continue. These adjustments included some emergency measures to contain expenditure in 2005/06 which had some impact on the survey programme, in particular response rates for some business surveys. In the main, response rates for business surveys have remained fairly robust, but for a few surveys responses have fallen below the required levels.

Work continues to improve and maintain rates, and to ensure compliance with the *Protocol on Managing Respondent Load*:

- ONS is involved in the rolling Quality Review Programme cycle as both a department leading reviews and one participating in reviews led by other government departments. Before a review of a survey is initiated, a check is made for alternative sources of information, including recent reviews, thus ensuring that data providers are not asked to provide the same information again
- Non-compliance to ONS business surveys is subject to a response-chasing and enforcement strategy. This combined strategy looks at procedures with which ONS can improve response and methods to enable staff to achieve a better response from respondents, while ensuring that ONS acts in line with the criteria laid down in the Government's *Enforcement Concordat* that require ONS staff to 'carry out our duties in a fair, equitable and consistent manner'. The response-chasing and enforcement strategy monitors ONS compliance with the *Enforcement Concordat*.

### Users

Official statistics are used regularly by a number of core user groups that put the data to a range of uses. They support decision-making in both the public and private sectors, and are used to monitor the

performance of government and for a wide variety of research purposes in academia and elsewhere.

### Statistics User Forum

In December 2004 the Royal Statistical Society Statistics User Forum (RSS SUF) replaced the Statistics Users Council as the main mechanism for consulting and taking into account the needs and views of the statistical community. ONS staff held regular liaison meetings with the RSS SUF Secretariat in 2005/06 to discuss issues of common interest and to share ideas and information.

The SUF held its inaugural conference on 1 November 2005. The theme for the conference was Neighbourhood and Regional Statistics and included presenters from ONS and other government departments.

### Statistics Commission

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

The National Statistician was one of the key presenters at the Statistics Commission Open Day held in November 2005.

### Key accounts

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

### Consultation

In June 2004 ONS initiated a project to review the existing arrangements for user consultation. This came from recognition of the crucial role that users play in shaping the statistical environment and the wide and growing range of uses to which statistics are put. The project aims were to assess the adequacy

of the current user consultation mechanisms and, where required, to make recommendations for improvement. An initial report has been produced which includes recommendations for change, and ONS is consulting with key stakeholders on the most appropriate way forward.

A National Statistics Open Day was held for non-government users of statistics in September 2005. The theme was 'Addressing User Needs in the 21st Century'. The National Statistician gave the keynote speech and representatives from the RSS, Statistics Commission and the *Financial Times* gave presentations on this subject. The event was well attended and delegate feedback was positive. Users view these Open Days as an opportunity to be informed of changes and innovations, and they also allow them to comment and engage directly on issues affecting National Statistics.

In addition to strategic consultations, many statistics producers and Theme Working Groups are engaged in specific consultation with users on proposals for change, while ongoing consultation with users continues to inform the development of National Statistics outputs. For example, in 2005, a big consultation exercise was launched regarding potential questions for the 2011 Census. Further information can be found in chapter 8.

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# cross-cutting issues

# ONS Statistical Modernisation Programme

## Introduction

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

## Strategic influences and policy drivers

The internal and external drivers for this modernisation vision, which continue to increase, span from the day-to-day ONS business pressures to those that affect the wider reputation of ONS and the needs of government and include:

- expectations of key users, in particular the users of the National Accounts and Labour Market Statistics, where the existing systems do not meet reasonable demands for resilience and flexibility, and expose ONS to the risk of failing to sustain national statistical outputs
- the need to reduce reliance on outdated IT systems and a diverse range of statistical tools
- pressures on ONS to meet government-wide timetables for e-business – in particular those initiatives involving interactive electronic data collection
- downward pressures on compliance costs and the benefits that will accrue from redesigning business surveys, integration and wider use of administrative data to replace direct collection from businesses, and
- expanding requirements for regional analysis, and the need to be able to draw samples from the business register that are geographically

representative, and the development of statistics to support regional differentiation of pay arrangements

## Aims and objectives

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

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

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

The benefits to users of the data will be:

- more robust datasets that will be better suited to their purpose
- a reduction in errors and inconsistencies
- more timely outputs as a result of reduced processing time
- new analyses of existing sources that will be possible
- access to a greater range of more coherent statistics
- greater transparency as to the methodologies employed, and
- improved responsiveness of ONS to new data needs

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

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

## Work in 2005/06

Expenditure on statistical modernisation during 2005/06 was £14.3 million. During the year the programme concentrated on the delivery of production quality systems that deliver specific benefits and contribute to the incremental delivery of the generic infrastructure.

Key work areas have been the delivery of the central systems for the National Accounts, which will deliver aggregate and time series processing in the CORD, and the reweighting and microdata outputs for the Labour Force Survey (LFS) which will deliver unit level processing in CORD and significantly reduce the time taken to reweight LFS data against the latest population estimates. These projects have also been considering the business change implications, and making preparations for testing, implementation and training.

The programme has also focused on:

- new systems to address urgent business continuity issues for Life Events, given changes to the Civil Registration system
- a Survey Case Management System, which is needed to support a new Integrated Household

Survey (IHS, previously referred to as the Continuous Population Survey) and the modernisation of the social survey field force

- commencing the IHS project, which will enable the integration of four existing ONS surveys, and
- preparatory work in other areas including the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR), and Data Collection Modernisation, ready to start development during 2006/07

A health check was undertaken during August 2005 by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) in preparation for a full OGC Gateway Review in 2006. Consequently, ONS recognised and acted on the requirement to clearly devolve the role of the Programme Board from the Executive Management Group.

Emerging lessons from 2005/06 are the need to build on work done to refine the overall delivery process continually, ensuring a focus on good-quality early estimates and effective collaboration across functional areas.

## Outputs

The following outputs were delivered from the key work areas during 2005/06:

- the functionality for receiving NHS Birth notifications successfully went live in March 2006 and a system for Life Events to capture and process new civil partnerships data from General Register Office systems went live at the end of June 2006
- the National Accounts and LFS projects are in the design and build stage, and initial functionality for both has been delivered in CORD and demonstrated to key internal users, while significant progress has also been made on customer acceptance testing of the first functional release of the National Accounts
- scanners for data collection have been tested and are now in full production use – a contract is about to be signed for the procurement of new character recognition and workflow software
- a joint feasibility study has been completed for re-engineering the IDBR and Data Collection Modernisation, and this will ensure that a common

architecture is developed, supporting both the re-engineered business register and the modernised business survey data collection and validation systems

- high-level systems analysis and design have been completed for the Survey Case Management System, with detailed systems analysis and design nearing completion
- work is under way to define the processing requirements and preferred solution for the new IHS, and
- a Census Gaps Requirements Report has been completed, identifying the extent to which SMP can meet the requirements of Census 2011

## Outlook

Overall, the programme has made considerable progress towards being able to deliver production quality systems during 2006/07, with specific benefits for two of ONS's major statistical sources: National Accounts and the LFS. Subject to a decision on how an integrated modernisation programme is taken forward (see below), deliverables up until March 2008 will include:

- National Accounts Central Systems
- LFS Reweighting and Microdata Outputs
- Life Events Continuity
- Survey Case Management System
- Data Collection Modernisation
- IHS, and
- the rest of National Accounts

This will deliver a significant proportion of CORD and standardised tools, methods and processes within the time and budget allocated to the programme, while also realising significant cash and statistical benefits.

Key milestones for the near future include:

- delivering the functionality for testing and parallel running that will produce consistent LFS outputs aligned with the latest population totals in a timely fashion, and

- delivering functionality for National Accounts central systems to enable testing of new methods to commence in June 2006

## Future plans

Designing, developing and implementing the new corporate database and infrastructure has been a hugely ambitious and significant undertaking. Although the programme is broadly on track, there has been some slippage and increases in cost estimates arising from the scale and innovative nature of the programme. Consequently, there was significant work carried out during early 2006 to challenge and review the scope and costs of the work needed to deliver the benefits from each project.

Alongside this, ONS has faced a number of new demands, including those arising from the Lyons Review of the scope for relocating Civil Service posts out of London and the South East, the Gershon Review of public sector efficiency, the Allsopp Review (see chapter 9) and the Atkinson Review (see chapter 11). These demands have placed significant additional pressures on both ONS finances and its skilled resources.

As a result, ONS is now looking to take a more holistic approach towards a wider, integrated modernisation programme. This will encompass statistical modernisation, IT modernisation and web dissemination, and it will take account of the overall costs and benefits to ONS.

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# Planning the 2011 Census

## Introduction

For over 200 years government and other users have relied on the decennial census to underpin national decision-making. The census is the only source of information that: enumerates the whole population; provides consistent and detailed information on social and economic status; provides information for small areas; and enables long-term trends to be identified and measured. ONS is responsible for the census in England and Wales and, with colleagues in the census offices in Scotland and Northern Ireland, is actively planning for the census in 2011.

## Strategic influences and policy drivers

Census information is used to develop and monitor a wide range of government policies, and to support provision of appropriate services at a local level.

The basic information on the population size, age, sex and location are fundamental to government policies on:

- ageing and pensions
- migration, both into and out of the country, and within the nation
- long-term sustainability of growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- labour supply

Information on housing, household and family make-up is fundamental to government policies on:

- inadequate accommodation and overcrowding
- housing demand and planning (such as in London and the South East)

Other information collected as part of the census enables government to:

- understand the pressures on transport systems and contribute to the planning of roads and public

transport through information collected on travel to and from work, and on the availability of cars

- identify areas of deprivation for targeting of Neighbourhood Renewal/Sure Start funding
- link information on ethnicity, qualifications, and labour market status, for instance, to identify the causes of deprivation and appropriate policy interventions
- plan jobs and training policies, and help businesses to make informed investment decisions through information collected on how many people work in different occupations and industries throughout the country

In addition to uses by central and local government, the census is widely used by individuals to learn about their local areas; by businesses for marketing and store location decisions; and by the academic community to support in-depth policy analysis.

## Aims and objectives

The Registrars General for England and Wales, for Scotland and for Northern Ireland have jointly agreed that they will aim to work in unison to ensure that the 2011 Censuses are successful in providing high-quality population and housing statistics, meeting the needs of UK data users, and reflecting international and European requirements. In particular, the Registrars General have agreed that the three Census Offices and the National Assembly for Wales will work together and will reach mutual agreement wherever possible to facilitate harmonisation where that is in the interest of census users.

The objectives for the census programme are to:

- meet user needs for data and analyses on population counts, population structures, and population characteristics, and balance these user

needs for topics and detail against operational constraints and the need to manage the burden on respondents

- carry out successful Censuses in 2011 that are operationally effective and achieve value for money, learn the many lessons from the 2001 Census, and trial/test the major innovations well in advance
- produce estimates of households and people along with information about their demographic and social characteristics – the overriding aim will be to get the counts of people correct
- work in partnership with external suppliers to deliver creative solutions beyond the core competencies of ONS

## Work during 2005/06

### 2006 Test in Scotland

The General Registrar Office (Scotland) are carrying out their census test in April 2006, a year earlier than for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Test will be conducted in parts of West Dunbartonshire, Glasgow and the rural areas of Lochaber and Breadalbane, so as to involve a range of different enumeration conditions, and will involve around 50,000 households. It will involve testing the feasibility of post-out of census questionnaires and a range of established and experimental questions including one on income.

### 2007 tests in England & Wales and Northern Ireland

Significant progress has been made in preparation for the 2007 census test, which will cover about 100,000 households. The two main objectives of this test are to test the feasibility of post-out census questionnaires, and the introduction of a question on income.

The five local authorities that have been chosen for the test are Bath and North-East Somerset, Carmarthenshire, Camden, Liverpool, and Stoke-on-Trent. They represent different types of area – inner city, rural and coastal – and include a spread of the more difficult types of population to enumerate. ONS and the National Assembly for

Wales have engaged with the chief executives of these authorities, all of which have identified census liaison officers to work with ONS in preparation for the 2007 test.

### Question development

The development of census questions is co-ordinated between England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. UK-wide topic groups have been set up for five priority issues in order to develop questions by May 2006 for use in the 2007 tests in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Scotland had an accelerated timetable for development of questions for its test, as this is a year earlier than for the other nations.

The topic groups are:

- household definitions
- ethnicity/identity/language/religion
- income
- labour market, and
- health

### Topic consultation

Consultation on census topics was carried out in each of England and Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland during 2005/06.

ONS published an initial view on the census topics in May 2005 and held a formal three-month consultation, supported by five roadshows in England and Wales. Over 2,000 responses on topics were received from over 500 organisations and individuals. A response to the consultation was published in March 2006, setting out updated proposals for census topics, and this received widespread press coverage.

Topics were categorised into three groups:

- Category (1) – those topics that would definitely be included in the 2011 Census
- Category (2) – those topics where further work is required (either in terms of building the case for the topic, or question testing)
- Category (3) – those topics that were going to be excluded

It is clear that there are too many category (2) topics to be included in the 2011 Census questionnaire, and difficult choices will need to be made by mid-2008.

### Census business case

The Census 2011 business case has been produced and ONS is now working on a bid for the 2007 Spending Review.

## Outcomes and outputs realised

### Procurement

As in 2001, the intention is to outsource major components of the census processing. The need to maintain commercial confidentiality means that the procurement of services is not very transparent to census users. Nevertheless, it is an important and resource-intensive activity.

All three census offices are collaborating in a joint procurement for the 2011 Census main processing contract, which covers printing, data capture (scanning and Internet), contact centres, and management information. The procurement was launched in September 2005 with an advert in the *Official Journal of the European Union*. Suppliers were asked to complete a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire, on the basis of which a short list has been selected. A Statement of Requirements (running to about 200 pages, with a similar number of pages as annexes) was released to the short-listed suppliers in March 2006. The aim is to select two suppliers to support the 2007 test, and to select subsequently a single supplier to support the 2009 census rehearsal and the census itself.

In addition to the main processing procurement, another major procurement was started during 2005/06 to support the recruitment, pay and training for enumerators for the 2007 test in England and Wales. By the end of the year this procurement was at the short list evaluation stage. Other contracts let during 2005/06 provide consultancy support on procurement and legal advice.

### International contacts

During autumn 2005 ONS hosted a three-day International Peer Review of the proposed 2011 Census design. In addition to representatives from

Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, senior census staff attended from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Ireland. Valuable feedback was received on the proposed design, including experience of developing web-collection systems.

The United Nations provides international guidelines for each decennial round of censuses. The guidelines for the 2010 round of censuses are nearing completion. The UN Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE) has taken the lead on developing the guidelines for the developed world, and now has draft guidelines ready for consideration. ONS and GROS were active participants in the UN-ECE meetings during 2005/06.

ONS sent one member of staff to learn from the February 2006 census in New Zealand, and was visited by census staff from Japan who were carrying out a review of their approach to the census, in preparation for their own 2011 Census.

### Address development

A number of problems in the 2001 Census in England and Wales centred on missing addresses. A proposal for 2011 is to post questionnaires out to households, which requires a high-quality address list. The proposed National Spatial Address Infrastructure, which would have combined address sources from the Ordnance Survey and the local authority based National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG), is no longer going ahead. During 2005/06 meetings were held with the two suppliers, to discuss census needs and requirements, and ONS began to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the two main address products, with a view to making a decision on the address information to use for the 2007 test.

A full check of addresses is currently envisaged for the 2011 Census and will be carried out for the areas used for the 2007 test. During 2005/06 ONS carried out a number of small-scale address checking tests to identify the best way to do this task, and to assess the costs.

An address register has recently been launched in Northern Ireland (Pointer) and NISRA has taken a

lead role in a Pointer user group. Some rural areas where Pointer is known to be weak were selected for the 2007 Census Test. Full address checking will be completed as part of the 2007 test and used to assess the quality of Pointer and its value to a Census operation.

The 2006 Census Test in Scotland was preceded by an address checking exercise conducted by Test fieldwork staff. The results of the evaluation of this exercise will be used in considering how to maximise the quality of address lists for use in Scotland in 2011.

## Cost

The ONS Census budget for 2005/06 was £3.5 million.

The NISRA Census budget in 2005/06 was £0.6m

The estimated cost of the 2006 Census Test in Scotland is £2.35m.

## Contacts

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# Allsopp Review Implementation Programme

## Introduction

As part of its settlement of the 2004 Spending Review, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) agreed a target to implement the recommendations from the *Allsopp Review of Statistics for Economic Policymaking*. The Allsopp Review Implementation Programme is taking forward the implementation of these recommendations.

## Strategic influences and policy drivers

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

The First Allsopp Report was published in December 2003 and the Final Report in March 2004. The reports outline a strategy to improve the quality and provision of statistics for economic policy based around a number of recommendations. Both reports are accessible via the HM Treasury (HMT) website:

[www.hm-treasury.gov.uk](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk)

## Implementation targets

The consequence of the Review was a Performance Management Framework (PMF) target for ONS, as part of the 2004 Spending Review settlement, to implement the Allsopp Review's recommendations in full by 2009:

to implement the recommendations from the Allsopp Review of Statistics for Economic Policymaking:

- ONS will begin launching new surveys during 2006 in accordance with a plan for full delivery by 2009
- ONS will create a Government Statistical Service presence in each region by March 2007

## Aims and objectives

The Allsopp Review Implementation Programme is aiming in particular to satisfy the pressing need for better regional data, including a radical change in the way regional Gross Value Added (GVA) is produced; and to rebalance the core statistical systems to provide proper detail and coverage of the service sectors.

## Work in 2005/06

The development of the Allsopp Review Implementation Programme to take forward these recommendations has gone ahead but within the tight budgetary constraints experienced by ONS. To meet the Allsopp Review recommendations, work has been progressed in various business areas across the department. However, a separate programme of work has been funded for those clear priority recommendations that could not be met within existing budgets.

The main focus has been on the development of the essential infrastructure on which surveys depend (Business Register and access to administrative data) as well as the technical development work required for expanding surveys, and business surveys in particular. This up-front development has not been visible, but it is essential to running a successful programme.

## Regional Gross Value Added

In current climate of Better Regulation and the need to reduce respondent burdens and budgetary constraints, a new approach has been put forward

for the development of regional GVA using the output approach and planned work will commence in 2006/07. This approach does not rely on the expansion of business surveys in the short term, but will provide a framework for developing a production measure that would make best use of current data and any future data that become available. This will take place alongside the enhancement of the current income-based measure of regional GVA. Improvements will be made to the presentation of these statistics so that users are better able to understand their nature. Under current plans, the development of regional accounts is planned to provide the first experimental estimates of modelled GVA in December 2009.

### Regional presence

In addition, ONS has been preparing plans to deliver a full regional statistical presence by March 2007. This plan includes provision for developing and testing a combination of strategies in 2006/07 using existing ONS staff. ONS will ensure that the experience of other parts of ONS and other organisations (such as the Government Statistical Service/Government Social Researchers) in delivering comparable projects is fully used.

### Outcomes and outputs realised

The following outcomes and benefits have been realised as a consequence of work carried out on the Allsopp Review Implementation Programme in 2005/06 and will contribute towards meeting the recommendations set out in the Allsopp Report:

- Considerable progress was made towards National Statistics status for the Index of Services (IoS) as a whole. In March 2006 the current experimental IoS release was replaced by a mainstream First Release. This was in recognition that nearly 60 per cent (by weight) of the IoS has been designated as having met National Statistics standards, compared with 30 per cent previously. To achieve this result, the methods used to measure the IoS were improved in line with international guidelines, by incorporating greater use of deflated turnover; improved service sector prices; and through

improvements flowing from measurement of government output and productivity

- ONS was active in a Eurostat-led taskforce, working towards reprioritising EU statistics. Intrastat (the VAT-based collection system for trade statistics) was one of a number of areas (alongside agricultural statistics, Prodcum business and transport statistics) that were identified for potential scaling back. This strategy supports demands for new statistics, for example on services and the new economy
- New quarterly statistics of employment in the public sector were compiled and published, and these figures were combined with data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) to generate estimates for employment in the private sector. These new statistics, together with new analyses bringing together information about employment in the public sector from across government, provided policymakers with much improved information
- The *Review of Employment and Jobs Statistics*, which investigated the sources of incoherence between estimates of employment from business survey and household survey sources, was published. It contained a number of recommendations for increasing coherence, including the recommendation that means should be found to implement the linkage of LFS unit-level records to the Business Register. The resulting enhanced LFS records could provide monthly employment statistics for broad industry groupings and for areas of workplace, defined consistently with the Business Register. These data, in turn, could be a potential key source of denominators for regional and industry specific productivity estimation on the bases of output per worker and output per hour. The results of the pilot of LFS/Business Register linkage will be available in spring 2006
- The Neighbourhood Statistics Service (NeSS) was further developed to make available more employment and local business data for use by neighbourhood renewal practitioners and others via the Internet

- Additional regional economic analysis was conducted on existing sources of economic data, including analysis on area classifications and on regional productivity using GVA and Labour Market data
- Estimates of Volume Indices of Capital Services (VICS) were published to support productivity work with better asset definition. New estimates of IT software investment were published in February 2006 to support revisions to National Accounts assets measures in 2007
- Business Data Linking was developed as a tool for use by ONS, other government departments and a range of academic researchers. Research projects have included ONS-led investigations into minimum wages, research and development capitalisation, and measuring the new economy as well as external academic work supported by ONS into productivity and multinational companies, and health cost allocations
- Improving Migration and Population Statistics (IMPS) has addressed issues around international migration and internal migration flows, and should lead to improvements to intra-UK migration estimates

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# Administrative Data and Data Sharing

## Introduction

The term ‘administrative data’ refers to information collected as part of an administrative system, such as those relating to taxation or civil registration. The units and variables are defined by the administrative rules and demands. Administrative data differ from statistical data (predominantly surveys) that are collected with the express purpose of producing statistics.

The development of the use of, and access to, administrative data has enabled the Government Statistical Service (GSS) to produce a wide range of new and improved official statistics. This in turn has helped improve decision-making, stimulate research and inform debate. There are pressures to increase the use of administrative data as:

- their use would reduce the response burden placed on individuals and businesses
- they can produce statistics at a finer level of geography than is possible with statistical data
- they measure the whole of a population of interest
- it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain survey response rates

This chapter examines the work that the GSS has undertaken to develop the use of administrative data over the period of this report.

## Strategic influences and policy drivers

There are several new policy and strategic drivers pushing the data sharing agenda that have emerged over the past 12 months. These include the Administrative Burden Reduction Project (ABRP) and ONS independence.

## Administrative Burden Reduction Project

The ABRP is being run by the Better Regulation Executive. Its aim is to identify regulations that place an administrative burden on businesses, charities and voluntary organisations, and to measure their cost. The measurement exercise commenced in September 2005. The key burden placed on businesses by the GSS is business surveys. In order to reduce this burden it is likely that the GSS will either have to cut surveys, or supplement or replace them with administrative data. This is a new driver for access to administrative data. For further information, please see the Cabinet Office website: [www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation/reducing\\_admin\\_burdens/index.asp](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation/reducing_admin_burdens/index.asp)

## ONS independence

ONS independence is potentially another new vehicle for data access. In November 2005 the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced to Parliament the Government’s intention to legislate for independence in statistics (see chapter 1). The consultation on proposals for this legislation invites views on the case for including provisions for increased data access in the planned legislation. It also makes clear the importance of protecting confidentiality and that this will be a core objective for the Governing Board of ONS, whatever the outcome with regards to data access.

## Aims and objectives

ONS has developed an Administrative Sources Strategy with three main priority areas for the development of administrative sources. These embrace Business Statistics (including meeting the recommendations of the Allsopp Review), Population Statistics and Neighbourhood Statistics.



The following section covers the work that has been carried out over the past year in these areas.

The GSS Working Party on Data Transfer was established to address concerns raised on legislation and practices affecting access to, and the confidentiality of, microdata and to identify the potential for using administrative data. Its report outlined several recommendations:

- establishment of a working group chaired by ONS to pursue a consistent and progressive approach to increasing data sharing between departments under existing legislation
- exploitation of the value of transferring non-disclosive microdata
- assessment of requests for the transfer of disclosive microdata should be based on source rather than type of user
- systematic communication across the GSS to identify opportunities to include data sharing clauses in new/amended legislation
- the National Statistician to pursue the introduction of a single piece of statistical legislation, and
- the National Statistician to play a major role in developing the efficient and effective use of all data sources held across government, including a discussion with Permanent Secretaries

This work is being taken forward across the GSS.

## Work in 2005/06

ONS is currently involved with the Home Office on establishing the statistical benefits to ONS and the wider GSS of the proposed legislation on identity cards. There are significant potential benefits for population statistics. This work is building on that done by the Citizen Information Project (CIP) that reported to ministers in 2005. It anticipated that a report will be published in due course, which will include a statement accepting recommendations by the sponsoring minister.

Work is also under way to establish the statistical benefits of the Home Office's e-Borders Programme. This is an initiative to create a more

effective system for tracking people as they enter and leave the UK. The electronic capture of information on all those entering and leaving the UK has potentially huge benefits to ONS in the measurement of international migration.

The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) has continued to work on the Managing Information Across Partners (MIAP) project, which aims to improve sharing of post-16 learning data. More information on this project can be found in chapter 18.

Work continues on the CLIP (Central and Local Government Information Partnership) Data Flows Study, which is looking at the flows of data from local government to central government and selected other public sector bodies (such as the Audit Commission) in order to identify duplication and near-duplication. This goes towards meeting the key ministerial targets of reducing the burden of data collection on local authorities and reducing bureaucracy. A list of 522 data returns has been compiled based on five local authorities. This list is being reviewed prior to being made publicly available for further comment by local and central government. The next phase of identifying duplication and near-duplication of data items will enable central government to look to undertake a redundancy review to end those data collections that are not necessary, and ultimately reduce the burden of data collection on local government.

There has been a considerable amount of work undertaken to research administrative sources and to build cases for greater data sharing. This section examines this work across the three priorities identified by the Administrative Sources Strategy.

ONS has been exploring various sources of administrative data to assess their potential use in supplementing or substituting for business survey data, and hence improving the quality of statistical outputs and/or reducing the costs to businesses of providing data for them. There are various constraints on, and delays in, obtaining access to some sources. ONS is currently exploring the potential use of:

- company accounts data from Companies House, available at present in electronic form through a commercial supplier
- Valuation Office Agency data on floorspace of business premises, and
- data from HM Revenue & Customs' Better Data for Corporation Tax Initiative

Work has continued on developing the use of administrative sources, predominantly at aggregate level. The Neighbourhood Statistics Service (NeSS) has continued to increase the number and range of administrative data outputs on its website to contribute to the Government's regeneration agenda. The ONS Census 2011 team is also investigating a range of administrative sources for enumeration intelligence, coverage assessment and quality assurance purposes.

The ONS Improving Migration and Population Statistics (IMPS) project was set up to improve the quality of migration and population statistics, and to ensure that the gap between the rolled forward population estimates and the 2011 Census is as small as possible. The IMPS project is carrying out national and local studies using a range of administrative data. More details of this work can be found on the National Statistics website at:

[www.statistics.gov.uk/imps](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/imps)

There have also been a couple of areas where attempts to improve access to administrative data have not been successful.

ONS developed a business case for consideration of a bulk data sharing clause in the Welfare Reform Bill to share ONS and Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) data, but the clause was not adopted. The statistical benefits of this sharing would have included the ability to:

- contribute to reliable measures of delivery against DWP's Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets
- provide analysis of variations in benefit take-up
- analyse transitions in and out of employment, and
- demonstrate improved social and economic outcomes for DWP clients

The General Register Office for Scotland (GROS), ONS and DWP developed a joint business case for a pilot project to establish the benefits to population statistics of linking DWP and census data. This pilot would have established the feasibility of linking together different datasets without a common identifier and the statistical benefits that would have accrued from a linked dataset. However, the legal and policy barriers in this case were insurmountable.

## Lessons learned

The statistical benefits of administrative data have continued to be exploited across the GSS. The scope for the use of administrative data (at both aggregate and individual record level) is increasing all the time with the development of new sources. Sharing administrative data will produce benefits beyond those of producing statistics. There is a growing recognition that collecting data once and using it many times is an important element of reducing administrative burden. The key is to balance the requirement for data and protecting the rights and privacy of those providing the data. The legal and policy barriers to bulk data sharing between government departments are still significant, even for purely statistical purposes.

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# Measurement of Government Output and Productivity

## UK Centre for the Measurement of Government Activity

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

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

## Overall aim and objectives

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

This aim will be achieved by:

- publishing high-quality business products, including both statistical and development products
- making significant progress in a development programme designed to enhance the authority and credibility of productivity analyses over time,

in particular by implementing the Atkinson Review recommendations

- evaluating the above against a number of key success criteria

## UKCeMGA business products

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

### Productivity analyses

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

### National Accounts time series

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

### Satellite accounts

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

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

## The development programme – implementing Atkinson Review recommendations

### Planning

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

### Development resources

Most of the development work is carried out in-house, in partnership with other government departments. However, there are areas where the relevant expertise and experience are not available in-house and the work can be done cost-effectively only by commissioning work from the outside research community.

### Success criteria

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

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

### Quality assurance

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

The terms of reference of the panels are to 'advise the National Statistician on whether the articles meet National Statistics standards, particularly in respect of relevance and quality'. The panels include

a number of experts in that chosen field from inside ONS, other government departments and external to government.

### Consultation processes

The Advisory Board also has a role in 'facilitating links between UKCeMGA and appropriate external bodies'. This will be of importance during the consultation processes which UKCeMGA sees as a fundamental aspect of its development programme. In line with the commitment made by the National Statistician on receiving the Atkinson Review Final Report, radical changes to methodology will be not be proposed before a thorough consultation with external experts has taken place. It is also recognised that some changes to methodology may be supported by the consultation process, but are either too early in their development phase to be implemented in the National Accounts, or the changes may be best represented outside the National Accounts. UKCeMGA will consult carefully on these issues.

## Achievements in 2005/06

### General achievements

At this early stage of UKCeMGA, considerable time and effort have been expended on setting up a new ONS division and putting in place the necessary processes to enable the division to function. These administrative objectives have been achieved alongside continuing to produce business products, progressing the development programme and evaluating progress against key success criteria.

### Recruitment

Progress was made on building the UKCeMGA team in 2005/06. In addition to the initial six staff who had been previously working on the Atkinson Review, a further 19 staff members have been recruited: six from external recruitment and 13 from within ONS.

### Governance structures

UKCeMGA has hosted three meetings of its Advisory Board and convened Quality Assurance panels for productivity analyses for Health, Education, Adult Social Care and Social Security Administration.

## Partnership agreements

A partnership agreement has been set up with National Accounts to clarify UKCeMGA's role as a compiler of National Accounts time series and in quality assuring expenditure time series. In addition, development action plans were agreed for 2005/06 with:

- HM Treasury (HMT)
- Department of Health (DH)
- Department for Education and Skills (DfES)
- Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
- Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA)
- Office of the Deputy Prime Minister – now the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) – for Fire Services
- Scottish Executive, and
- the Northern Ireland departments (including the Northern Ireland Office)

## Links with stakeholders

Progress has been made in identifying and building relationships with key stakeholders, both within and beyond government, including international partners.

## Achievements in business products

### National Accounts time series

UKCeMGA receives data for output volume measures directly from other government departments and then compiles the volume measures time series. These time series, along with analysis and briefing, are then delivered to the National Accounts, in accordance with the partnership agreement. UKCeMGA has made progress in formalising data delivery by drafting agreements between a number of departments, and UKCeMGA aims to replace the informal deliveries arrangements that were the normal arrangement prior to its establishment. The agreements ensure that the requirements of both customers and suppliers are given clarity and fit-for-purpose data can be delivered in a more timely way.

Many data improvements have been made with respect to Health, Social Security Administration and Fire Services, where quarterly time series are based on actual quarterly indicators.

## Development products

On development products, UKCeMGA has made progress in the areas of documentation and transparency, so improving the transparency of the process for calculating the estimates of public services.

In March 2006 UKCeMGA published an article describing the progress made on improving the quality and transparency of the processing of central government expenditure data. This progress was achieved by working in partnership with HMT; through the development of the new single data system; and with colleagues from National Accounts.

## Achievements in the development programme – progress with Atkinson Review recommendations

The following sections describe the key areas where progress has been made in areas of development outlined in the Atkinson Review – the Review's recommendations were grouped by the following topic areas:

### Input measures across public services – recommendations 5.1 to 5.9

- Specifications for National Accounts' needs from HMT's single data system were accepted by the development project team, including improvements to classification and tools to improve transparency of data flows. In addition, UKCeMGA was involved in training data suppliers in other government departments on uses made of data from the new single data system. Prior to the full implementation of the new system, UKCeMGA has produced 'line of sight' data tables demonstrating how parts of the central government and local authority datasets are currently processed to produce expenditure time series for the National Accounts
- UKCeMGA assisted in setting up the Local Authority Data High-level Working Group, which is addressing the challenges with obtaining fit-for-purpose local authority spending data for National Accounts and other productivity analyses
- The Health productivity analysis published by UKCeMGA included information on both direct and indirect methods of estimating labour inputs.

Progress has been made on drafting quality criteria for price deflators, in readiness for future publication

### Output measures across public services – recommendations 6.1 to 6.8

- Progress has been made across output volume measures of public services on widening coverage and improving weights (detailed in the sections below). From 2005/06 data from Northern Ireland have been used in the Health measure and some data from Wales have been used in the Education measure. In addition, good progress has been made on sharing methodology details with statisticians in other UK countries and developing proposals for extending volume measures
- Development work on quality adjustments has taken place across several public services in readiness for extensive consultation before firm proposals are published

### Implementation of changes to measures of public services – recommendations 7.1 to 7.9

- UKCeMGA has made public information on new or revised output series once they have been accepted for National Accounts. The first formal reviews of output measures are planned for 2007/08. In the meantime, UKCeMGA has continued to publish productivity analyses articles, with the first Education article and second Health article already published in October 2005 and February 2006 respectively. UKCeMGA has highlighted to devolved administrations the long-term objective of developing output measures for each UK country
- A bid for funds to take forward development work in social services has been made to the HMT Invest to Save fund. Development project proposals are being developed for bids to the Eurostat Centre of Excellence fund and the European Union Frameworks

### Health – recommendations 8.1 to 8.8

- Improvements on extending the coverage of the output measure and including data from Northern Ireland were introduced in *Blue Book 2005*
- Further developments are described in the productivity analysis article published in February

2006, the second for this public service. In particular, the article described options for quality adjustment in readiness for a full consultation process planned for 2006/07

- The development of improved measures of output in General Practice is being taken forward in partnership with DH, the Information Centre for Health and Social Care (the IC) and QResearch (part of the University of Nottingham), with the expectation of firm proposals in 2006/07
- ONS, health administrations and the IC have been working together to examine the NHS data sources and methods that are most appropriate for measuring counts of NHS activity and associated costs. There are plans to publish a report in May 2006

### Education – recommendations 9.1 to 9.8

- The replacement of pupil numbers with pupil attendance as a basis for the output volume measure has been made. The output volume measure is now calculated with weights updated annually, and indicators for Initial Teacher Training courses, health professional education and publicly funded nursery places have been included
- Further developments were described in the productivity analysis article published in October 2005, the first for this public service. The article described options for quality adjustment and input deflators in readiness for a full consultation process planned for 2006/07
- Coverage of the output volume measure has recently been extended to include data for Wales, for inclusion in *Blue Book 2006*

### Public Order and Safety – recommendations 10.1 to 10.6

- In discussion with the Northern Ireland departments (including the Northern Ireland Office), a proposal for the format of a crime-disposal matrix appropriate to the Northern Ireland Criminal Justice System has been put forward. Further work is needed to identify costs relating to each type of disposal
- DCA, in partnership with UKCeMGA, has developed a methodology for a cost-weighted

activity index for the Civil and Family Courts System, appropriate for the National Accounts. The methodology is described in a draft technical paper that DCA plans to publish. At present, proof of concept using data has been carried out for County Courts, while work is under way to extend the methodology to the wider Civil and Family Courts system

- The coverage and response costs of the existing Fire Services output volume measure were improved in *Blue Book 2005*. Options for further development of the Fire Services output measure were proposed at a consultation seminar held on 18 October 2005, attended by policymakers, practitioners and academics. The feedback from the consultation will inform future development work. A pay deflator is being developed by DCLG in partnership with UKCeMGA for use in the first productivity analysis article planned for 2006/07

## Social Protection – recommendations

### 11.1 to 11.5

- The coverage and weights were improved for the Adult Social Services output volume measure in *Blue Book 2005*. Progress has been made on early developments for quality adjustment and appropriate pay and price deflators, and these will be described in the first productivity analysis article planned for 2006. The quality adjustment proposals were discussed at a consultation seminar jointly hosted with DH on 11 November 2005, which was attended by a wide range of practitioners and academics. Discussions have also been held with devolved administrations on extending the methodology for Adult Social Services, with a view to including data in the output volume measure in 2006/07
- The coverage for the Social Security Administration output volume measure was improved in *Blue Book 2005*. Progress has been made on quality adjustment proposals and developing pay and price deflators, and these will be described in the first productivity analysis article planned for early 2006/07

## Evaluation against success criteria

### National Accounts improvements

A number of significant changes were proposed to National Accounts and included in the *Blue Book* dataset published in July 2005. In addition to these extensive changes, an improvement in the coverage and cost weights for the output volume measures for Courts will be introduced in *Blue Book 2006*.

### Expert resources

In addition to working closely with external research experts on the Health Services and Social Services, in 2005/06 UKCeMGA hosted a consultation seminar for experts on the Fire Services and jointly hosted with DH a consultation seminar on Adult Social Services.

### Team breadth and depth

UKCeMGA has made progress in increasing the capacity in the team for understanding the conceptual and statistical needs of National Accounts, increasing resources for interpretation and comment on statistics for the key public services and for the senior leadership of partnership with external stakeholders.

### Partnerships within government

UKCeMGA has built partnerships, both with the government departments with policy responsibility for the public services measured, and with wider government, in particular with HMT and the Office of Government Commerce.

### Partnerships beyond government

UKCeMGA is building relationships with:

- the National Audit Office (NAO) in identifying areas of joint interest, and hopes to do the same with the Audit Commission
- a number of academic groups, in particular the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR), Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Public Sector Research programme

### International partnerships

Internationally UKCeMGA is developing partnerships with other National Statistical Institutes (NSIs), in particular Norway and France, to promote and further develop its objective for raising the profile of measurement of public services. UKCeMGA has also built a strong partnership with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and made a major contribution to a Eurostat workshop on measuring government output.

UKCeMGA has also worked hard to include the broad approach of the Atkinson Review in the discussion of the revision of the international guidance, the System of National Accounts, although at this stage in the revision process it is too early to know to what extent the proposals may influence the final text. A general indication of the international influence of UKCeMGA's work is the large number of requests received for information and assistance from other NSIs worldwide.

### Robust compilation

UKCeMGA has made progress in developing robust processing systems, with a prototype processing system for compiling National Accounts volume measures completed, and improvements in standardisation and risk reduction of the spreadsheets used to carry out productivity calculations and analysis.

### Transparency

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

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

- Progress has been made in improving the transparency of UKCeMGA methods through the publication of the articles described in the section detailing achievements in business products

### Recognised independence

UKCeMGA published two productivity articles in 2005/06 on Education and Health. These were quality assured by a Quality Assurance panel including independent experts. The recognition of UKCeMGA's independent status will be underpinned by the future status of ONS as independent of government.

### Ongoing challenges

There a number of outstanding challenges facing UKCeMGA at the beginning of 2006/07 and these are detailed in the *Addendum to the National Statistics Work Programme 2005/06–2007/08* on the National Statistics website.

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# Supporting Devolved Policymaking

## Introduction

This chapter refers to statistical outputs at geographical levels below that of the UK as whole, in particular Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and the nine Government Office Regions in England. Several divisions of ONS co-ordinate the development of joined-up planning for sub-UK statistical information across the Government Statistical Service (GSS). This work is co-ordinated through the management of cross-cutting groups, such as the Statistics for Regional Policy Working Group. Other government departments and the devolved nations contribute to the development of sub-UK statistics and are well-represented on these cross-cutting groups. Regional and Local Division (RLD) within ONS has the task of maintaining effective working relationships between ONS and the devolved nations, developing effective working relationships between ONS and regional bodies in the UK, and developing its own programme of analysis on regional and local statistics in England.

## Strategic influences and policy drivers

### The European context

Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, is responsible for collecting a wide range of sub-UK data on behalf of the European Commission to help inform policymaking across Europe. In the UK, data are provided to Eurostat by ONS and other government departments. In this context Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland are categorised with the same geographical taxonomy for statistical purposes as the nine English regions (NUTS 1). ONS co-ordinates a UK-wide response to Eurostat projects such as Urban Audit II.

### Coherence between the four nations of the UK

There is a Memorandum of Understanding and a Concordat on Statistics between ONS and the devolved administrations of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The devolved administrations are represented on the various working groups and are regularly consulted on issues where coherence is required.

### Outcomes and outputs realised

RLD conducts research, gives advice and is developing a 'knowledge base' on regional and local analysis work being carried out in support of key area-based policies within the UK. 'Regional' in this context means any location-based analyses: regional, local, urban or rural areas; functional areas; and grid references. The analysis is organised around two broad topic areas: area-based and regional analysis; and regional economic analysis.

### Area-based and regional analysis

- Area-based analysis tools – during 2005/06 work focused on developing and providing tools to perform area-based analysis. ONS co-ordinated the publication in August 2005 of the Output Area Classification (OAC). This is a census-based area classification that complements similar classifications for health authority, local authority and ward-level geographies. These classifications are UK-wide, bringing together comparable census data for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The OAC can therefore help analysts to compare data, and the outcome of targeted policy initiatives, for similarly classified areas across the UK. The OAC can also be used as an aggregation tool within the Neighbourhood Statistics (NeSS) website to publish data for area type

- Travel to Work Areas – a feasibility study on updating the 1998 Travel to Work Areas with 2001 Census commuting data was conducted by Newcastle University in June 2005. ONS advised on the final report and co-ordinated its distribution among relevant government departments. Responses have indicated an interest in the commuting patterns of certain population groups
- StatsViewer – this data visualisation tool has been developed. The software enables the user to import and map customised, geographically referenced datasets. Although this product is still under test, some of the functionality has been incorporated into the NeSS website to allow users to map NeSS datasets. Such tools enable ad hoc analyses to be undertaken. Two articles based on this analysis are to be published in *Regional Trends* 39 in 2006: ‘Profiling Areas using the Output Area Classification’, and ‘Deprivation and Ethnicity in England: a Regional Perspective’
- Index of Multiple Deprivation – during the year ONS commissioned a feasibility study into producing an area classification using the underlying indices of the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) for England. The initial results of this research (September 2005) showed that the underlying indices alone are not very suitable for identifying such area-based patterns of deprivation, but it was recommended that research should continue using the underpinning data
- Migration patterns – research on migration patterns was commissioned in 2005 in order to develop techniques of spatial analysis of migration that would help to explain why people move; produce new breakdowns by social and ethnic categories; and inform the process of producing population estimates. A report on this research is due in 2006

### Regional economic analysis

ONS has provided statistical and economic analysis of the current state of the regions in England. A study of the determinants of regional economic performance was conducted, using a framework

adopted to allow the possibility of international comparisons. The work shows that the view of regional performance can change considerably according to the measure of productivity that is used. The results are being disseminated through articles and presentations, including an article entitled ‘Analysing Differences in Regional Economic Performance’, which will be published in *Regional Trends* 39.

The ‘joining-up’ and dissemination of data with a regional perspective is an important part of RLD’s role within ONS. This work has led to the production of the quarterly ‘Regional Economic Indicators’ article, published in *Economic Trends*. During the year the article has been developed to provide a more complete picture of the regions and devolved nations.

### Regional data on the National Statistics website

In October 2005 the first version of a new web portal, called the Regional Snapshot, was established on the National Statistics website. It is designed to act as a portal to a wide range of products: publications, reports, datasets and graphical representations relating to Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the English regions. The aim is to expand the functionality over time and in the longer term to provide easy access to a wide range of information covering all levels of geography. The web address is: [www.statistics.gov.uk/regionalsnapshot](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/regionalsnapshot)

### Urban Audit

The Urban Audit II project is sponsored by the European Commission and enables comparisons to be made between 258 European cities using standardised variables on topics from health and crime to unemployment and travel. These aim to show how life differs across a selection of 14 large and ten medium-sized cities in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Following the publication in 2004 of data for 2001, historical data on the same variables were collected for the years 1991 and 1996, and were published in July 2005. For further information, please see: [www.statistics.gov.uk/urbanaudit](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/urbanaudit)

## Food and agriculture

During 2005/06 the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) published English regional breakdowns of some food and agriculture datasets for the first time.

The Farm Business Survey (FBS) results were published by English region for the financial year ended March 2005. An England regional breakdown of the national summary measures of the Production and Income Account for Agriculture has also been produced. This is an enhancement of the 'Summary Measures by Country' table for 2004, originally published in Defra's *Agriculture in the United Kingdom*.

In February 2006 Defra's Agricultural Change and Environment Observatory published *Change in the Area and Distribution of Set-Aside in England in 2005 and its Environmental Impact*. This study includes data on the regional distribution of farmland that is set-aside land.

Further new regional analyses, with some datasets at UK NUTS 1 level, will be introduced during 2006/07.

All datasets are available on the Defra website: [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

## Regional sustainable development indicators

In December 2005 Defra published English regional versions of the UK Government's indicators of sustainable development. The indicators highlight issues within the priority areas of Sustainable Consumption and Production, Natural Resources, and Sustainable Communities. Other indicators provide useful contextual information. The indicators pull together already published statistics at regional level, to enable comparisons to be made between English regions, and with progress nationally. The indicators may be accessed via:

[www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/regional/index.htm](http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/regional/index.htm)

## Regional Trade Statistics

An important indicator of regional and devolved economic activity is the level of export trade that is achieved. *Regional Trade in Goods* statistics provide this information, and also act as a source of market

intelligence for the commercial and academic sectors.

The Statistics and Analysis of Trade Unit in HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) produces quarterly data for the trade in goods between the English regions, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and countries outside the UK. During 2005/06 HMRC incorporated a methodological change in the way that trade in natural gas and electricity is recorded, to meet the requirements of recent European legislation. For further information, please see:

[www.uktradeinfo.com](http://www.uktradeinfo.com)

## Northern Ireland

### Multiple Deprivation Measures

The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2005 (NIMDM 2005) was published in May 2005. This was accompanied by a detailed website, CD-ROM and dissemination programme to help encourage use of these measures. The NIMDM report identifies small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across Northern Ireland. It further develops previous measures published in 2001 and allows more effective targeting of policies and resources on deprived areas.

### Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service

The development of the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) continued throughout 2005/06. New developments included a significant increase in the volume and breadth of data held on the NINIS website and the development of an interactive map or statistical atlas facility. NINIS can be accessed at:

[www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk)

### Northern Ireland Census Office developments

In February 2005 Census Office published the 2001 *Key Statistics for Settlements*. The information provided a statistical profile of each settlement with a population of 1,000 or more usual residents, covering topics such as age, educational qualifications, labour market status, provision of care, ethnic group, religion and community background. The settlements were grouped in accordance with the eight-way classification outlined in the *Statistical*

*Classification and Delineation of Settlements Northern Ireland* report. In response to user demand, Census Office supplemented this by disseminating the same information for settlements with a usual resident population of between 500 and 999 people and both population and household counts for smaller settlements with less than 500 usual residents. Work was also undertaken to enhance the NINIS site to provide users with access to supporting maps and summary profiles for the various settlements.

## Scotland

Scotland, like the other devolved administrations, has an active programme of ongoing and developmental statistical activity.

### Scottish Statistics Plan

This plan lists a number of developments to improve the range of statistics to meet the growing requirements of devolved government. It also reflects the National Statistics agenda to improve the quality, reliability and accessibility of statistics so as to improve liaison and joint planning with users, providers and other analytical services. For further information, please see:

[www.scotland.gov.uk/stats](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats)

Achievements in statistics in the Scottish Administration will be covered in its own Annual Report later in 2006.

## Wales

The volume of data available on StatsWales (the web portal for statistics of the National Assembly for Wales) more than doubled over the year, with almost 600 outputs now available through the system. The following are some of the developments that took place in 2005/06:

### Economic Statistics for Wales

Longer-term plans for improving economic statistics include the commissioning of further short-term output indicators. These include the Index of Hotels and Restaurants for Wales, which was published in February 2006.

## Key client group datasets

In partnership with the Local Government Data Unit – Wales, the National Assembly for Wales established a National Pupil Database, which was launched in October 2005, based on schools' administrative data.

A new National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) was launched in July 2005. This is the first national community child health database in Wales and consists of anonymised records for all children born, resident or treated in Wales and born after 1987. It is the culmination of several years of work aiming to realise the all-Wales potential of local Child Health System databases which are held by NHS Trusts and used by them to administer child immunisation and health surveillance programmes. Two new publications based on the database were released in 2005/06.

### Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation

The new index was published in September 2005 (see chapter 23).

### Census Advisory Group for Wales

This group was set up jointly with ONS to facilitate strategic planning for the 2011 Census in Wales. Work has commenced to put the arrangements to involve the National Assembly in this process on a more formal basis.

### Diversity-related Statistics in Wales

The *Statistical Focus on Diversity in Wales* was published in August 2005.

In addition, there have been new outputs on cancer waiting times, diagnostic therapy waiting times, breastfeeding, individual school-level performance data, further education and work-based learning (from the new Lifelong Learning Wales database) and migration. Outputs may be accessed via:

[www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwalesheadline/index.htm](http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwalesheadline/index.htm)

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# Other Developments in 2005/06

## Introduction

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

## Creation of a National Statistics Centre for Demography

The task of measuring the population and its characteristics is an increasingly challenging one. The population structure is changing rapidly as a result of changes in society, such as increased mobility and different living arrangements.

The National Statistics Centre for Demography (NSCD) was established on 31 January 2006 when work on the production of national population projections and associated demographic outputs was transferred from the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) to ONS. This transfer had been recommended in the report of the Morris Review of the Actuarial Profession in March 2005. The Centre will aim to improve the quality of population statistics and will provide easily accessible, coherent and consistent statistics and analysis for the UK.

The Centre is based within ONS and works closely with key partners that have responsibilities for population statistics – the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS), the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) and the National Assembly for Wales. The NSCD and its partners will develop and deliver a UK-wide work programme on population statistics and demographic analysis. The UK Population Committee will approve, oversee and provide future direction on the work programme. An Advisory Board will provide advice and guidance to the Director of the NSCD.

## Contact

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## Public confidence in official statistics

### Introduction

The *Framework for National Statistics* articulates the Government's commitment to a statistical service that is responsive to stakeholders' needs and produces statistics that command public confidence. One of the key objectives of National Statistics is 'to improve public confidence in official statistics by demonstrating that they are produced to the best professional standards and free from political interference'.

### Work in 2005/06

In 2005 ONS conducted a survey to assess public confidence in official statistics. This was a follow-up to a similar survey carried out in 2004 and was designed to allow the establishment of a benchmark level of confidence.

The survey took the form of a series of questions relating to trust in statistics, trust in official institutions and trust in individuals that were included in the March 2005 round of the ONS Omnibus Survey. A report was published on the National Statistics website in September 2005, which detailed the results of the survey.

The results showed little change from the results of the 2004 survey, with confidence levels varying between statistical series and between participants. The results were though a cause for concern. Only 37 per cent of the people surveyed agreed that figures are generally accurate, only 17 per cent of people believed that official figures are produced without political interference and only 14 per cent felt that the Government uses the figures honestly. For further information, please see:

[www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/public\\_confidence/downloads/omnibusmarch05.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/public_confidence/downloads/omnibusmarch05.pdf)

Following publication of the survey results, ONS convened a cross-departmental working group, which included representatives from the GSS, the

Statistics Commission and the Royal Statistical Society, in order to determine a strategy to improve the integrity of official statistics. This group met for the first time in February 2006 and it was able to agree the elements of a draft strategy which it is currently refining. Once this strategy has been agreed it will be discussed with the National Statistician and Heads of Profession for Statistics (HoPs).

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## Changes to ONS outputs

### Introduction

Since the previous Annual Report and the appointment of Karen Dunnell as National Statistician, there has been a review of ONS's commitments for the next couple of years. ONS's funding and performance targets for 2006/07 and 2007/08 were provided by the 2004 Spending Review settlement. This provided ONS with a challenging programme of activity, and the commitment to deliver on a number of new initiatives, as well as its ongoing core business. Like all government departments, ONS also received challenging efficiency and relocation targets that must be met during the next two years. Although the Chancellor of the Exchequer has now announced proposals for making ONS independent of government (see chapter 1), this is not expected to change the need to re-examine costs.

In order to contain costs and allow the forward programme of work to continue, ONS has examined its survey programme and proposed a number of changes to users for 2006/07 and 2007/08. The proposed changes fell into two categories. The 'Stage 1' package contained some low-level cuts to business survey outputs that largely reflected an updating of the priorities of the programme. 'Stage 2' contained some proposals that were expected to be more controversial.

In addition, ONS had to introduce some emergency measures ('Stage 0') to contain expenditure in 2005/06 and these had some impact on the survey programme. The details of all of the changes to the survey programme are shown in Table 13.1 below.

### Strategic objectives and policy drivers

The changes that are being made to the survey programme (apart from Stage 2) mainly reflect the changing priorities of users and should not cause them concern. Indeed, most of the changes are part of the ONS plan to reduce the costs to business of completing ONS surveys. Other changes are tactical to meet some short-term financial pressures.

The Stage 2 package contained some elements that would have had an adverse impact on the strategic direction of National Statistics (such as regional

information), but ONS has decided not to pursue some of these following consultation.

## Aims and objectives

The cuts that have been made to the survey programme have been driven by the need to contain and reduce costs to both businesses and ONS. This reprioritisation of surveys is something that takes place from time to time, but is usually done in the context of individual quinquennial/ triennial reviews of individual surveys. Looking across the surveys in a more holistic approach has identified greater opportunities.

## Work to date

The changes identified fall into three categories, as indicated in Table 13.1:

- Stage 0 cuts have been implemented and will be reviewed to determine whether they are to continue into 2006/07
- Stage 1 cuts are being implemented and will take effect from a variety of dates as indicated
- One of the Stage 2 cuts (IPS) has been agreed and will be implemented, and one is still under consideration (ASHE). Other proposed Stage 2 cuts have been rejected.

ONS has also made other changes that will help to contain costs including savings on the RPI/CPI price collection and:

## New monthly journal merging *Economic Trends* and *Labour Market Trends*

*Economic Trends* and *Labour Market Trends* between them cover a wide range of economic and labour market issues. Over the last two years ONS has been conducting a review of its print portfolio, including rounds of customer research. A key outcome of this review was the recommendation of a single flagship journal, recognising that the issues covered in these two publications are increasingly interrelated. From January 2007 ONS will publish a new monthly journal merging *Economic Trends* and *Labour Market Trends*. It will include a mix of feature articles, a regular economic review, key indicators, news on statistical developments, a small set of time

series data, and information on publications and online data. The format, content and style of the new journal have been strongly guided by customer research. The prototype has been thoroughly tested with existing subscribers and key stakeholders, and the merger is seen as a positive step.

## Outcomes and outputs realised

The reprioritisation of the survey programme has ensured that, for the future, the resources devoted to each survey are better aligned with the needs of users. All surveys have been examined at a high level as part of the process and the outputs confirmed by users. In the context of tight financial budgets for the future and increasing pressure to reduce the costs of form-filling to businesses, ONS is well placed to argue that the survey programme reflects the current needs of its users.

## Contact

For more information, please contact:

**Stephen Penneck**, Director of Surveys and Administrative Sources, ONS  
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**Table 13.1: Changes to ONS Outputs:  
Recent changes to the Survey Programme  
Stage 0 – 2005/06 changes**

<i>Cuts</i>
Change quarterly Prodcom survey to annual
Change Monthly Internet Service Providers survey to quarterly
More focused validation of business surveys
Reduction in paper reminders for eight surveys (This cut is currently being reviewed and the reminders have been reinstated in some cases)

## Stage 1

<i>Proposed cuts</i>	<i>Timing of change (reference period)</i>
<b>Dropping a survey or variable</b>	
Purchases Surveys (Annual) – reduction in costs of around 25%	2006. Further work needed to identify the detailed proposal
Quarterly Service Sector Stocks (Hotels and Restaurants; other business services)	Quarter 1 2006
Monthly Stocks Surveys	April 2006
Dropping the Financial Intermediation sector from Annual Business Survey Part 2	2006, subject to review after a year
Remove land and existing buildings question from Capital Expenditure	Quarter 2 2006
<b>Reduction in sample sizes</b>	
Quarterly stocks and Capital Expenditure – a reduction of 5000 in each sample	Quarter 2 2006. (Provided methodological work needed can be completed in time)
Annual Business Survey – look to cut down the number of small business in the sample providing financial information by a minimum of 5000	2006, further work on impact needed before details are finalised
E.commerce survey – reduce sample from 9000 to 8000	2006. (Provided methodological work needed can be completed in time)
<b>Reducing outputs (but not surveys)</b>	
Stop publishing press releases on machine tools and engineering releases – data continues to be on National Statistics Website	July 2006

## Stage 2

<i>Cuts</i>	<i>Timing of change (reference period)</i>
<b>Dropping a survey or variable</b>	
To reduce the questions for the contra-flow on the International Passenger Survey to those needed for migration statistics. There is no effect on the main flow (ie UK residents returning home and foreign visitors returning to their own country)	By April 2007
<b>Reduction in sample sizes</b>	
To reduce the sample for the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings by 10 percent	2007 Survey. This is still under consideration, taking into account the results of the consultation in which users expressed their reservations

## Contact

For more information, please contact:

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Administrative Sources, ONS  
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themes

# Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry

## Report of progress against plans 2005/06

### Introduction

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

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

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

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

### Priority projects

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

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

### Progress to date

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

### Planned future work

Planned future work includes:

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

### Completion date

The website is to be launched in 2006. The SFFS targets and trajectories run until 2010.

### Cost

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

### Contact

[david.fernall@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:david.fernall@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

## B. Making greater use of administrative data

### Aims and objectives

To increase the use of administrative sources of data to:

- reduce compliance costs for both Defra and respondents by reducing duplication .
- provide richer datasets for analysis

### Progress to date

The facility for June agricultural survey questions to be submitted via the whole farm approach has been possible since June 2006. This is a new system which provides farmers with a single route to give information to Defra for use in a wide variety of purposes including statistics. The following web link provides further details:

[www.defra.gov.uk/farm/sustain/wfa/default.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/sustain/wfa/default.htm)

Discussions are taking place about developing land, livestock and customer information databases. A project is beginning in 2006 to see how we can make greater use of the data collected in the Cattle Tracing System (CTS).

### Planned future work

Further work is planned on the use of CTS data which will aim to replace the June and December survey questions in time for the launch of the livestock repository.

Work will continue to increase the statistical input into the development of administrative systems in order that its use can be maximised for these purposes with a view to reducing statistical collection.

### Completion date

A specific immediate target is to replace much of the cattle questions in 2007 by data from the CTS.

### Cost

Around £100,000 a year.

### Contacts

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[nick.olney@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:nick.olney@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

## C. Animal health and welfare indicators

### Aims and objectives

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

[www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/ahws/strategy/ahws.pdf](http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/ahws/strategy/ahws.pdf)

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

### Progress to date

A framework of livestock indicators has been developed and approved by the England Implementation Group (a Defra-appointed steering group to oversee the delivery of the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy). A project group, including statistical and economic representation from Defra, the Scottish Executive and the National Assembly for Wales, has been set up to co-ordinate the development of indicators across Great Britain.

Work has started on devising measures and sourcing appropriate data, from both statistical and administrative sources, to enable the population of the indicators.

### Planned future work

At a strategic level, further work is needed to develop a set of indicators for companion animals (pets) to complement the existing set of livestock indicators.

At an indicator level, further work is required to source data in order to populate the indicators. This will include some original data collection. Further significant work is also needed to develop a number of indicators, in particular the development of an index to measure the ongoing status of livestock health and welfare.

### Completion date

Work on the strategy started in 2003/04 and is expected to take fully ten years to deliver. It is expected to take until at least 2007/08 to develop the indicators fully, with some monitoring functions being required for ten years or more.

### Cost

It is difficult to estimate resource costs over the duration of the project. The current Work Plan for 2006/07 envisages costs of around £100,000.

### Contact

dave.russell@defra.gsi.gov.uk

### Theme Group Members

This Work Programme was developed by:

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Paul Caskie  
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Graham Collett  
*Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs*

Adam Krawczyk  
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Department*

Tom McMahon  
*Central Statistics Office, Ireland*

Alistair Murray  
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Stuart Neil  
*National Assembly for Wales*

Stuart Platt  
*Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs*

Allan Reese  
*Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture  
Science*

Sheila Ward  
*Forestry Commission*

Darran Tucker  
*Office for National Statistics (Secretary)*

### Useful websites

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

National Statistics  
[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
[www.defra.gov.uk/esg/default.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/esg/default.htm)

Department of Agriculture and Rural  
Development, Northern Ireland  
[www.dardni.gov.uk](http://www.dardni.gov.uk)

Forestry Commission  
[www.forestry.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/statistics)

National Assembly for Wales  
[www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/  
index.htm](http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/index.htm)

Scottish Executive Environment and Rural  
Affairs Department  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/who/dept\\_rural.asp](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/who/dept_rural.asp)

# Commerce, Energy and Industry

## Report of progress against plans 2005/06

### Introduction

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

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

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

### Priority projects

#### A. Business Data Laboratory

##### Aims and objectives

The further development and maintenance of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Business Data Laboratory (BDL) with the following objectives:

- to provide a corporate solution to secure, cross-site access to microdata for research purposes, the Virtual Microdata Laboratory (VML)
- to provide a single, secure home for all ONS business microdata and non-ONS data in the VML
- to assist in addressing ONS data issues, including data quality, the development of new National Accounts indicators (such as IT stock), and integration of administrative and survey data
- to assist in the integration of analysis within ONS and also the ONS Statistical Modernisation Programme (SMP)
- to provide an analytical resource for ONS, other government departments and academic users
- to participate fully in the policy agenda surrounding microdata use, including confidentiality, disclosure control, and the role of ONS as a supplier of statistical information

##### Progress to date

In 2005/06 there was a large increase in usage of the BDL by academics. The most noticeable impact has been on the productivity agenda: of the references cited in the Productivity Report underpinning the 2006 Budget, almost all the empirical analysis of productivity in the UK is now based on BDL microdata. More generally, a major international biennial conference saw over 20 of the papers based upon ONS data, compared with four in 2003. Of those papers, seven were produced by ONS researchers.

There has also been a large increase in government use of the data. In particular, the volume of work generated by DTI projects has necessitated the creation of a separate VML to cater for this user. The VML is also being used to analyse confidential HMRC data for the first time, which required a significant change in approach by both organisations.

However, the major impact on ONS has been the increasing use of the VML by internal researchers and the research produced. Projects carried out by the economists in ONS using the VML include:

- rebuilding the Annual Respondents Database, which is the most important dataset in the BDL and the foundation for much of the analysis. The new dataset is easier to use, faster to update, has improved coverage and has resolved inconsistencies in the longitudinal thinking. A launch article has been prepared for *Economic Trends* in summer 2006
- estimating IT investment, which has added 0.5 per cent to the UK's official Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- leading a European project to look at the capitalisation of Research and Development expenditure – an EU requirement for 2008 whose impact on National Accounts has only had very limited studies to date
- creation of a historical Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR) – work has been carried out to rebuild ONS's core register of businesses to provide a historical series of business demographics, for use by both researchers and ONS. This has led to the creation of the Business Structure Database (BSD). This is the first time the full range of demographic events has been defined by any statistical institute and a pilot version of the dataset is now available for use
- reassessing the quality of all the hours and earnings data in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), the UK's most important measures of labour costs. Although this work is still in progress, it has led to a new methodology for calculating low pay, a re-evaluation of the data collected, and an innovative model of how pay levels are set near the Minimum Wage

### Planned future work

In 2006/07 the BDL will continue to develop its data-centred research goals. The analysis of linked LFS-ASHE data will provide a unique micro-level Quality Review of these two datasets. Preliminary results show significant implications for the use of these datasets by ONS and other bodies. The pilot BSD will be reviewed in autumn 2006 and the production version of the dataset will be created.

The BDL will contribute to EU, Eurostat and OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) programmes on the impact of IT, research and development, and improved earnings datasets.

Internally funded work includes: a review of the earnings of the self-employed for National Accounts, backcasting short-term indicators of wage inflation for HMT and developing a research version of the core business survey data that is fully consistent with the ONS regional breakdown. BDL will also be supporting a controversial, but extremely important, external research project to look into improving estimates of short-term output indicators, one of ONS's most visible and sensitive outputs.

However, the main development in 2006/07 will be to place BDL on a firmer ethical, technical and financial footing. A strategy paper is being prepared for consultation over summer 2006 on the purpose, role, technology, funding and access strategy for BDL over the next few years. The target is an agreed plan for the next five years, with funding in place, by autumn 2006, for the implementation of wider access to VML sites by the end of 2006. This is an ambitious programme, but necessary given the dramatic pace of development of the VML.

### Completion date

Autumn 2006, for the agreed strategic plan for the VML. Other work is ongoing.

### Cost

Not available.

### Contact

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## B. Improvements in quality and reliability of pension statistics

### Aims and objectives

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

### Progress to date

An inter-departmental Pensions Statistics Task Force (PSTF) was set up by ONS in May 2004 with membership from ONS, Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and HMRC. In addition, a Pension Statistics Advisory Group (PSAG), including government and non-government members, was established to oversee the work of the PSTF and to co-ordinate work on pension statistics across government. The advisory group provides a valuable way of engaging with key stakeholders.

The PSTF work plan included a number of projects that have now been completed. The first edition of *Pension Trends* was published in October 2005. It brought together pension statistics from a range of sources and included analysis of key pension issues. The PSTF developed new methodology for compiling estimates of pension contributions in the National Accounts. The new results were published in June 2005. The PSTF also initiated changes to the ONS pension fund and insurance company surveys in order to improve the quality of the source data. Some of the first results were published in early 2006. See: [www.statistics.gov.uk/pensiontrends](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pensiontrends)

The progress made in improving pension statistics was noted in Appendix A of the *Second Report of the Pensions Commission*. The report also noted that further work still needs to be done. In recognition of the importance of the work started by the PSTF, ONS established a permanent Pensions Analysis Unit (PAU), which succeeded the PSTF in November 2005. A work plan for the PAU through to 2008 has been developed.

### Planned future work

The PAU will continue to work towards improving the quality of pension statistics and to rebuild public confidence. The PSAG will continue to meet and

to ensure that there is full inter-departmental co-ordination on pension statistics. The PAU will monitor user confidence in pension statistics through the PSAG and from user and media comments.

A strategy for updating *Pension Trends* is being developed, starting with a user consultation exercise that will inform future direction, and the PAU will be developing an analysis of new data sources for inclusion in future *Pension Trends*. ONS is currently negotiating with the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) for the transfer of the Occupational Pension Scheme Survey from the 2006 survey onwards. A further round of improvements to ONS surveys will be undertaken, including work on the pension fund and insurance company surveys.

### Completion date

The current work plan of the PAU runs until 2007/08.

### Cost

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

### Contact

[chris.daffin@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:chris.daffin@ons.gsi.gov.uk)

## C. Development of regional and local estimates of energy consumption

### Aims and objectives

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

### Progress to date

Data for gas and electricity consumption, based on information from meters, have been published by local authority area. Estimates have also been developed of final consumption of other fuels, including total final energy consumption, at local authority level.

### Planned future work

This includes:

- release of high-level regional and local energy indicators (2006)
- release of quality measures for local and regional electricity and gas estimates (2006)
- development of a new regional energy website (summer 2006)
- publication of electricity consumption estimates at middle layer Super Output Area (SOA) level (autumn 2006)
- publication of gas consumption estimates at middle layer SOA level (December 2007)

### Completion date

December 2007.

### Cost

£20,000

### Contact

[chris.bryant@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:chris.bryant@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

## D. E-collection of energy statistics

### Aims and objectives

The aim is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the energy data collection by introducing an electronic data collection system. Energy data have in the past been collected in a variety of ways. For electricity, companies completed forms in Word and submitted them via fax, post or email. For gas, coal and downstream oil, the companies completed Excel spreadsheets and sent the information via email.

### Progress to date

The project was completed at the end of March 2006. DTI now collects coal, gas, oil and electricity regular monthly and/or quarterly data on Excel spreadsheets and provides companies with the option of submitting these via secure means using DTI's Oil and Gas Portal.

### Completion date

The project was completed in March 2006.

### Cost

£20,000 cost of consultant to design portal application.

### Contact

[chris.bryant@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:chris.bryant@dti.gsi.gov.uk)



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

### Aims and objectives

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

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

### Progress to date

Following a meeting of the Energy Statistics Committee in May 2004, it was agreed that there would be a test run of the new methodology for the collection of prices as at 1 January 2005. Following this exercise, in which the UK participated, Eurostat has updated the methodology and this was agreed at the Energy Statistics Committee meeting in June 2005.

As the proposed regulation has to be approved by both the European Council and European Parliament, it is envisaged that it will come into force during the first quarter of 2007.

### Planned future work

DTI is already running a survey to collect information needed under the new methodology, but needs to continue to play an active role within Eurostat to ensure an effective rollout.

### Completion date

The survey should be rolled out across Europe in the first quarter of 2007.

### Cost

Not available.

### Contact

[peter.matejic@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:peter.matejic@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

## F. Review of the International Trade in Services Survey questionnaire

### Aims and objectives

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

### Progress to date

The revised Quarterly International Trade in Services (QITIS) questionnaire was despatched to all businesses in the panel from the second quarter of 2005 onwards. Field tests were carried out in the final quarter of 2004 and in the first quarter of 2005 whereby half the QITIS panel received the revised questionnaire and half received the original questionnaire. So far, QITIS has failed to reach the required response rate for provisional results, although there is no problem with the response rate for final results.

The revised Annual International Trade in Film and Television Services (FTV) questionnaire was despatched in November 2005. The revised Annual International Trade in Services (AITIS) questionnaire was despatched in January 2006.

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

### Planned future work

ONS is continuing to monitor response rates for all the surveys. In addition, ONS's Data Capture Methodology team is measuring the error rates for the QITIS questionnaire. This monitoring has been in place since the first quarter of 2005 and ONS will shortly have results for all four quarters of 2005. To date, the results show that the error rates are improving over time.

A post-implementation review will be carried out once the first set of annual results for 2005 has been completed.

#### Completion date

Approximately November 2006.

#### Cost

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

#### Contact

[jane.morgan@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:jane.morgan@ons.gsi.gov.uk)

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

### Aims and objectives

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

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

[www.culture.gov.uk/global/research/det/default.htm](http://www.culture.gov.uk/global/research/det/default.htm)

### Progress to date

Work to expand the list of SICs, and to revise the proportions applied to them, was postponed for the 2005 update of the *Creative Industries Economic Estimates* bulletin (published October 2005). This decision was taken because of the continuing need to assess the available evidence to reflect most accurately the economic contribution of the Creative Industries, and the limitations of using official data sources.

DCMS was fully engaged with the SIC 2007 revision process and has worked with ONS, DTI and other stakeholders to submit new five-digit subclass proposals where appropriate, given the limitations of official data collection systems for these sectors.

### Planned future work

DCMS ministers recently launched a 'Creative Economy Programme' to look into key issues driving productivity in the Creative Industries. Evidence and analysis has been identified as a key theme to this work, and the planned work to

develop the *Creative Industries Economic Estimates* bulletin to use the DET definitions (and associated proportions) will now be encompassed within this strand of the programme.

Further information on this programme can be found at:

[www.cep.culture.gov.uk](http://www.cep.culture.gov.uk)

### Completion date

The evidence and analysis strand of the Creative Economy Programme is due to report in summer 2006, with detail of planned research a key component of this. In light of the findings, the methodology for the next *Creative Industries Economic Estimates* bulletin may be revised, although this is still scheduled to be updated in autumn 2006.

### Cost

No significant cost, apart from purchase of unpublished data for SIC subclasses and/or commissioned ad hoc analysis from ONS.

### Contact

[ed.pickering@culture.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ed.pickering@culture.gsi.gov.uk)

## G. Development of new Short Term Output Indicators for Wales

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

## H. Implementing the Allsopp Review

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

## Theme Group Members

This Work Programme was developed by:

Tim Andrews (Chair)  
*Department of Trade and Industry*

Keith Brook  
*Department of Trade and Industry*

Chris Bryant  
*Department of Trade and Industry*

Pam Davies  
*Office for National Statistics*

Lynn Graham  
*Scottish Executive*

Ed Pickering  
*Department for Culture, Media and Sport*

Frances Pottier  
*Department of Trade and Industry*

Geoff Reed  
*Department of Trade and Industry*

Tricia Williams  
*HM Revenue & Customs*

Edward Zamboni  
*HM Revenue & Customs*

Matt Prior (Secretary)  
*Office for National Statistics*

### Useful websites

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

National Statistics  
[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

Department for Communities and Local Government  
[www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

Department for Culture, Media and Sport  
[www.dcms.gov.uk](http://www.dcms.gov.uk)

Department for Transport  
[www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk)

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment,  
Northern Ireland  
[www.detini.gov.uk](http://www.detini.gov.uk)

Department of Trade and Industry  
[www.dti.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.dti.gov.uk/statistics)

HM Revenue & Customs  
[www.hmrc.gov.uk](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk)

National Assembly for Wales  
[www.wales.gov.uk](http://www.wales.gov.uk)

Scottish Executive  
[www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)

UK Trade Information  
[www.uktradeinfo.com](http://www.uktradeinfo.com)

# Crime and Justice

## Report of progress against plans 2005/06

### Introduction

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

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

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

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

### Priority projects

#### A. Integration of the Scottish criminal justice statistical and management information system (SMIS) project

##### Aims and objectives

The overall aim of the project is to prove the concept of a data warehouse approach to gathering statistical

and management information on Scottish criminal justice cases. In particular, the project will seek to:

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

### Progress to date

Following acceptance of a scoping study, a pilot version of the SMIS data warehouse and front-end analysis and reporting tool was built in autumn 2005. Since then the pilot system has undergone initial evaluation and user acceptance testing. Work to test operational requirements more fully, such as updating the system with regular data extracts, is also in progress. This initial phase of testing work has been completed, subject to sign off by the review group.

### Planned future work

From April 2006 it is planned to make the pilot SMIS system more widely available to the target user community. The purpose of this will be to:

- endorse the initial evaluation and testing work carried out on the pilot system
- identify shortcomings in the underlying data and in the front-end analysis tool
- identify and trial additional analysis of the data, in particular to help meet the emerging information needs of the National Criminal Justice Board and local criminal justice boards
- scope, cost and prioritise further enhancements and improvements to the pilot system in order to address identified shortcomings

Moving from a pilot SMIS system to a fully operational one will be dependent on a successful evaluation of the pilot system, having an agreed launch strategy and training materials in place, and on the availability of sufficient technical and other resources.

### Completion date

November 2006.

### Cost

The cost for the whole pilot, including initial work already carried out is £97,000:

2004/05: £25,000

2005/06: £66,000

2006/07: £6,000

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

### Aims and objectives

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

### Progress to date

This has been the first year that the Home Office has had access to HOPNC and this has enabled it to revise the measure relating to the Public Service Agreement (PSA) target on reoffending for adults and juveniles. HOPNC is also being used to provide criminal history information internally within the Home Office and externally to other government organisations, universities and service providers.

### Planned future work

A pilot project has been undertaken to look at the provision of reoffending reports to probation areas. The pilot was successful, and the development and implementation of the reports will progress through 2006/07. Development of frequency and severity measures that will add context to the reoffending rates has progressed well and will be published in 2006/07.

### Project length

HOPNC is an ongoing project.

### Cost

Not available.

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### Contact

[pat.dowdeswell@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:pat.dowdeswell@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

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

### Aims and objectives

The aims of the project are to:

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

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

### Progress to date

A scoping study investigating a number of options for Self-Classified Equity Monitoring Data Collection recommended conducting a self-classified equity monitoring pilot. The findings of the pilot were submitted to the Criminal Justice Board in March 2006 and the team is currently awaiting a decision at senior level on further implementation.

The Equity Monitoring Driver to Causeway Project is ongoing, with progress reports submitted regularly. The final part of the project relies on information from Causeway Data Sharing Mechanism 1 (DSM1). The revised date for release of DSM1 is 2007; this will cause subsequent delay in completion of the driver project which is dependent on Causeway remaining on target to meet this proposed deadline.

### Planned future work

An overall equity monitoring system is likely to combine the data collected via the Causeway Driver Project with the self-classified element. Based on

the current timescales, this is not likely to be implemented until at least early 2008.

### Completion date

During 2007/08.

### Cost

To be determined.

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

### Aim and objectives

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

The purpose of the strategy is to:

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

### Progress to date

Prioritisation questionnaires were issued during February and March 2005, and follow-up interviews were held with key stakeholders in June 2005. A draft strategy has now been circulated to the Criminal Justice Board and statisticians working within the Northern Ireland criminal justice agencies. The comments received are being incorporated within the strategy.

### Planned future work

The strategy will be published during 2006/07.

### Completion date

Summer 2006.

### Cost

Not available.

## Contact

eddie.finn@nio.x.gsi.gov.uk

## E. Development of the Northern Ireland Crime Survey

### Aims and objectives

The Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS) is a personal interview survey of the experiences and perceptions of crime of adults living in private households throughout Northern Ireland. During 2005 NIO planned to introduce continuous fieldwork on the survey, increase the sample size and introduce a new series of questions measuring confidence in the Criminal Justice System and the reasons for the level of confidence (via the Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey). Further information can be found at:

[www.nio.gov.uk/index/statistics-research.htm](http://www.nio.gov.uk/index/statistics-research.htm)

### Progress to date

Fieldwork began in January 2005 as planned and continued throughout the year. The achieved sample size for 2005 was approximately 3,800.

### Planned future work

It is planned to publish a series of findings from the NICS including: National Statistics on perceptions of, and concern about, crime in Northern Ireland and on crime victimisation in Northern Ireland; and other statistics on experience of drug misuse and on experience of domestic violence in Northern Ireland.

### Project length

Ongoing.

### Cost

Not available.

## Contact

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

### Aims and objectives

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

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

### Progress to date

Work has been carried out on determining the specification and functional data requirements for an 'NMIS data hub' within the Home Office. The system will be capable of holding record level crime data from all police forces, including detailed location information such as postcode and grid reference. Work on building this system has started and is planned to finish during 2008.

Analysis of a pilot system (holding data from a subset of forces) provided confirmation that access to NMIS data will enable more detailed analyses of crime to be carried out (particularly for lower level geographies), while reducing some of the burden on data providers (the police).

Information from the forces involved in the pilot was analysed using Geographic Information System (GIS) software and, where the quality was acceptable, this information was aggregated to Super Output Area level. An experimental dataset holding the number of offences recorded during

2003/04 in 13 police force areas has been published through the ONS Neighbourhood Statistics (NeSS) website. Discussions are ongoing with ONS regarding the best possible presentation of the data on NeSS.

### Planned future work

The experimental data will be expanded to increase the number of forces' data held, initially through voluntary data collections from forces, until the data hub development is completed. It is planned that more up-to-date information (for 2004/05 and 2005/06) will be provided before the end of 2006. Once the data hub is in place and fully functional, information should be available on a consistent basis across the whole of England and Wales.

### Completion date

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

### Cost

This project has been partially funded through the Neighbourhood Statistics budget. The allocation for 2005/06 was £239,000.

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

### Aims and objectives

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

### Progress to date

An initial review of main BCS systems was completed in late 2004. This came up with a number of recommendations to streamline and improve the processing.

The work was then extended to include additional processing undertaken on the youth boost sample by colleagues in another business area. This second stage was completed in early 2005 and, resulting from this work, it has been decided to integrate the two processing streams.

### Planned future work

A timetable for implementation, including parallel running, is yet to be finalised, but work is expected to be completed over the next six months.

### Completion date

Autumn 2006.

### Cost

The final cost is expected to be in the region of £25,000.

## Contact

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## Theme Group Members

This Work Programme was developed by:

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*Home Office*

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*Department for Constitutional Affairs*

Pat Dowdeswell

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*Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency*

Penny Innes

*Department for Constitutional Affairs*

Chris Kershaw

*Home Office*

Tony Mathewson

*Police Service of Northern Ireland*

David Signorini

*Scottish Executive*

Alison Walker

*Home Office*

Darran Tucker (Secretary)

*Office for National Statistics*

## Useful websites

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

National Statistics

[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

Crown Prosecution Service

[www.cps.gov.uk](http://www.cps.gov.uk)

Department for Constitutional Affairs

[www.dca.gov.uk](http://www.dca.gov.uk)

HM Courts Service

[www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk](http://www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk)

Home Office, Research, Development and Statistics

[www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.htm](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.htm)

Northern Ireland Court Service

[www.courtsni.gov.uk](http://www.courtsni.gov.uk)

Northern Ireland Office

[www.nio.gov.uk](http://www.nio.gov.uk)

Northern Ireland Policing Board

[www.nipolicingboard.org.uk](http://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk)

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

[www.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.nisra.gov.uk)

Police Service of Northern Ireland

[www.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

Probation Board for Northern Ireland

[www.pbni.org.uk](http://www.pbni.org.uk)

Scottish Executive

[www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)

# Economy

## Report of progress against plans 2005/06

### Introduction

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

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

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

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

### Priority projects

#### A. Implementing the Allsopp Review

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

#### B. Atkinson Review

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

#### C. Statistics Commission Revisions Review

##### Aims and objectives

In 2003 the Statistics Commission asked the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) to undertake a review of revisions to economic statistics. The report was published in April 2004, together with an overview from the Statistics Commission. The report found that ‘much of the public criticism that such revisions have recently stimulated is unfair’, but did make a number of recommendations for change. ONS’s response was published in May 2004 and a project was established to take the response forward. For further information see:

[www.statistics.gov.uk/about\\_ns/economic\\_revisions.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about_ns/economic_revisions.asp)

##### Progress to date

Work on the project was completed in 2005 with a final report on progress published in *Economic Trends* in December 2005 – the article is available on the National Statistics website at:

[www.statistics.gov.uk/ci/article.asp?id=1289](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/ci/article.asp?id=1289)

Substantial progress has been made against all the key recommendations with articles and reports published on many of them. For example, a lot of work has been done to influence external perceptions about revisions, through an Economic Statistics Forum at the Bank of England in 2004

and other events. Also, work begun before the review has continued, leading to much more information being published regularly on revisions to key statistics and a start has been made on publishing Quality Reports.

#### Planned future work

Improvements implemented will be continued and broadened as part of normal business.

#### Completion date

October 2005.

#### Cost

Not applicable.

## D. Short Term Output Indicators for Wales

### Aims and objectives

The programme to improve economic statistics for Wales has two main strands:

- to improve underlying data sources for both employment- and business-related statistics by supplementing the UK-wide quarterly Labour Force Survey with a boosted annual Welsh Labour Force Survey (now Annual Population Survey) and by boosting the Welsh sample of a range of ONS's annual business surveys, and
- as described below, to provide up-to-date measures of economic performance by compiling a range of short-term economic output indicators for various sectors of the Welsh economy – this work is being carried out for the Assembly by ONS, and they are currently around half-way through the programme

### Progress to date

The following output indicators have been produced:

- Welsh Indices of Production and of Construction
- experimental Welsh Index of Distribution
- experimental Welsh Index of Hotels and Restaurants
- experimental Welsh Index of Transport and Communication

The following link gives access to these products:

[www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/economy/indices.htm](http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/economy/indices.htm)

### Planned future work

During the early part of 2006/07 ONS will carry out a comprehensive methodological review of all these output indices to ensure that the methods used to compile them are soundly based and that they are consistent with corresponding UK indices, as far as possible. The results of this work will be published.

During 2006/07 ONS will continue to extend the coverage of these indices to other sectors of the Welsh economy. This will be done through developing a Welsh Index of Business Services and a Welsh Index of Finance.

## Contact

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### Completion date

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

### Cost

It will cost £750,000 to develop this series of new indices. The ongoing cost of updating them every quarter is anticipated to be around £30,000 a year for each Index.

### Contact

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## E. Single Data System Project

### Aims and objectives

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

### Strategic influences and policy drivers

The project was set up in response to a review of current HMT systems. The project aimed to align closely with the goals of the Gershon Review by streamlining processes and reducing system management resource requirements. The SDS project team was also working with the Atkinson Review implementation team to improve data quality where possible.

### Completion date

This was a two-year project, which finished on schedule and to budget by the end of March 2006. Implementation to all 54 central government departments and devolved administrations was completed by the end of December 2005.

### Outputs from the project

COINS is now operational, producing:

- monthly forecasting analysis and reporting for HMT's Public Sector Finance Branch and ONS; and Main Estimates and Supplementary Budgetary Information for publication in May 2006
- a single platform for budgeting, in-year reporting and audited accounts, allowing reconciliation between these different datasets
- more detailed in-year reporting, which will lead to improved data quality for statistical analysis

### Additional work planned for 2006/07

Further systems development work is planned, which will provide additional functionality. This should include:

- moving across to Classifications of the Functions of Government (COFOG) Level 2 reporting during summer 2006

- a pilot run of Audited Outturn data at Program Object Level during summer 2006
- development and enhancement on the COINS reporting suite (including the *Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses* publication in 2007/08)

### Cost

Total project cost of £2.4 million.

## F. National Accounts Re-engineering Project

### Aims and objectives

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

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

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

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

### Progress to date

The first two objectives have been achieved through the completion, on schedule, of a User Needs Review and a Methods Review. A significant exercise to analyse the business processes and data flows led to the development of re-engineered processes and contributed to the specification of the requirements of the new computer system. During 2005/06 the project moved into system development and has been focusing specifically on development of the ‘central’

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business systems (such as Supply Use Tables, Income and Capital Account, and Financial Account).

NAREP is currently in the design and build stage. The first Functional Release has been delivered and has completed customer acceptance testing. This has enabled the build of the business systems to start.

Work on specifying new methodology has continued as planned in preparation for testing on the new business systems.

In response, work on the business change activities is now under way. Training requirements have been identified and preparations are being made for the testing of the business systems. The post-implementation organisational structure is also being considered.

### Planned future work

NAREP has faced a challenging year where new methods of working have been employed. Lessons continue to be learned and are implemented in forthcoming deliveries. Delivery of functionality is planned to be completed in time to enable the testing of new methods on the business systems by summer 2006. NAREP is currently managing the risks to these milestones in order to ensure minimal impact.

Business change activities will be widening, including the expansion of training across the National Accounts business areas. Outputs from the testing of new methods on the business systems will be analysed with the support of National Accounts colleagues.

In the second half of 2006/07 the development focus will switch to the 'local' systems (including preparation of the data supply systems for capital expenditure, and foreign direct investment) to enable the eventual delivery of a fully re-engineered National Accounts system.

### Completion date

The immediate target is for NAREP to deliver production robust systems on which new methods can be tested by summer 2006. The aim is for the fully re-engineered National Accounts systems to go live in 2008 with production of the 2008 *Blue Book*.

### Cost

£3.2 million in 2005/06.

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## Theme Group Members

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Graham Parker  
*HM Treasury*

Stephen Penneck  
*Office for National Statistics*

Henry Small  
*National Assembly for Wales*

Sandy Stewart  
*Scottish Executive*

Sandra Tudor  
*HM Revenue & Customs*

David Vincent  
*Office for National Statistics*

Matt Prior (Secretary)  
*Office for National Statistics*

## Useful websites

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

National Statistics  
[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment,  
Northern Ireland  
[www.detini.gov.uk](http://www.detini.gov.uk)

Department of Trade and Industry  
[www.dti.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.dti.gov.uk/statistics)

HM Revenue & Customs  
[www.hmrc.gov.uk](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk)

HM Treasury  
[www.hm-treasury.gov.uk](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk)

National Assembly for Wales  
[www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales](http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales)

Scottish Executive  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/stats](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats)

# Education and Training

## Report of progress against plans 2005/06

### Introduction

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

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

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

### Priority projects

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

##### Aims and objectives

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

career pathways and to overcome other limitations and weaknesses of the six-month snapshot when used in isolation.

##### Progress to date

At an early stage it was decided that the survey will be managed, funded and administered centrally, thus placing limited burden on institutions.

As part of the development process, Market and Opinion Research International (MORI) was appointed to undertake a pilot survey. MORI worked with over 30 volunteer institutions that together provided a representative sample across the UK as well as across types and sizes of institutions. The pilot tested a number of methodological variations, including whether it is practicable to collect a simple career history as well as snapshot information, and assessed the quality and coverage of the contact details institutions are able to provide for their graduates. The volunteer institutions provided MORI with their most up-to-date contact information for the 2002/03 graduates and also helped MORI explore ways of maintaining contact details in the period leading up to the survey. MORI reported on the outcomes of the pilot in May 2006, and on that basis the substantive survey has now been approved for one year in the first instance.

##### Planned future work

Following publication of an Official Journal of the Economic Union notice, and a pre-qualification stage, procurement is now in hand with the contract to be let in August 2006 on a single-year basis with the option of extension for two further years. There will be a further pilot element in the first full survey. A decision will be taken on the future of the survey (annual, biennial, as needed, or one-off) in the light of lessons learned and value obtained from the first run.

### Completion date

Annual survey – spring 2007 on 2002/03 cohort, then on an annual pattern.

### Cost

Not disclosed, commercially sensitive at this stage.

Costs incurred at HESA on managing the survey and analysing the results will be additional to the contract values.

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## B. Development of the National Pupil Database, Wales

### Aims and objectives

The project covers the establishment of a database of records at the individual pupil level to allow detailed analysis of educational performance at pupil, school and local authority level. The database will link data from the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC), the Key Stage 1 to 3 National Curriculum assessments and the public examination results at Key Stage 4 and beyond.

### Progress to date

The database was launched in October 2005 with 2004 data from PLASC and Key Stages 1–5. Data for 2005 from PLASC and Key Stages 1–3 were added by February 2006, and data for Key Stages 4 and 5 in March 2006. The database can be accessed at:

[www.npd-wales.gov.uk](http://www.npd-wales.gov.uk)

### Planned future work

The aim is to enhance the availability of data from the National Pupil Database progressively over time. During 2006/07 a number of outputs that are currently paper-based (including school benchmark tables and performance booklets) will be incorporated into the database, which will also incorporate Key Performance Indicators at school level (which were published for the first time in 2005/06). The database will also provide the basis for taking forward work on value-added measures for schools in Wales.

### Completion date

The launch of the database in October 2005 effectively marked the end of the development stage.

### Cost

The ongoing costs of maintaining the database and incorporating a small number of enhancements each year are estimated at £120,000 a year.

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

### Aims and objectives

The project will establish a regular series of statistical outputs from the new Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR) database, in partnership with Education and Learning Wales (ELWa).

### Progress to date

Provisional data for the academic year 2003/04 were published in April 2005, with final data published in July. Provisional data for 2004/05 were published in November 2005, with final data published in March 2006. The plan is for data for future years to be published to a similar timetable, with provisional data published in November, followed by final data in the following March. The data can be found at:

[www.wales.gov.uk/  
keypubstatisticsforwalesheadline/index.htm](http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwalesheadline/index.htm)

### Planned future work

Work will be undertaken to bring the outputs for future years within the scope of National Statistics following the merger between ELWa and the National Assembly for Wales in April 2006. The data are currently being published as experimental statistics. The content and coverage of the outputs will be developed in line with customer feedback as far as possible.

### Completion date

The publication of final 2004/05 data in March 2006 effectively marked the end of the development stage.

### Cost

The marginal cost of producing the outputs each year is estimated at around £3,000, largely reflecting staff costs.

## Contact

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

### Aims and objectives

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

[www.scotxed.net](http://www.scotxed.net)

### Progress to date

Currently four unit (that is, individual) level datasets are available for analysis by SEED:

- pupil characteristics (including postcode and special educational needs)
- teaching staff
- attendance, absence and exclusions
- leavers

A secure data warehouse facility to facilitate version control and allow access to datasets by SEED statisticians using a range of analysis tools is being rolled out.

A secure online publication facility providing access to statistics and benchmarks by the Scottish schools' community has been implemented. Currently it holds a wide range of attainment statistics.

### Planned future work

The following work is planned:

- improvements to existing collections to meet new policy needs
- revisions to the system for analysing attainment data in response to policy changes
- further development of the IT system issued to management information system (MIS) providers that enables them to input schools data, validate it and forward datasets to SEED and Careers Scotland

- developments to the range of statistics and benchmarks available to the schools community through the online publications facility

### Completion date

The key dates are:

- changes to working practices for implementation from August 2006
- greater range of statistics and benchmarks available for the schools community from November 2006
- improvements to data collections for implementation from August 2007
- new attainment reports for implementation from August 2007

### Cost

Costs estimated at £500,000.

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

### Aims and objectives

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

### Progress to date

The project initiation document has been agreed and signed off by the project steering group. Researchers are in the process of drafting questionnaires and selecting the sample of school pupils to be surveyed.

### Planned future work

Once agreed with the project steering group, questionnaires will be issued to year 12 and year 14 pupils in the selected sample.

### Completion date

Project due to be completed by April 2007.

### Cost

£55,000

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## F. Longitudinal Study of Young People

### Aims and objectives

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

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

### Progress to date

Currently, two waves have been completed with excellent response rates, exceeding initial targets (74 per cent in wave 1 and more than 86 per cent in wave 2). The study was successful in recruiting large numbers of respondents from ethnic minority groups and from areas suffering from deprivation. At wave 1, more than 15,700 young people and their parents were interviewed, collecting a wealth of important information about their achievements, attitudes, actions and backgrounds. As an important addition to the data, information has been linked in from departmental administrative databases such as the National Pupil Database (NPD), covering pupil level, school level and local

level data. The pupil level data includes, for those in the maintained sector, results at Key Stage 2 and 3. Linkage to administrative data is both retrospective (to data collected in the past) and prospective (will continue throughout the study, eg, to GCSE/GNVQ results, and possibly afterwards). This enables a rich analysis of many factors that can influence the lives of these young people.

The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) now has final datasets from the first wave of the study and second wave data will also be available soon. These will be made available to interested parties to carry out their own analysis. In addition, DfES will commission a certain number of specific analyses on areas of policy interest – such as analysis of the characteristics of those from ethnic minority groups and differences between those in different socio-economic groups.

### Planned future work

Surveying for wave 3 began in March 2006 and will continue until early summer. Feedback from pilots has been encouraging and DfES expects to continue with good response rates. Beyond this immediate requirement, DfES is working to secure funding for at least a further three waves of interviewing to continue until the young people are aged 18–19. Because of the wide range of issues relevant to young people reaching the end of compulsory schooling and beyond, DfES is engaging with other government departments to ensure that the study covers areas of interest across all aspects of society. DfES intends to continue the study further still, until sample members are in their early to mid twenties.

Wave 4 in 2007 will run in parallel with the first sweep of Cohort 13 of the *Youth Cohort Study* (YCS), a long established series of post-compulsory education surveys carried out for the Department using postal and telephone methods. The sample for YCS 13 will be drawn from the same school year cohort as LSYPE. Sampling for YCS 13 is also likely to use sample boosts for both young people from ethnic minority backgrounds and for those who gain relatively low levels of qualifications at GCSE/GNVQ exams in 2006.

DfES will soon begin consideration of a second cohort, in which case planning will need to consider which cohort to choose, when the study should start and what the coverage should be.

### Project length

Immediate milestones are the completion of wave 3 in summer 2006 and then a further three waves of the study running from 2007 to 2009. After this DfES hopes to continue further, and therefore the study does not currently have a fixed end date.

### Cost

£4.85 million for the first three waves.

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## G. New Measures of Success Programme

### Aims and objectives

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

On 27 March 2006 the Department for Education and Skills published the White Paper: *FE Reform – Raising skills improving Life Chances*. The publication of the White Paper marked the end of the Success for all program. The NMS program will be continued as part of the quality theme of the FE White Paper

The purpose of the New Measures of Success Programme is to develop a broad and coherent set of success measures that can recognise and celebrate the achievements of learners and providers, and can be applied consistently by the partners, including Learning and Skills Council (LSC), Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) and Adult Learning Inspectorate (ALI). Further details are available on the SFA website at:

[www.successforall.gov.uk](http://www.successforall.gov.uk)

### Progress to date and planned future work

There are nine new measures in the scope of the NMS programme:

#### *Qualification success rate*

A work-based learning (WBL) measure comparable with further education (FE) was developed during 2004/05 and published for the first time in February 2006. From 2007/08 new data fields will be added to the annual schools census and these will allow the calculation of a school sixth-form measure comparable with FE. Work is under way to develop an alternative means of obtaining the information for 2006/07.

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

The LSC has developed prototype software – the Learner Achievement Tracker (LAT) – to enable providers to analyse learner progress in level 3

qualifications relative to prior level 2 attainment at the qualification level. The prototype was piloted and tested by a sample of providers. A value added (VA) measure, enabling the analysis of learner progress in a package of A levels for use in provider comparisons in performance tables, is being developed by DfES and will be piloted in 2006. Full implementation is planned for late 2007.

#### *Adult distance travelled*

A 2004 feasibility study concluded that a robust statistical model for adult distance travelled could not be developed using existing data. Recognising and recording progress and achievement (RARPA) methodology for assessing progress in non-accredited provision will be extended to cover accredited adult learning and rolled out from September 2006.

#### *Learner progression and destinations*

To monitor individual learners' progress into further learning and the labour market, a feasibility study, examining existing data sources and best practice in local destinations tracking, will report in 2006. It is envisaged that the measure will involve a national sample survey of priority groups of learners. Structured sampling and proposals for matching administrative data will be piloted in late 2006 with a view to full implementation in late 2007.

#### *Learner satisfaction*

The National Learner Satisfaction Survey (NLSS) was first undertaken in 2001/02 and is continually being refined. A research tools website to help providers use survey results for benchmarking was launched in August 2005. DfES is currently trying to extend the survey to schools. Providers will be consulted on standards for the collection and use of learner satisfaction information at institutional level, with guidance being available from September 2006.

#### *Employer satisfaction*

The National Employer Skills Survey (NESS) was first undertaken in 2003 and is modified annually to reflect the current skills agenda.

#### *Provider responsiveness to employers*

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

#### *Staff quality*

The percentage of teachers qualified or working towards a qualification has been monitored using the LSC's Staff Individualised Record (SIR) since 2002. From 2007 the SIR will be replaced by a survey conducted by Lifelong Learning UK (LLUK), the Sector Skills Council for post-compulsory teaching and related workers.

#### *Value for money*

The Framework of Key Performance Indicators set out in the White Paper combines a range of summary measures relating to responsiveness, quality and finance. These three dimensions taken together will provide an overall assessment of performance and value for money. This approach will produce a 'balanced scorecard' leading to a single overall performance rating for each institution. The LSC will consult on the approach and definitions in early summer 2006. DfES expects to publish prototype arrangements in 2007.

#### *Completion date*

The bulk of the New Measures of Success work is taking place between 2003 and 2010. A small number of projects may continue beyond 2010.

#### *Cost*

Funding for 2006/07 and 2007/08 is £3.8 million and £2.8 million respectively.

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## H. Managing Information Across Partners (MIAP)

### Aims and objectives

The project aims to improve sharing of post-16 learning data. It is primarily aimed at learner and operational use of data, but is also intended to lead to improved analytical data for policy development and evaluation and performance reporting.

### Progress to date

The MIAP programme has been running since 2003 and aims to improve how information about learners and learning is shared across the sector; improving services to individuals and employers. In December 2005 the LSC took over responsibility as the delivery partner for the MIAP programme. Overall strategic responsibility has been retained within DfES.

To date, the following progress has been made:

- agreement and publication of the MIAP Framework for Data Sharing (January 2005)
- agreement on the concept of a Unique Learner Number (ULN) (May 2005)
- phased introduction of a UK Register of Learning Providers (started in August 2005)
- agreement of core of common data definitions (June and December 2005)
- agreement of Technical Delivery Options for a Learning Data Interface which will enable learners to create records of learning (November 2005)

### Planned future work

The future work programme includes a number of phases:

- release of core common data definitions – summer 2006
- development of technical specification of the Learning Data Interface – January to June 2006
- ULN prototyping – June to August 2007
- MIAP systems available for integration by MIAP partners – spring 2007
- MIAP interface system launched (initially with National Pupil Data) – August 2007

- development of the UK Register of Learning Providers, with the aim of having the full register in place by September 2007
- MIAP fully operational (including FE and HE data) – 2010

### Completion date

The MIAP programme is expected to run to March 2009. By the end of the decade a fully operational system will be in place for ongoing operation.

### Cost

2005/06: £3.7 million.

2006/07: £5.9 million.

2007/08: £3.0 million.

### Further information

The MIAP website gives the latest information on the programme:

[www.miap.gov.uk](http://www.miap.gov.uk)

The UK Register of Learning Providers can be accessed online and contains the basic details of over 9,000 providers:

[www.ukrlp.co.uk](http://www.ukrlp.co.uk)

### Contact

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## I. New Relationship with Schools: data strand

### Aims and objectives

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

### Progress to date

#### *Data Sub-Programming (DSP)*

DSP is responsible for delivering the data strand of the NRwS and for ensuring the availability and effective use of good quality data in the schools sector, while reducing burdens on schools.

#### *School Census*

DfES carried out the fifth annual national collection of individual pupil data through electronic means in January 2006. These arrangements are enabling the cessation of a number of separate censuses and surveys. Further work continues aimed at rationalising data collection arrangements.

#### *Effective use of data website*

DfES launched the website in February 2006.

The website is an online training web tool on the effective use of data, which provides school leaders with practical guidance to enable data to be used efficiently in schools to support children to fulfil their potential.

#### *Key to Success website*

This has been made available to local authorities and schools. It provides schools with access to individual pupils' records from the National Pupil Database and provides a range of pupil assessment data, including longitudinal assessment records.

The web address is:

[www.keytosuccess.dfes.gov.uk](http://www.keytosuccess.dfes.gov.uk)

#### *Protocol on Data Sharing and Rationalisation*

This DfES Protocol has been republished with a further seven new educational partners coming on board in 2005. There are now 17 signatories to the Protocol, which commits DfES and other

organisations across the education sector to a collective responsibility to minimise the burdens of data collection from schools and local authorities. It also ensures that the data collected are used effectively to support pupil learning and school improvement.

### Planned future work

#### *Data Collection System (DISC) and Data Warehouse*

DISC (formerly known as DAZ) is a web-based data collection system that will provide a single central repository for all statistical data, and will improve the efficiency of data collection from schools, ensuring that high-quality data are made available to them. Data collections will be migrated from DAZ to DISC during 2006 and 2007. The Data Warehouse will allow the storage and dissemination of the new collections of data from schools, which together with linkages across the National Pupil Database and the Key to Success website, will ensure that good-quality data are made available to schools for self-evaluation and improvement purposes.

#### *Education Data Dictionary (EDD)*

This will ensure that schools have effective management information systems to support the collection and transmission of data among schools, local authorities, educational partners and DfES. It will also be key to the development of a more efficient approach to commissioning and approving business requests for schools data.

#### *RAISEonline*

In summer 2006 it is intended to launch an interactive website, RAISEonline, which will provide schools, local authorities, School Improvement Partners (SIPs) and inspectors with a common set of analyses, as well as providing schools with a tool for reviewing their performance data in greater depth as part of their self-evaluation and target setting.

#### *School Workforce Census collection*

This is a key piece of work and the data collected will provide for a better understanding of staffing and workforce issues. It is intended to recommence School Workforce pilots in May 2007.

### *Data collection from Early Years settings*

DfES is currently working up proposals, with the intention of undertaking pilots early in 2007.

### **Becta Review**

The review was commissioned by DfES to create greater uniformity across the educational Management Information System (MIS) market and to open up the market to other potential suppliers in order to improve local support for schools and achieve greater value for money.

### **Project length**

Ongoing.

### **Cost**

The 2006/07 budget for DSP is £5.7 million.

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

### **Aims and objectives**

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

### **Progress to date**

Currently local authorities have to provide DfES with details of the educational attainment of their looked after children. The aim is to remove these requirements once it has been shown that using the UPN of looked after children is successful. This will result in the data collection burden being reduced.

### **Planned future work**

An exercise will take place in summer 2006 to investigate the quality of matching.

### **Completion date**

The first year of data is April 2005 to March 2006, with information being returned by May 2006. First results will be published in late 2006.

### **Cost**

Staff costs for undertaking the matching exercise, developing routine matching practices and feedback of results process to local authorities.

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## Useful websites

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

National Statistics  
[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

Department for Education and Skills  
[www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics)

Department for Employment and Learning,  
Northern Ireland  
[www.delni.gov.uk](http://www.delni.gov.uk)

Department of Education, Northern Ireland  
[www.deni.gov.uk](http://www.deni.gov.uk)

Higher Education Statistics Agency  
[www.hesa.ac.uk](http://www.hesa.ac.uk)

Learning and Skills Council  
[www.lsc.gov.uk](http://www.lsc.gov.uk)

National Assembly for Wales  
[www.wales.gov.uk](http://www.wales.gov.uk)

Scottish Executive  
[www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)

# Health and Care

## Report of progress against plans 2005/06

### Introduction

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

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

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

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

Health and social care are matters devolved from the UK Government to administrations in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Each administration shares the common objective of improving public health, health services and social care, but has developed different policies and systems to achieve these goals. Statistical activity across the administrations will therefore reflect

both the common ground and the differences between the administrations.

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

### Health gain

#### A. Analysis of mortality rates, including infant mortality, and life expectancy data in context of health inequalities

##### Aims and objectives

The purpose of the project is to enable government and the public to evaluate the effectiveness of public health policies, initiatives and targets.

##### Progress to date

###### England

The Department of Health (DH) continues to use ONS-supplied data to monitor against the DH Public Service Agreement (PSA) mortality, life expectancy and infant mortality targets (target date 2010). DH continues to perform analysis on summary counts of death registrations (for circulatory disease and cancer mortality) and ONS population estimates to produce age-standardised death rates for people aged under 75, including rates for the PSA target group of areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators, to monitor progress against the target.

Monitoring data were cross-referenced against the *Compendium of Clinical and Health Indicators* produced by the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development (NCHOD). This Compendium was previously only available to NHS organisations, but is now supplemented by a version available to

the public. In addition, the Compendium is now being released on an ongoing basis as data become available instead of as an annual document.

### *Wales*

Long-term health gain targets have been set by the Chief Medical Officer for Wales. These targets provide a focus and direction for improving health and reducing health inequalities in Wales.

### *Scotland*

The Scottish Executive Office of the Chief Statistician published a report *Social Focus on Deprived Areas* containing a chapter on health. This included a deprivation analysis of many health indicators using the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD).

Revised targets and performance measures for 2006/07 were issued to local health boards in December 2005. They include health inequalities targets relating to coronary heart disease, smoking, immunisations and suicide rates.

### *Northern Ireland*

Northern Ireland has developed a Health Inequalities Monitoring system that incorporates small area trend data on a range of indicators covering, among other things, disease specific mortality, infant mortality and life expectancy. The system has been updated on an annual basis from the base year of 2001, and a baseline report and one update report have been published.

### **Planned future work**

#### *England*

Reporting and monitoring against PSA targets will continue to be principally on an annual basis through DH departmental reports, HM Treasury (HMT), the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit reporting mechanisms and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Floor Targets interactive website.

Other reporting includes cross-government and international strategies, such as the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) *Opportunity for All* reports (next report due in autumn 2006) and the *UK National Action Plan on Social Inclusion* (due in summer 2006). DH is a member of steering groups

for both these projects and will continue to work closely with DWP officials to maintain consistency of reporting on indicators for infant mortality and life expectancy.

### *Scotland*

'Prevention 2010' is a new initiative aimed at tackling health inequalities in Scotland through adopting principles of anticipatory care and preventive medicine. The Scottish Executive Health Division and Information Services Division (NHS Scotland) are developing robust systems for monitoring and evaluating the approach, which is to be piloted in five of the most deprived Community Health Partnerships.

### *Northern Ireland*

The Health Inequalities Monitoring system is currently being migrated to a new small area geography, Super Output Area (SOA), and indicators are being linked to the recently updated Noble Measure of Multiple Deprivation in Northern Ireland and will also incorporate a new Northern Ireland measure of rurality. It is intended to complete this work, along with a further update of the indicators, and to disseminate the findings by autumn 2006. Selected indicators are also used to monitor progress against a number of departmental PSA and Public Health Strategy targets.

### **Project length**

Ongoing activity.

### **Cost**

Not available.

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## B. Analysis of trends in healthy lifestyle determinants, notably smoking and obesity

### Aims and objectives

The purpose of the project is to enable government, the public and health providers to evaluate the effectiveness of public health policies, initiatives and targets by publishing more evidence on health determinants.

### Progress to date

A report on obesity among children aged under 11, based on data from the Health Survey for England (HSfE) 1995–2003, was published in April 2005.

Synthetic estimates of healthy lifestyle behaviour, including smoking and obesity prevalence, at ward and Primary Care Organisation level were published via the Neighbourhood Statistics website in 2005.

Headline figures and updated trend tables from the HSfE 2004 were included in *Health of Ethnic Minorities*, published by the Information Centre for Health and Social Care (the IC) in December 2005 and covering a wide range of health topics, including smoking, obesity, eating habits and physical activity.

In Wales, information on lifestyle behaviours, including smoking, obesity, consumption of alcohol, physical activity and consumption of fruit and vegetables, were included in the results of the first year of the *Welsh Health Survey*, published in summer 2005.

### Planned future work

The IC will publish statistical bulletins on smoking, drinking, and young people and drug misuse in 2006. These bulletins will collate data from a wide variety of sources and aim to provide an overview of these lifestyle determinants, including the most up-to-date trend data. They will be the latest in a series of bulletins, previously produced by DH, some of which have not been produced for two or three years. In addition, a new publication covering statistics on obesity, nutrition and physical activity is planned. These bulletins are designed to disseminate statistics on lifestyle issues to a wider audience.

Headline figures from the IC report *Drug Use, Smoking and Drinking among Young People in England in 2005* were published in March 2006, with the full report to follow in August 2006. This will be the latest in an annual series. The report includes smoking prevalence for secondary school children in England. This survey is used to monitor progress against the *Smoking Kills* White Paper target to reduce smoking prevalence among children.

The full report from the HSfE 2004 is due to be published by the IC in April 2006 and will present data on a number of lifestyle determinants, including smoking, obesity, eating habits and physical activity. The HSfE is an annual survey, the results of which will be used to monitor the PSA target on reducing levels of obesity.

Headline results from the *Infant Feeding Survey 2005* are due to be published by the IC in May 2006. This five-yearly survey provides data on smoking and drinking behaviour during pregnancy. The results of this survey are used to monitor progress against the target in the *Smoking Kills* White Paper to reduce the number of women who smoke during pregnancy and to monitor levels of breastfeeding initiation for the PSA target.

### Project length

Ongoing – regular publications.

### Cost

Not available.

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## C. Identify an agreed set of core public health data for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

### Aims and objectives/strategic influences and policy drivers

The purpose of the project is to identify an agreed set of core public health data in England and Scotland, where possible from existing data sources, to support agreed measures of progress to be used nationally and locally, and to build a public health information and intelligence base.

### Progress to date

#### England

In England, following the publication of the DH Public Health White Paper *Choosing Health – Making Healthy Choices Easier*, DH established a Public Health Information and Intelligence Task Force to lead on developing and implementing a comprehensive health information and intelligence strategy. The strategy, *Informing Healthier Choices: Information and Intelligence for Healthy Populations*, was issued in March 2006 for consultation. It supports wider health priorities, such as action on health inequalities, health protection and effective commissioning of health and wellbeing. It aims to improve the availability and quality of health information and intelligence across England and to increase its use to support population health improvement, health protection and work on care standards and quality. Through the Task Force, work has been carried out to establish core public health indicators to be reported in a National Profile of Health and Well-being in England, and a set of Community Health Profiles, which will support local Directors of Public Health in publishing local annual health reports.

DH is also continuing to oversee the production of around three themed reports a year on regional public health indicators produced by the Association of Public Health Observatories (APHO). The latest, *Ethnicity and Health*, was published by the London Health Observatory in October 2005. DH regularly reviews the indicator content with APHO in consultation with Regional Directors of Public Health.

#### Wales

In Wales the HealthShow package, available to health service users, brings together a range of information for public health professionals.

#### Scotland

The Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO) collaboration was launched in December 2005 by ISD and NHS Health Scotland. It involves the key organisations involved in public health in Scotland. Core public health data for Scotland are presented on the ScotPHO website at national and subnational level:

[www.scotpho.org.uk](http://www.scotpho.org.uk)

#### Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) is collaboratively working on selected projects with Ireland and Northern Ireland's Public Health Observatory (INIsPHO). This involves provision of relevant datasets at both national and small area level and providing advice and assistance with relevant research. The public health information is collated and disseminated via the new INIsPHO website:

[www.inispho.org](http://www.inispho.org)

### Planned future work

#### England

The first National Profile of Health and Well-being in England and Community Health Profiles are due to be published in summer 2006, including national, regional and local summaries of the agreed indicator set.

DH will also continue to oversee the regional public health indicator report series, and a work programme for 2006 has been agreed. Reports on child health and sexual health are due out in 2006/07.

The IC has taken on the management of the *Compendium of Clinical and Health Indicators* delivered by the NCHOD; the Local Basket of Inequalities Indicators; and the Health Poverty Index. It plans that future developments of these public health indicator projects will reflect the strategy *Informing Healthier Choices: Information and Intelligence for Healthy Populations* and meet customer needs.

### *Wales*

The National Public Health Service in Wales is to lead work on the common information requirements of Local Health Boards in order for them to update local health needs assessments, which will feed into revised Health, Social Care and Well-being Strategies.

### *Scotland*

The ScotPHO website will be expanded to include further major public health topics, and the data in the interactive profiling tool on the website will be also be updated. This profiling data will be presented at new geographical levels. The website will also contain a copy of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Health for All database with Scotland level data added in.

### **Project length**

Ongoing.

### **Cost**

Not available.

### **Contacts**

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## **Access to services**

### **D. Monitoring English waiting experience from General Practice referral to hospital treatment**

#### **Aims and objectives**

The purpose of the project is to enable government and the public to monitor NHS performance against waiting time targets and to ensure information is available on waiting for diagnostic tests and procedures.

#### **Progress to date**

DH has been working in partnership with the NHS throughout 2005/06 on this project to support delivery of the 18-week patient pathway. A diagnostic data collection was piloted with 21 NHS pilots during 2005. This collaborative approach was very successful and helped fine tune both the content of the collection and the supporting technology to enable transmission of the data. This collection was rolled out nationally to NHS Commissioners, NHS Trusts and NHS foundation trusts. For further information, see the 18-week website:

[www.18weeks.nhs.uk](http://www.18weeks.nhs.uk)

Data collection on diagnostic waiting times and diagnostic activity was rolled out nationally in early 2006. In addition to a biannual census, data on 15 diagnostic tests are being collected on a monthly basis. It is anticipated that the monthly data will be published for the first time in spring 2006 and on a regular basis from then on.

### *Wales*

In Wales information on the time people wait for certain specified diagnostic and therapy services was published for the first time in February 2006. It will now be published monthly. In addition, new information was captured and published on the time patients wait for cancer treatment from urgent referral to treatment. Work is also progressing on developing data definitions to enable future capture of information relating to the full patient pathway from referral to treatment.

### Planned future work

Work is already well under way on developing pathway measures to allow monitoring of the 18-week referral to treatment targets. These will build on the existing stages of treatment measures, such as in-patient, diagnostic and out-patient waiting times. Eight pioneer sites have been identified and they are now working on a partnership basis with DH to take forward this important piece of work.

#### Wales

The development of procedures for capturing information about the full patient journey will be taken forward in Wales within a wider Access 2009 project. Early work on patients with suspected coronary heart disease will be taken forward during 2006/07 and will inform the rollout to other patient groups in later years.

### Completion date

Diagnostic monitoring has now been established and it is anticipated that pathway measures will be developed during 2006/07. The project is expected to be completed in 2007/08.

### Cost

This work is funded as part of the 18-week programme.

### Contacts

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## E. Collection and analysis of English information relevant to helping vulnerable older people who live in their own homes

### Aims and objectives

The purpose of the project is to enable government, public and social care providers to evaluate the effectiveness of social care policies and initiatives, by publishing more evidence on older people being supported to live in their own homes.

The PSA target is to 'improve the quality of life and independence of older people so that they can live at home wherever possible, by increasing by March 2008 the number of those supported intensively to live at home to 34 per cent of the total being supported by social services at home or in residential care; and to increase the number of older people per 1,000 population supported to live in their own home by 1 per cent in March 2007 and March 2008'.

### Progress to date

The PSA target is measured using three existing data sources collected annually from Councils with Social Service Responsibilities (CSSRs) by the IC. The data sources for the first part of the target are the Home help/home care (HH1) return and the Supported Residents (SR1 return), while the second part of the target uses data from the Referrals, Assessments and Packages of Care (RAP) return.

The first part of the target on the number of older people supported intensively to live at home is an extension of the previous PSA target, increasing the target from 30 per cent by March 2006 to 34 per cent by March 2008. DH and the IC have been monitoring the previous target at both a national and local level. The IC has published the results for 2004/05 on its website to help councils analyse and improve their performance. This work will continue as new data become available.

### Planned future work

The quality of information currently available on the number of older people supported to live in their own home is not yet sufficiently robust to

allow monitoring of the second part of the PSA target. Steps have been taken to improve the quality of these data and these will result in more robust data being provided in summer 2006. Current proposals are to publish provisional results from this collection in December 2006, with a full report to follow in February 2007.

### Project length

Ongoing.

### Cost

Not available.

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## Health sector outputs, outcomes and productivity

### F. Improving measurement of health sector productivity

Many of the departments participating in this Theme are contributing to ongoing work in this area, which is being taken forward by ONS as part of the work to improve public sector productivity (see chapter 11).

#### Progress to date

Estimates of quality change in NHS services were released for the first time in a DH paper *Healthcare Output and Productivity: Accounting for Quality Change* in December 2005. This built on and broadened proposals in research commissioned by DH from the University of York and the National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

ONS drew on these estimates to publish the second article in the health series, *Public Service Productivity: Health*, in February 2006. This made use of DH proposals for quality adjustment and also ONS work to improve:

- output measures (by including Northern Ireland data for the first time) of the health service
- input measures, and
- corroborative evidence

Northern Ireland has been heavily involved with this work and has developed its own Cost Weighted Activity Index (CWA), which is aggregated with the DH Index and published in the ONS *Blue Book*.

#### Planned future work

The next steps will be to initiate a consultation on the methods used in these publications and future developments.

### Project length

Ongoing.

### Cost

Not available.



## Health and safety at work

### G. To monitor progress on improving the control of risks in the workplace and hence health and safety outcomes in Great Britain

#### Aims and objectives

The mission of the Health and Safety Commission (HSC) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is 'to protect people's health and safety by ensuring risks in the changing workplace are properly controlled'. This is reflected in the DWP/HSE 2004 Spending Review PSA target and the related targets set in the HSC's Strategy *Revitalising Health and Safety*. An important role for HSE's Statistics Branch, as part of its aim of supporting HSC/E's priorities by providing data and advice on work-related ill health and injuries, is to produce statistical assessments of progress that are robust, credible and useful to stakeholders.

#### Progress to date

The mid-point of the *Revitalising Health and Safety* strategy period was 2004/05: the targets were for specific percentage reductions in injuries, ill health and working days lost to have been achieved by then. HSE Statistics Branch produced assessments of progress against each of these three targets, bringing together data from different sources according to a methodology set out in a published Statistical Note, in November 2005. These progress judgements have been accepted and widely used by internal stakeholders, and are currently undergoing external peer review. For further information, see: [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/targets.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/targets.htm)

#### Planned future work

Assessments of progress will be produced annually and published on HSE's website. These will make increasing use of newly developed statistical sources, including a Workplace Health and Safety Survey (WHASS). Statistics Branch will also play a key role in the setting of new PSA targets for HSE, as part of the 2007 Spending Review.

#### Completion date

The current PSA target runs until 2007/08 and the targets in *Revitalising Health and Safety* until 2009/10, but progress monitoring will continue beyond these dates.

#### Cost

Not available.

#### Contact

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## Access to data

### H. Development of UK Health Statistics

#### Aims and objectives

The purpose of the project is to provide a comparative picture of health services, public health and social care information across the countries of the UK.

#### Progress to date

A review of the data included in *UK Health Statistics* (UKHS) No 1 (2001) was carried out, with the involvement of key stakeholders, in 2004/05. Drawing on this, ONS published *UKHS* No 2 in February 2006 as an electronic publication.

This pulls together previously published data from each of the four home countries:

[www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme\\_health/ukhs2/ukhs2\\_rell.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/ukhs2/ukhs2_rell.pdf)

The IC, formed as a new special health authority in April 2005, has taken on some responsibilities for co-ordinating presentation of UK data. This was with the agreement of the Health and Care TWG (including Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) and responsibilities are complementary to the activities that are already in hand in DH, ONS and other UK countries. The IC's activities in providing UK health statistics are designed to help those interested in a UK picture make better use of information available from constituent parts of the UK and are a product of all the UK agencies working together.

The IC has also taken on some responsibility from DH for co-ordination of supply of UK data to international organisations, including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Eurostat and WHO. Such data are used for the provision of comparable and up-to-date collections of indicators relating to the different aspects of the performance of European and world health systems. They include data for personal health status, such as life expectancy, birth rates, tobacco consumption, obesity or nutrition; provision of healthcare resources, such as available

beds, workforce ratios, remuneration and medical equipment resources; or in utilisation of healthcare, such as immunisation, screening, average length of hospital stays and occurrences of surgical procedures.

The IC is facilitating better access to information from international organisations to enable cross-country comparisons by publicising on its website the health information published by international organisations (WHO, Eurostat and the OECD) and by providing links to this information.

A UK Waiting Times Definition Group was established, led by the Information and Analysis Directorate (IAD) of the DHSSPS in Northern Ireland, with contributions from the other countries of the UK. This guided work to assess the extent to which the capture of data about NHS waiting times differs across the UK and what can be done to improve comparability. The UK administrations have worked together with a consultant to produce a comprehensive picture of what is captured in each country and the extent to which this differs.

#### Planned future work

An interdepartmental steering group for UKHS was established in 2005 and will continue to guide developments. Outputs of this project in 2006/07 will include a process to mainstream future regular production of *UKHS*, further stakeholder and user consultation on priorities for cross-UK health and care statistics, and a joint programme of development to further improve the comparability and accessibility of key health data and care data. Chronic disease monitoring and health service performance and outputs, for example, remain areas for which there are gaps in statistics, either within countries or on a comparable basis across countries.

The IC is reviewing the lessons learned from recent requests for UK data and will be arranging visits to each of the UK countries to raise the profile of these requirements and to facilitate the development of more comparable datasets.

The IC is looking to widen the provision of web links to other international health and social care datasets

that allow people to compare the UK with other countries, for example those available through the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

Collaborative work is also ongoing around various themes, including:

### *Workforce*

A Four Countries UK Employee Data group was set up in December 2005 and is currently taking forward work to:

- explore the feasibility of establishing the extent of cross-border flow of higher education students on qualification
- produce standard definitions of specific staff groups, such as Clinical Nurse Specialist
- establish a standard UK table using common data definitions for each country to act as a central source of UK-wide NHS employee statistics
- trace doctors' movements between the four countries' workforce censuses

### *Primary care*

Remuneration work for dentists, optometrists and GPs covers Great Britain. The GP contract negotiations extended the scope of the IC's work in terms of subject areas and to start to cover GPs in Northern Ireland as well. This work includes a detailed annual study of the income and expenses of GPs; analysis and forecasts of GP profit for pension purposes; monitoring of expenditure in each country; analysis of workload and skill mix.

### *Further UK-wide initiatives*

A web-based publication of comparable Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) indicator data (including disease prevalence) by each country is planned, in support of the new UK GP contract.

### *Project length*

Ongoing and to include publishing updates of *UKHS*.

### *Cost*

UKHS is not costed as a separate project. It relies on work within devolved administrations as well as NHS and ONS.

## **Contacts**

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## Data scope, quality and infrastructure

### I. Integrate Electronic Staff Record with NHS workforce data collection

#### Aims and objectives

The Electronic Staff Record (ESR) is an integrated Human Resource (HR)/Payroll system developed to replace the 29 payroll systems and 38 HR systems currently in use across the NHS in England and Wales.

In addition to its principal deliverable of a fully integrated HR/Payroll system for the NHS, the ESR project will provide systems/software to enable the direct extraction of workforce information for all NHS organisations via the ESR Data Warehouse.

The extraction of workforce information directly from the Data Warehouse will reduce the data collection burden on NHS organisations by replacing the current requirement for organisations to individually complete and return workforce data, through separate aggregate returns.

#### Progress to date

The ESR system is in the process of being rolled out across the NHS. There are currently 79 organisations live on ESR. The 2004/05 medical and non-medical workforce census information was extracted from the ESR Data Warehouse for the 21 organisations on the system as at 30 September 2005.

#### Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland currently receives individual staff records as a quarterly download from Northern Ireland Health and Personal Social Services Organisations into its central workforce database.

#### Planned future work

A total of 214 organisations will be live on ESR by 30 September 2006 (medical and non-medical workforce census day). Workforce census information will therefore be extracted from the ESR Data Warehouse for these organisations for the 2005/06 census.

In addition, information will be extracted from the ESR Data Warehouse for the following national data collections:

- Sickness/Absence Survey
- Vacancies Collection
- Earnings Survey

A series of data quality assurance extracts are planned from April 2006. Liaising with ESR organisations, the data extracts will be validated to ensure information recorded on the ESR Data Warehouse is fit for purpose and is an accurate reflection of the NHS workforce.

#### Northern Ireland

The current system is being reviewed with a view to gaining privileged user access to a live central database of workforce information. The new system will allow more timely information, improve data quality and extend the range of data items available for analysis.

#### Completion date

The ESR system is due to be fully rolled out across the NHS by March 2008.

#### Cost

Not available.

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## J. Develop Secondary Uses Service (SUS) of the National Programme for IT

### Aims and objectives

The purpose of the project is to safeguard confidentiality and improve statistical reporting by using electronic patient records. The project will improve services to patients by increasing and optimising data flows between medical practitioners.

Currently in the NHS there are many secondary data services at local, regional and national levels. These data are often fed from disparate sources. The recent development of the NHS Care Records Service (NHSCRS) has provided the ability to rationalise data abstraction, data flows, data management, analysis and reporting, thereby saving NHS staff resources and making this information available in one place.

It was a sensible progression to include this function within the national IT infrastructure contracts, creating a solution for primary as well as secondary requirements.

The Secondary Uses Service (SUS) is one of the services identified in the contract between the National Application Service Provider for the NHSCRS and the National Programme for IT (NPfIT).

SUS will provide a centralised data warehouse facility, creating the opportunity to standardise data processing, reporting and analysis for common information requirements, such as payment by results and data linkage.

### Progress to date

The IC has supported Connecting for Health in the delivery of the SUS. A new user's service has also been established in the IC to support the exploitation of this data from the NHS and Social Care organisations.

### Planned future work

In Wales, consideration of the development of a secondary use service for Wales is to be taken forward through the Corporate Health Information Programmes of the National Assembly for Wales.

### Completion date

The project will finish in 2010.

### Cost

Not available.

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## K. Publication of Welsh Health Survey

### Aims and objectives

The new Welsh Health Survey is a major source of information about the health and health-related lifestyle of people in Wales and their use of health services. This project covers publication plans for the survey.

### Progress to date

The first annual report of the new Welsh Health Survey, *Welsh Health Survey 2003/04*, was published in July 2005. It included information on health status, illnesses and conditions, health-related lifestyle and use of health services, broken down by age, sex, area and socio-economic group. The report may be accessed at:

[www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/content/publication/health/2005/hs2003-04/hs2003-04.htm](http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/content/publication/health/2005/hs2003-04/hs2003-04.htm)

### Planned future work

The second annual report, *Welsh Health Survey 2004/05*, is due to be published in summer 2006, including the start of trend information. In autumn 2006 it is planned to publish more detailed information at local authority level, based on combined results from the first two years of the survey.

### Project length

Ongoing – an annual report will be published for every year of the survey.

### Cost

This is part of wider work on the Welsh Health Survey and separate costs for this element of the work are not available.

## Contact

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## L. Review of the Scottish Health Survey

### Aims and objectives

To review the structure and content of the Scottish Health Survey, to ensure that it continues to meet the information needs of key stakeholders and to provide good value for money. The review will also consider how wider developments, such as the Continuous Population Survey, e-Health and Record Linkage, will impact on the next survey and beyond. A key issue is consideration of whether resources can be pooled with local NHS Board Health and Lifestyle Surveys to create one national, consistent survey that meets both national and local needs and provides better value for money. The review will make recommendations on the future structure and content of the survey.

### Progress to date

A paper setting out recommendations and options for the future structure of the Scottish Health Survey was circulated to key stakeholders in January 2006. Comments were sought by 31 March 2006, and the structure and format of the survey will be determined following analysis of these comments.

### Planned future work

Developmental work for the next survey will begin in 2006.

### Project length

Ongoing activity.

### Cost

Not available.

## Contact

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## Theme Group Members

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## Useful websites

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

National Statistics  
[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

Department for Education and Skills  
[www.dfes.gov.uk](http://www.dfes.gov.uk)

Department of Health  
[www.dh.gov.uk/home/fs/en](http://www.dh.gov.uk/home/fs/en)

Department of Health, Social Services and Public  
Safety, Northern Ireland  
[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)

Health and Safety Executive  
[www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)

Information Centre for Health and Social Care  
[www.ic.nhs.uk](http://www.ic.nhs.uk)

National Assembly for Wales  
[www.wales.gov.uk/index.htm](http://www.wales.gov.uk/index.htm)

Scottish Executive  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/home](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/home)

Scottish Health Statistics  
[www.isdscotland.org/isd](http://www.isdscotland.org/isd)

# Labour Market

## Report of progress against plans 2005/06

### Introduction

The Labour Market Theme brings together information and statistics about many aspects of the labour market relating to people, to employing enterprises and to relevant elements of the social security system. Labour Market Statistics (LMS) use household and enterprise surveys as the core source for data, although in the future administrative-based data will have a key role in supplementing these survey sources.

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

### A. Improvement of the public sector employment statistics

#### Aims and objectives

One aim of this project is to publish accurate and definitive quarterly headcount and full-time equivalent (FTE) figures for both the Civil Service and public sector workforce. In addition, an enhanced series of annual analytical reports on public sector employment should be published.

#### Progress to date

Both aims have been achieved.

A new quarterly survey of public sector employment is now used to publish quarterly public sector employment statistics in a newly introduced First Release and a summary table is included in the existing monthly LMS First Release. Figures are now published within three to four months of the period to which they refer, compared with a year or more previously.

Publication of more detailed analysis is now also established on an annual basis, including regional estimates, characteristics of public sector employees and trends over time. The most recent report, *Public Sector Employment Trends*, was published in October 2005.

#### Planned future work

There is a continuing development programme aimed at further improvements. This includes more work towards full integration of the public sector employment estimates in the wider employment and jobs statistical system; full adherence to the agreed standard definitions and methodology by organisations providing the data; the introduction of seasonally adjusted series and further improvement to the timeliness of the statistics. Other priorities are the provision of improved regional estimates and enhancement of analysis of public/private sector employment by means of better data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and other sources.

#### Completion date

The initial aims were achieved to target in 2005.

#### Cost

£300,000

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## B. Modernisation of Labour Market Statistics processing system

### Aims and objectives

The project aim is to re-engineer LFS processing systems and this is part of the wider ONS Statistical Modernisation Programme. The key benefit will be to allow the latest population estimates and projections to be incorporated into the LFS microdata to the same timescale currently achieved for LFS monthly time series.

### Progress to date

The necessary systems have been designed and programming work has commenced.

### Planned future work

It is estimated that programming work will be completed by the end of August 2006. Customer acceptance testing of the systems will then run until December 2006, when parallel running alongside existing systems should start.

### Completion date

The estimated date for a full switch to the new systems for regular LFS production is mid-2007.

### Cost

£3.3 million in 2005/06 and £2.7 million in 2006/07.

## Contact

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## C. Development of earnings statistics

### Aims and objectives

Major improvements are planned for earnings statistics, including the publication of Average Weekly Earnings (AWE), following the Turnbull/King Review of the Average Earnings Index (AEI) in 1999, and the development of a Labour Cost Index (LCI).

The AWE uses the same wages data used to construct the AEI, but has an improved estimation process. This allows the publication of a level of average earnings each month and to estimate the effect of movements of employees between industries on average earnings growth.

The LCI combines the AWE with measures of non-wage labour costs and hours worked data to produce an index that shows the changes in the total cost to employers per hour worked.

### Progress to date

- The new Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) was published in October 2004
- An improved annual questionnaire was introduced for the 2005 ASHE and discontinuity measured
- New short-term measures of earnings statistics – *Average Weekly Earnings and Index of Labour Costs* – were introduced in May 2005 and released as experimental statistics on the National Statistics website

### Planned future work

Annual survey development is now complete. During 2006/07 work will continue on new short-term indicators with the aim of achieving National Statistics status by March 2007. Work includes reviewing imputation and outliers methodology and producing sampling errors.

### Completion date

March 2007.

### Cost

Development cost £600,000.

Ongoing running costs £190,000 a year.

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## D. Implementation of the Allsopp Review recommendations relating to Labour Market Statistics

### Aims and objectives

The main aim of this project is to provide improved LMS at subnational level, in response to user demands identified in the Allsopp Review.

### Progress to date

Regional analysis of usual weekly hours of work has continued to be published every month since they were introduced in the regional labour market First Releases in January 2005. Data from the Annual Population Survey were published in the regional labour market First Releases for the first time in September 2005. The First Release tables cover the following geographies:

- unitary and local authorities
- parliamentary constituencies
- Travel to Work Areas
- NUTS 3 areas

These annual tables will be updated on a rolling quarterly basis. Data were also launched on Nomis® and in the new *Local Area Labour Market Statistical Indicators* web publication in September 2005. Since the launch in January 2004, the Nomis® labour market profiles have been continually developed and enhanced in terms of both functionality and data. They have been extended to include more data on working age benefits and administrative counts of vacancies, and the functionality includes more geographical and comparability tools.

### Planned future work

Further enhancements to the Nomis® labour market profiles are planned for 2006/07.

### Project length

Ongoing.

### Cost

Developments will be implemented from existing resources.

### Contact

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## E. Completion of Employment and Jobs Quality Review

### Aims and objectives

The main objectives of the Quality Review are to formulate recommendations relating to:

- the coherence of the different sources of data and the feasibility of developing a single integrated set of statistics that meet all user needs
- the quality, frequency and timeliness of the statistics classified by industry group across the economy and by public/private sector
- the quality of the statistics for countries and regions within the UK and for local areas

### Progress to date

The Review was completed and a final report published in January 2006 on the National Statistics website at:

[www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/quality/reviews/labour.asp#nsqremf](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/quality/reviews/labour.asp#nsqremf)

### Planned future work

An action plan detailing how the recommendations will be taken forward will be published in 2006, along with the first of a regular series of quarterly employment and jobs reconciliation tables.

### Completion date

The review was published in January 2006.

### Cost

£80,000

### Contact

barry.werner@ons.gsi.gov.uk

## F. Input to the Paris Group and International Labour Organisation (ILO) discussions of ILO Resolution on working hours statistics

### Aims and objectives

ONS is participating in an international programme of work with the Paris Group to develop a draft ILO resolution relating to the collection and compilation of working hours statistics.

### Progress to date

A draft resolution has been produced and was circulated to Paris Group members in early March 2006.

### Planned future work

The resolution will be discussed at a meeting of the Paris Group in May 2006. Following this, a final version will be sent to the ILO for the next International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) meeting in 2008.

### Completion date

2008.

### Cost

Over the three-year period staff costs may account for around £100,000.

## G. Development and analysis of inactivity statistics

### Aims and objectives

As a result of proposals made in an article published in *Labour Market Trends* in October 2003, ONS aimed to develop and test new inactivity questions for the 2005 LFS. This is with a view to improving the value of the survey for assessing potential labour supply. This work is being carried out as part of an international collaboration co-ordinated by the ILO.

### Progress to date

Modifications have been made to the LFS questions that ask about people's reasons for inactivity. Test questions have been included in the questionnaire regarding inactive respondents' propensity to work in future since spring 2005.

### Planned future work

Further analysis is being undertaken to assess these questions. It is planned that a summary of this will be included in a *Labour Market Trends* article that will appear in mid-2006.

### Completion date

July 2006.

### Cost

Work on this project over the three years 2005/06 to 2007/08 will reach around £80,000.

## Contact

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## Contact

[margaret.shaw@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:margaret.shaw@ons.gsi.gov.uk)

## H. Development of working age benefit data for Labour Market Statistics

### Aims and objectives

To develop working age benefit data for inclusion in labour market assessment and analysis. ONS plans to use the improved and more accessible working age benefit data that are being developed by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

### Progress to date

In October 2005 DWP benefits data for May 2005 became available on Nomis®. The two types of data available were client group datasets and individual benefit datasets. Data are available down to local authority and parliamentary constituency levels. The benefit datasets on Nomis® are taken from a 5 per cent sample of benefit claimants.

From October 2005 DWP has also produced headline benefit statistics, from a different data source. These new data are derived from all claimants rather than from the 5 per cent samples. Statistics from the 100 per cent data were available from an Internet-based tabulation tool on the DWP website, but the working age client group dataset was also added to Nomis® from March 2006.

### Planned future work

It is planned to extend Nomis® coverage to include data on individual benefits from the 100 per cent dataset. During 2006/07 ONS and DWP will be considering which benefits data could be included in the LMS First Release.

### Completion date

Under negotiation between ONS and DWP.

### Cost

Depends on the work involved – currently unknown.

### Contact

david.blunt@ons.gsi.gov.uk

## I. Preparation of labour force projections

### Aims and objectives

During 2004 consistent employment and unemployment series back to 1971 were produced on ILO definitions using an econometric modelling approach and published. ONS will move on to produce projections of the economically active population on the same consistent basis. These will incorporate the latest population projections.

### Progress to date

This project has been completed and the report was published on the National Statistics website in January 2006 at:

[www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme\\_labour/projections\\_lmtjan06.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/projections_lmtjan06.pdf)

UK level labour force projections for years until 2020 were published in January 2006, and it is expected that these will be updated every two years, following the publication of new population projections. For the foreseeable future, no resources will be available to produce labour force projections at sub-national level, so previous plans to consult on the need for these have been suspended.

### Planned future work

To be updated every two years.

### Completion date

January 2006.

### Cost

£30,000

### Contact

craig.lindsay@ons.gsi.gov.uk

## J. Development of local area modelled Labour Market Statistics

### Aims and objectives

In response to demands from local government users of LMS, a project to develop modelled unemployment data for local areas has developed experimental estimates, which are published on the National Statistics website. Since these estimates were produced, the model methodology has been further developed to produce estimates that are more precise than the LFS estimates for all areas. This new methodology is now being peer reviewed, and users are validating the estimates produced by the new model.

### Progress to date

Model-based unemployment estimates for the period October 2004 to September 2005 will be published as National Statistics for the first time in 2006, along with other data from the Annual Population Survey covering the same period.

### Planned future work

A model for producing similar modelled estimates for parliamentary constituencies is being developed. A multivariate model that will simultaneously estimate both unemployment and either employment or inactivity is also being developed.

### Completion date

The main project aim – to publish modelled unemployment estimates for local authorities as National Statistics – will be completed in summer 2006.

### Cost

Around £22,000. This is made up of staff costs in Labour Market Division and Methodology Group in ONS.

## Contact

[nick.maine@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:nick.maine@ons.gsi.gov.uk)

## K. Publication of Labour Market Review volume and accompanying Online Guide to Labour Market Statistics

### Aims and objectives

The objective of the *Labour Market Review* volume is to stand back from the monthly LMS published by ONS and to describe some longer-term trends. The aim of the Online Guide – the Guide to Labour Market Statistics – is to provide an easily accessible and comprehensive source of information about the outputs, sources, definitions and methods used for the compilation of the UK's LMS. The two products complement each other and provide easy-to-use reference sources for a wide range of users of differing degrees of expertise.

### Progress to date

The Review volume and Online Guide were published in March 2006 on the National Statistics website at:

[www.statistics.gov.uk/labourmarketreview](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/labourmarketreview)

### Planned future work

The Online Guide will be kept up to date on an ongoing basis.

### Completion date

March 2006.

### Cost

£80,000

## Contact

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## Topic Group Members

This Work Programme was developed by:

Colin Mowl (Chair)  
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David Blunt  
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Grant Fitzner  
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John Flatley  
*Office for National Statistics*

James Gillan  
*Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment,  
Northern Ireland*

Heidi Grainger  
*Department of Trade and Industry*

Fred Johnson  
*Department for Work and Pensions*

Chris Kelly  
*HM Treasury*

Edwin Ko  
*HM Revenue & Customs*

Julian Revell  
*National Assembly for Wales*

Andrew Roberts  
*Cabinet Office*

Steve Roberts  
*Department for Work and Pensions*

Margaret Shaw  
*Office for National Statistics*

Sally Srinivasav  
*Bank of England*

Madeleine Watson  
*Department of Health*

Bill Wells  
*Department for Work and Pensions*

Barry Werner  
*Office for National Statistics*

Graham Thompson  
*Office for National Statistics (Secretary)*

Philippa Brimicombe  
*Office for National Statistics (Secretary)*

## Useful websites

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

National Statistics  
[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

Department for Education and Skills  
[www.dfes.gov.uk](http://www.dfes.gov.uk)

Department for Work and Pensions  
[www.dwp.gov.uk](http://www.dwp.gov.uk)

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment,  
Northern Ireland  
[www.detini.gov.uk](http://www.detini.gov.uk)

Department of Trade and Industry  
[www.dti.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.dti.gov.uk/statistics)

National Assembly for Wales  
[www.wales.gov.uk](http://www.wales.gov.uk)

Scottish Executive  
[www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)

# Natural and Built Environment

## Report of progress against plans 2005/06

### Introduction

The Natural and Built Environment Theme covers statistics for four main areas:

- natural environment (air, water, soil, wildlife, natural resources, waste and land cover)
- housing (houses, households, housing finance, house prices and homelessness)
- construction (output, new orders, employment, building materials, price and cost indices)
- land use and planning (development control, land use change and stock, small area retail turnover, floorspace, town centres and green belt)

The main government departments represented within the Theme are the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), Office for National Statistics (ONS), Scottish Executive (SE), National Assembly for Wales (NAW), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland, Department for Social Development, Northern Ireland (DSD) and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). This Theme has links with the Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry Theme.

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

### Priority projects

#### A. Development of the Sustainable Consumption and Production statistical evidence base, including indicators

##### Aims and objectives

The compilation of a robust and credible evidence base to support the delivery of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) policies.

##### Progress to date

The statistical evidence base for SCP policy is being developed as part of Defra's Evidence and Innovation Strategy, which went out to consultation in October 2005. The Strategy identifies the need to understand resource flows and the environmental impacts of different social and economic trends, different sectors and different products.

Underpinning the strategy is a research programme that has initially focused on reviewing the available evidence and identifying areas for further work and development. Among the current research projects due to report in spring 2006 are a review of resource flow type studies including mass balance; the development of a methodology for estimating 'embedded emissions' for imported goods and services; a review of the available evidence of the impacts of UK and EU consumption on the biodiversity of other countries; an assessment of the robustness of the evidence base on the environmental impacts of commodity production; an analysis of the environmental impacts of a selection of commonly purchased food and drink products; and a study of the areas of UK public

sector expenditure with the most significant environmental, social and health impacts.

### Planned future work

The studies listed above will identify, among other things, the areas where further statistical development work is needed. This could range from the adaptation of existing statistical surveys so that they deliver information that is more relevant to SCP policy needs, through to the development of modelling tools and frameworks that can incorporate disparate sources of evidence on material flows and environmental impacts.

### Completion date

Not known, as it is part of a wider Research Programme under development.

### Cost

Not known, as it is part of a wider Research Programme under development.

### Contact

[rocky.harris@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:rocky.harris@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

## B. Production of more comprehensive, relevant, frequent and timely waste statistics

### Aims and objectives

The aim of this project, being taken forward by Defra and the Welsh Assembly Government jointly with the Environment Agency, is to provide a sound evidence base for improved waste management, policy development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, at both national and local levels.

### Progress to date

A lack of information on specific waste streams, their growth rates, composition, life cycles and impact is hampering the development of an effective waste strategy for household and other waste streams, and the ability to measure and monitor progress effectively. The joint Defra and Welsh Assembly Government Waste Data Strategy charts the way forward for a three-year workstream aimed at filling the gap and contributing to the development of a sound evidence base for waste policymaking, land use and business planning, and performance monitoring. This work is being taken forward through Defra's Waste Implementation Programme, which also includes a complementary Waste and Resources Research and Development (R&D) Strategy.

A Regulatory Impact Assessment to consult on the final proposals and their impact on industry closed in early January 2006. A summary of the responses was published in February 2006. A final version of the Waste Data Strategy will be published shortly on the Defra website. One strand of the Strategy already in place is the WasteDataFlow system, a web-based intranet for quarterly local authority data on waste. First results from the new system were published in March 2006. Other strands include a data integrity project and a central data hub that combines existing datasets for analytical use. The work is being taken forward in close collaboration with the Environment Agency and includes development of the existing system of waste licensing returns.



For progress to date and the current position, see [www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/wip/data/index.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/wip/data/index.htm)

#### Planned future work

This is an ongoing programme of development work.

#### Project length

Ongoing.

#### Cost

Not available, as it is part of a wider programme.

## C. Production of more comprehensive, relevant, frequent and timely waste statistics in Northern Ireland

### Aims and objectives

The purpose of the project is to carry out a number of surveys on different waste streams, including commercial and industrial waste arisings.

### Progress to date

Fieldwork for the Commercial and Industrial Waste Arisings Survey (CIWAS) began in September 2005. It was agreed that a Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste Arisings Survey (CDEWAS) should be undertaken and the tender has been awarded. Fieldwork began in February 2006.

### Planned future work

It has been agreed that an Agricultural Waste Arisings Survey should be carried out and it is hoped that the tender will be awarded in 2006/07.

### Completion date

The CIWAS report should be completed in June 2006 and the CDEWAS report in July 2006.

### Cost

CIWAS – £300,000

CDEWAS – £95,000

## Contact

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## Contact

[stephanie.harcourt@drdni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stephanie.harcourt@drdni.gsi.gov.uk)

## D. Publication of household projection figures for Northern Ireland

### Aims and objectives

The purpose of this project is to produce updated household projections for Northern Ireland up to 2025, applying the data from the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) 2004-based population projections for Northern Ireland to provide better projections.

### Progress to date

An examination, in public, into the production of Housing Growth Indicators for Northern Ireland is currently ongoing. As Northern Ireland household projections are a central feature of this process, the methodology used to produce the 2002-based projections is currently being examined as part of this exercise. As a result, the project to produce projections utilising 2004-based data has been postponed until the examination in public process is complete.

### Planned future work

It is hoped that this project will be completed, subject to funding and the outcome of the public consultation process, during 2006/07. This will then form the start of a regular statistical series.

### Completion date

March 2007.

### Cost

To be determined.

## E. Settlement shops and services in Northern Ireland

### Aims and objectives

The study will improve the classification and monitoring of settlement shops and services. The project will provide better identification of settlements by counting the number of shops and services in them, and not relying only on a population count.

### Progress to date

Analysis of detailed data on employment, transport, financial services and voluntary/community services has demonstrated that the private, public and voluntary sectors do not all show the same patterns of distribution between settlements. It has been established that population is sometimes a poor indicator of service level.

### Planned future work

It is intended to further classify all Northern Ireland settlements of 1,000 population or above, according to several dimensions of service type. Levels of services associated with certain types of settlement will be proposed.

### Completion date

Summer 2006.

### Cost

In the region of £5,000.

## Contact

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## Contact

[chris.morris@dsdni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:chris.morris@dsdni.gsi.gov.uk)

## F. Living in Wales Survey

### Aims and objectives

Living in Wales is a survey for the National Assembly for Wales carried out by Ipsos MORI and managed by the Local Government Data Unit – Wales. It is the main source of information on households in Wales. The respondent is the household reference person or another appropriate adult and information on all household members is collected. Ad hoc condition surveys take place in conjunction with the household survey.

The household survey is a new omnibus survey and the condition survey is the latest in a series of house condition surveys that have taken place in Wales.

### Progress to date

Initial results from the 2004 survey have been published at the Wales level via a series of topic-specific Statistical Releases. These releases provided information from both the household and the house condition surveys.

Fieldwork for the 2005 survey is now complete and has already started for the 2006 survey. These surveys will contain more diverse questions from policy departments.

### Planned future work

It is planned that results at the Wales level from the 2005 survey will be published during 2006. Results at local authority level will be available in 2007 once three surveys have been aggregated.

The survey will be extended into 2007 and 2008 as an option on the original contract. This will encompass a condition survey in 2008. Surveys beyond 2008 will be determined by necessity and a further tender process.

### Project length

Ongoing.

### Cost

Not available.

### Contact

[rhannon.caunt@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:rhannon.caunt@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

## G. Development of resource indicators based on the UK material flow account

### Aims and objectives

The aim of the project is the compilation of resource use and resource intensity indicators in preparation for future Eurostat requirements.

### Progress to date

The ONS Material Flow account now shows a physical trade balance indicator. Compilation processes have been improved to ensure trade data are fully consistent with those published by HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation. Data incorporating these developments were published in November 2005.

### Planned future work

Work regarding the production of an industrial breakdown of resource use and intensity is ongoing. This breakdown will be based on the National Accounts Matrix including Environmental Accounts (NAMEA) format recommended by Eurostat.

### Completion date

It is anticipated that an analysis of resource use and intensity, including an industrial breakdown, will be completed by November 2006.

### Cost

Not applicable.

### Contact

[ian.gazley@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ian.gazley@ons.gsi.gov.uk)

## H. Rationalisation of data collection from social housing landlords in Scotland

### Aims and objectives

The project aims to provide consistent information on stock, vacancies, lettings, rents and improvement activities for local authority and housing association landlords at national, local authority and neighbourhood levels. It also aims to simplify reporting and reduce the burden of data supply.

### Progress to date

A review of the evidence base for housing policy and practice in Scotland was commissioned jointly by the Scottish Executive (SE) and Communities Scotland. This will be published in May 2006 with a commentary from the two organisations. Among other things, the review has identified what the authors term as 'landlord-generated data collections' and recommended ways of harmonising the content and periodicity of these collections. In addition, the review recommends that SE and Communities Scotland develop electronic case-based data collections from all social landlords covering housing stock and lettings. These would be the Scottish equivalents of developments under way in England.

### Planned future work

Councils, housing associations and Communities Scotland need to agree the content and frequency of summary data collections on stock and lettings from all social landlords.

SE plans to complete the assessment of a business case for extending the Scottish Continuous Recording System (SCORE) case-based data collection system for lettings by housing associations to cover all social landlords and making its completion mandatory. The assessment will consider the costs to all parties, feasibility and benefits of the proposal.

### Completion date

The content of aggregate data collections should be agreed by the end of 2006 and the new aggregate collections introduced in time for 2006/07 outturn data collections if possible and by 2007/08 at the latest.

The SCORE business case assessment should be completed by the end of 2006.

### Cost

The SE resources identified to take forward this work are 1.5 staff years at various grades.

### Contact

[duncan.gray@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:duncan.gray@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

## I. Subnational household projections for England and Wales

### Aims and objectives

To produce long-term 2003-based projections of the number of additional households. These will update the previously published 1996-based projections and 2002-based interim projections.

### Progress to date

Household projections for England at a regional level were published in March 2006 and subregional projections were published in April 2006.

### Planned future work

A report is planned which will detail the methodology used for the 2003-based projections. Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) will also consider future updates.

### Project length

Ongoing.

### Cost

Not available.

## Contact

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## Theme Group Members

This Work Programme was developed by:

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*Office for National Statistics*

David Lee  
*Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs*

Chris Morris  
*Department for Social Development, Northern Ireland*

Frances Pottier  
*Department of Trade and Industry*

Phillip White  
*Department for Communities and Local Government*

Matt Prior (Secretary)  
*Office for National Statistics*

## Useful websites

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

National Statistics  
[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

Department for Communities and Local Government  
[www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
[www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics)

Department for Social Development, Northern Ireland  
[www.dsdni.gov.uk](http://www.dsdni.gov.uk)

Department for Transport  
[www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk)

Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland  
[www.doeni.gov.uk](http://www.doeni.gov.uk)

Department of Trade and Industry  
[www.dti.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.dti.gov.uk/statistics)

National Assembly for Wales  
[www.wales.gov.uk](http://www.wales.gov.uk)

Scottish Executive  
[www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)

# Population and Migration

## Report of progress against plans 2005/06

### Introduction

The Population and Migration Theme brings together information and statistics about the UK's population. The Theme covers population estimates and projections, outputs from the population census and international and internal migration, as well as statistics on births, deaths, marriages, divorces, citizenship and electoral turnout. These provide essential information about the characteristics, structure and dynamics of the population. Population and migration statistics are produced using a range of data sources, both administrative and survey.

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

### A. Research plans for improving population and migration statistics for England and Wales

#### Aims and objectives

ONS has an ongoing work programme to improve population estimates, projections and migration statistics. The aim of this programme is to reduce the risk that, when population estimates based on the 2011 Census are available, users of population statistics are again faced with large differences between these and the mid-year population estimates based on the 2001 Census. Research will also aim to ensure that ONS has a better understanding of the reasons underlying any large differences that do occur.

This work includes projects aimed at improving ONS's migration statistics, and ONS will also work with local authorities to conduct a number of population studies in England and Wales. The aim of

the population studies is to investigate the potential for using alternative, high-quality, national and local data sources to improve the current methods for estimating population change to local levels in England and Wales. The plans also recognise the need to feed through insights from this work that may benefit those planning the 2011 Census.

Migration, both international and internal, is the most difficult component of population change to measure reliably due to the paucity of available sources and the absence of a direct measure. Work is under way to implement recommendations of the *Review of International Migration Statistics*. Research is planned to improve the reliability of the national estimates on international migration, and the geographical distribution of migrants within England and Wales and between the countries of the UK.

The Allsopp *Review of Statistics for Economic Policymaking* recommended that ONS develop its programme of research to establish how internal migration can be estimated more reliably. The current patient register data source is being redeveloped as part of the National Health Service's (NHS) National Programme for IT (NPFIT) and ONS will seek opportunities to acquire improved data from the new systems. Furthermore, ONS plans to investigate other administrative sources to assess whether they can be used to resolve the known limitations of the patient register source.

It should be noted that these issues are common throughout the UK, and both the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) are involved in developing a UK-wide solution.

#### Progress to date and planned future work

Work on the Improving Migration and Population Statistics (IMPS) project includes taking forward the recommendations of the *Review of International*

*Migration Statistics*. Progress to date includes work aimed at increasing the reliability of estimates from the International Passenger Survey (IPS) and improving the geographical distribution of migration estimates at both regional and local authority level. Specific progress points are:

- The feasibility of collecting information on the characteristics of refusals and non-contacts in the IPS is being analysed following trials in December 2005. This work relates to the IPS as a whole, not just the impact of non-response on estimates of migration
- IPS emigration samples have been analysed by port to assess the ports to target for emigration filter shifts
- Detailed comparisons of the geographical distribution of immigrants in the IPS, the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the 2001 Census indicate that there is potential for using information from the LFS to aid distribution of estimates of international migration at a country/regional level. This work is being progressed in tandem with research into the method for distributing regional level estimates of migration down to local authority level, using a harmonised approach to produce ONS population estimates and subnational population projections for England
- Work is well progressed on comparing estimates from the IPS with data from other countries on flows with the UK and UK-born people living abroad. This will be reported on during 2006

Four LA case studies are underway (Barnet, Derby, Hammersmith and Fulham, and Welwyn Hatfield), the method used to select the LAs was based on risk factors associated with estimating population, it is published on the National Statistics website:

[www.statistics.gov.uk/imps](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/imps).

The four case studies aim to explore whether local information and data sources exist which can better inform population estimation at the local level and if so, how these match to national data sources used in the ONS population estimates. Each one addresses issues thought to be common to an LA cluster. If local data sources are found, their wider availability

needs to be tested, both for other members of the cluster and nationally and methods would be needed for generalising any promising outcomes from the case studies. A report will be produced for each LA Study in 2006 covering why the area was chosen and what the outcomes are for improving population statistics. After the reports have been produced ONS plan to evaluate the case studies and will review the need for further studies based on that evaluation.

To complement these case studies, an ONS/local authority workshop was held in November 2005. The aim was to give local authorities an opportunity to feed their ideas for improving population statistics into the IMPS project and 55 delegates attended. The information collected has fed into the IMPS research plan.

The current primary source for Internal Migration Statistics is patient register data. Research has been developed in the light of the modernisation of the National Health Information Systems and any possible changes to this key data source. The programme will feed ONS requirements into the modernisation to ensure the continuity of provision of the existing source data, and take opportunities to realise improvements to the Internal Migration statistics that are based on those source data with subsequent improvements in the Internal Migration Statistics. This work is driven by NPfIT/Connecting for Health deadlines.

Information on the IMPS project was published on the National Statistics website in September 2005 with a further update on the local authority case studies and workshop in March 2006. For more information, see:

[www.statistics.gov.uk/imps](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/imps)

It is planned to add further updates, including the IMPS research plan, a full report on the local authority workshop, and regular updates on IMPS research.

### Cost

£1 million per annum to March 2008.

### Contact

[roma.chappell@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:roma.chappell@ons.gsi.gov.uk)

## B. Research on demographic trends in Scotland

### Aims and objectives

Scotland's population is changing; an ageing and declining population is posing critical challenges for policymakers. In April 2005 the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) announced a new two-year research initiative into demographic trends in Scotland. Funded in partnership with the Scottish Executive (SE), this research will investigate three key aspects of Scotland's demography: migration, fertility and the impact of an ageing population.

Six research projects, funded by this partnership initiative and supported by the GROS, will address some of the key issues underlying Scotland's changing demography. The projects include investigations into low fertility in Scotland and the wide variations in fertility rates within Scotland; policy-relevant issues around Scotland's ageing population; macroeconomic impacts of demographic change in Scotland; and aspects of migration, including a study of Scottish graduate migration and retention.

### Progress to date

The six projects are now well under way and interim feedback has been obtained from each of the research teams. Emerging findings and their implications continue to be discussed in some detail with key policy users.

### Planned future work

The ESRC and SE are working with the research teams to develop user engagement and communication events over 2006/07. There are plans to hold a large event in 2007, pulling together the findings and implications from each of the projects. The outcomes will feed into future policy developments to address Scotland's demographic issues in the longer term.

### Completion date

Each project has its own timetable. The earliest completion date is 28 March 2006 and the latest is 31 March 2007.

### Cost

£300,000

### Contact

[cecilia.macintyre@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:cecilia.macintyre@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

## C. Developing new population products

### Aims and objectives

ONS has three research projects aimed at developing new population products for England and Wales. The overall aim is to maintain the relevance of ONS population outputs and meet user needs in a timely fashion by producing quarterly estimates six weeks after the end of the quarter. However, continued delivery of these projects is dependent upon continued funding.

### *Small area estimates*

This research project was set up to investigate methods for producing population estimates below local authority level. These estimates are needed to meet the growing need for population information at geographic levels below local authority level.

### *Quarterly estimates*

This project on quarterly population estimates will provide timely short-term forecasts, which will be updated at least once a year to be in line with the mid-year population estimates for England and Wales and will replace the current method used to produce 1 January estimates for Eurostat

### *Ethnic projections*

One of the Policy Action Team 18 (PAT18) recommendations was for ONS to improve ethnic statistics. As part of this, the Neighbourhood Statistics Service (NeSS) has funded an ongoing project looking at developing a methodology for producing population projections with an ethnic dimension. This research is examining existing data sources and developing methods, including setting assumptions about future levels of fertility, mortality, migration and inter-ethnic transitions over time so that population projections can be calculated on this basis.

### *Scotland*

Developments in population statistics for Scotland, which are the responsibility of the GROS, include development of:

- a new national household estimates series based on council tax data



- data zone population estimates for 2001 to 2004
- data zone household estimates

### Northern Ireland

Development of population statistics for Northern Ireland includes:

- publication of population estimates for Super Output Areas (SOAs) for 2001 to 2004 in May 2005
- development of a method for population estimates at SOA level as the 2001 Census benchmark becomes less timely, published by March 2006
- development and publication of a range of demographic statistics at SOA level by autumn 2005

### Progress to date and planned future work

#### Small area estimates

A series of estimates have been released as experimental statistics. Initially, ward estimates were released and, to reflect changing requirements for small area data, estimates have now been released for lower layer and middle layer SOAs. Initial user feedback to the estimates has been favourable. ONS is now intending to produce an annual set of SOA estimates, consistent with the local authority mid-year estimates (MYEs).

#### Quarterly estimates

Quarterly production of experimental estimates has started and these will be published in May, September and November 2006 and February 2007. Plans for full evaluation and quality assessment will follow the revisions to the series when up-to-date MYEs are published in August 2006.

#### Ethnic projections

A necessary change to priorities for the key customer, NeSS, has led to refocusing this work from projections to estimates. *Experimental Population Estimates by Ethnic Group* for local authorities in England for 2001 to 2003 were published in January 2006, generating a good deal of interest from customers. The estimates are fully consistent with the official mid-year population estimates.

Estimates for 2004 (corresponding to the latest MYE) will be published in summer 2006. The next steps include an assessment of the estimates'

reliability and their usefulness, which will demonstrate whether or not they are of sufficient quality to become National Statistics. This work will continue throughout the remainder of 2006/07.

### Scotland

- The method for producing household estimates was reviewed, and three potential methods were considered. Based on this, it was decided that future household estimates would be based on council tax data. This has the advantage that the figures will be more timely, and information on vacant dwellings will be updated annually, rather than relying on information from the census, for private sector housing. In addition, these statistics will tie in with the small area household estimates being developed (see below). Household estimates for 2004 and 2005 have now been published using this approach, and they have been used in the production of household projections

- Data zone based estimates for 2001 to 2004 by gender and five-year age group produced by GROS were published in October 2005. These estimates are consistent with the mid-year population estimates and have been produced using the cohort component method and evaluated in conjunction with Scottish local authorities. Estimates for 2005 will be published in October 2006. The next stage of the project is to evaluate the cohort component estimates further using various administrative data sources, and to examine the ratio change and apportionment methods for producing small area population estimates

- GROS is developing a new data collection, based on council tax systems, which would allow the production of data zone household estimates (or, more accurately, estimates of the number of occupied and vacant dwellings). This will allow the production of household estimates and projections for areas other than local authority areas, which is not currently possible. GROS is currently working with local authorities and their software suppliers to develop systems that will export the information required. The first data collection is planned for September 2006

### *Northern Ireland*

NISRA published population estimates for SOAs for 2001 (Census) and 2003 (consistent with MYEs) in 2005/06. A lack of resources and other competing priorities meant that extending this work to include a time series to 2004 was not completed, nor was work on developing a methodology to run this time series forward. It is planned to complete this work in 2006/07.

NISRA also published a range of further demographic statistics for SOAs. The Key Statistics series from the 2001 Census was published at SOA level and disseminated using Scalar Vector Graphics through NISRA's Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS). In addition, a range of vital statistics covering fertility and mortality are now also routinely reported through NINIS.

### Project length

Ongoing.

### Cost

Not available.

### Contacts

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### D. Planning of 2011 Census

Please refer to chapter 8 for more detailed information.

### E. Stochastic forecasting

#### Aims and objectives

ONS, in collaboration with the University of Leeds, aims to develop probabilistic national population projections for the UK, thus enabling these projections to be specified. This project was originally agreed between the Government Actuary's Department (GAD), who then had responsibility for the production of national population projections, and the University of Leeds. On 31 January 2006 responsibility for the production of national population projections was transferred from GAD to ONS and the new National Statistics Centre for Demography (NSCD) was established (see chapter 13).

#### Progress to date

In May 2005 the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) convened an expert group to advise on the appropriate assumptions for the 2004-based national projections. The advice included the experts' best estimates of the future levels of key demographic indicators and their best estimates of associated 80 per cent confidence intervals.

In January 2006 GAD completed an extensive database of past national population projections. Expert opinion and past projection accuracy are two of the three standard methods (along with time series modelling) used, normally in combination, to specify probability distributions for stochastic forecasting.

#### Planned future work

A report on national population projections incorporating probabilistic ranges of population outcomes and the development of a working system for producing such projections.

#### Completion date

This was originally envisaged as a three-year project, to be completed in summer 2006. The withdrawal of an Economic and Social Research

Council (ESRC) studentship for the candidate who was intended to undertake the work has meant that the completion of this project has been delayed. ONS and the University of Leeds are currently agreeing a project specification for the remainder of the work.

### Cost

GAD had previously contributed £2,500 to setting up the necessary personal computer cluster. No significant additional costs were incurred in 2005/06. The expert group meeting and the creation of the historical database were developments that would have happened in any case to improve regular projection work. Staff costs will be incurred during 2006/07 as the project progresses.

### Contact

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## Theme Group Members

This Work Programme was developed by:

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Patrick Collier

*Home Office*

Ian Cope

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Bob Garland

*Department for Communities and Local Government*

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*Office for National Statistics*

Steven Marshall

*National Assembly for Wales*

Peter Scrimgeour

*General Register Office for Scotland*

Chris Shaw

*Office for National Statistics*

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*Office for National Statistics (Secretary)*

## Useful websites

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

National Statistics

[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

General Register Office for Scotland

[www.gro-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk)

Government Actuary's Department

[www.gad.gov.uk](http://www.gad.gov.uk)

Home Office

[www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk)

National Assembly for Wales

[www.wales.gov.uk](http://www.wales.gov.uk)

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

[www.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.nisra.gov.uk)

Scottish Executive

[www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)

# Social and Welfare

## Report of progress against plans 2005/06

### Introduction

The Social and Welfare Theme brings together information and statistics about the domestic, financial and social living arrangements of individuals and families. It covers: social trends and overviews; household finances; benefits and tax credits; welfare; socio-economic inequalities and poverty; social capital; culture, sport and leisure activities; household and family structure and projections; and households and housing (also covered by the Natural and Built Environment Theme).

The data are collected from a variety of sources, including the population census, household and employer surveys, and administrative data systems. The primary dissemination channel for the Theme is the National Statistics website, supplemented by the relevant departmental websites and paper publications.

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

### Priority projects

#### A. Development of a new publication on Pension Statistics

##### Aims and objectives

The aim of the project is to present a comprehensive set of statistics and analysis on UK pensions through a single publication; this will be one of the key outputs from the Pensions Statistics Task Force (PSTF).

##### Progress to date

The first edition of *Pension Trends* was published in October 2005 by ONS. The publication provides a statistical backdrop to the debate on pensions,

bringing together for the first time key statistics from a range of sources to illustrate the economic and social issues that shape trends in pension provision. *Pension Trends* provides both an invaluable summary of the core facts, presented in a straightforward way accessible to a wide range of users, and gives guidance and pointers to the most appropriate sources for those who want to explore particular issues in more depth.

The publication is available both in paper format and electronically as an interactive pdf through the National Statistics website.

In recognition of the importance of the work started by the PSTF, ONS established a permanent Pensions Analysis Unit (PAU), which succeeded the PSTF in November 2005.

##### Planned future work

The publication will be updated on a regular basis. A strategy for updating *Pension Trends* is being developed, starting with a user consultation exercise that will inform future direction, and the PAU will be developing an analysis of new data sources for inclusion in future *Pension Trends*.

Further work is in progress to improve the quality and reliability of pension statistics – for information, please see Project B in the Commerce, Energy and Industry Theme.

##### Project length

Ongoing.

##### Cost

Not available.

### Contact

[di.lewis@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:di.lewis@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

## B. Modernising Department for Work and Pensions statistical publications

### Aims and objectives

The aim of the modernising statistics project is to review most Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) National Statistics publications in the light of Internet dissemination advances and to integrate more accurate data from the new Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS).

### Progress to date

In 2004 DWP held a consultation exercise which established users' needs. In July 2005 DWP published a National Statistics paper about the major changes the modernisation project would bring. In addition to the increased use of Internet dissemination, there would be changes in the number of benefit claimants, due to the move to the new data source: the WPLS. The way WPLS data are collected allows claims appearing late on benefit administration systems to be retrospectively included. This has the effect of raising the numbers of people shown as receiving benefits. However, as outlined in the National Statistics paper, the trends over time remained the same as with the previous data sources.

The first 'modernised' suite of publications was released in October 2005 with almost all benefit statistics becoming available through the 'Tabulation Tool', an Internet dissemination method that allows users to define their own statistical tables. The Tabulation Tool can be accessed through the DWP website at:

[www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp)

DWP has received positive feedback regarding the use of the Tabulation Tool. The subsequent release in January 2006 saw benefit statistics updated and the addition of New Deal statistics to the Tabulation Tool. A quarterly time series of statistics for working age benefit claimants in small areas were released in February 2006 via the DWP and Neighbourhood Statistics websites.

The release of statistics in April 2006 included a quarterly time series of small area statistics for

individual benefits – to ward and Super Output Area (SOA)/data zones.

### Planned future work

A number of further enhancements are being investigated, such as UK-based figures and early estimates of key statistics, to improve consistency and usefulness alongside other Labour Market Statistics.

One of the most important advantages of the WPLS is its ability to link information from HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) to benefit and employment scheme data. DWP plans to complete the modernisation project by introducing information about claimant flows between benefits, employment schemes and work, utilising this comprehensive picture of clients from the WPLS. It will enable customers to gain a much clearer picture of the characteristics of benefit claimants, not only based on the number claiming at a point in time but also how claimants come into the benefit system, how New Deal programmes interact with benefits and how claimants move off benefits into sustained employment. This work will begin during 2006.

### Project length

Ongoing.

### Cost

£300,000 for the whole life of the project, excluding live running costs.

### Contact

[stuart.grant@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.grant@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

## C. Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2006

### Aims and objectives

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2006 will identify small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across all of Scotland in a fair way. The Index will build on developments made in the SIMD 2004. The SIMD 2004 interactive website can be found at:

[www.scotland.gov.uk/simd2004](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/simd2004)

### Progress to date

The Scottish Executive (SE) recently contracted Glasgow University to evaluate the methodology used in the SIMD 2004. The methodology passed this 'health check'.

Following discussion with users, SE has decided to make no changes to the underlying data zone geography for the SIMD 2006. Work is currently under way to update and develop indicators and domains for the SIMD 2006.

### Planned future work

The Index will be published alongside the background information, technical reports and geographic information, and will assist in the targeting of policies and programmes in the most deprived areas.

### Completion date

SE plans to publish the SIMD 2006 in October 2006.

### Cost

SIMD is funded as part of the Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics Programme.

## Contact

[tracey.stead@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.stead@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

## D. Ethnicity classifications

### Aims and objectives

The review of ethnicity categories is looking at the classifications that Scotland might use for the 2011 Census, with a view to designing a category system which will allow people to describe their ethnic identity in a way they want, while meeting the needs of the data users.

### Progress to date

Following research with a range of key stakeholders, a public consultation in 2005, and work by the Race Equality Scheme Implementation Group subgroup on ethnicity classification, SE has made proposals for two new questions to be included in the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) census test in April 2006.

### Planned future work

Following the census test in April 2006, responses to the proposed ethnicity question will be analysed to assess the quality of response to the question. In addition, responses will be cross-referenced with responses to the 2001 Census to consider the effect on the time series.

Harmonisation issues across the UK are being considered and Scotland will continue to liaise with ONS, with the aim of meeting the specific requirements of each administration while allowing cross-border comparisons at some level, if possible.

### Completion date

A final recommendation will be made in 2008 for inclusion in the census rehearsal in 2009.

### Cost

Not applicable.

## Contact

[julie.bright@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:julie.bright@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

## E. Production of a bulletin on household circumstances in Northern Ireland

### Aims and objectives

The aim of the project is to improve and expand the currently available Northern Ireland data coverage of household circumstances to match that of, and be able to contribute to, data for Great Britain.

### Progress to date

A range of bulletins based on Family Resources Survey (FRS) data have been published. The last required to ensure parity with Great Britain was published in February 2006.

### Planned future work

It is intended to use FRS data as required to cover Northern Ireland circumstances. It is likely that the impact of proposed reorganisations of local government boundaries will be assessed.

### Completion date

February 2006.

### Cost

Not applicable.

## Contact

[chris.morris@dsdni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:chris.morris@dsdni.gsi.gov.uk)

## F. Improving the quality of the analytical dataset derived from tax credits administrative data

### Aims and objectives

The aim of the project is to improve analytical capabilities via data matching, by merging HMRC employment data into the Social and Welfare Longitudinal Database (SWLD). This process of data-matching enables the tracking of benefit claimants in and out of employment. Further work is aimed at developing databases such as:

- Working Age Database (to include people of working age on key benefits)
- Pensioner Database (to include people of pensionable age on key benefits)

The outcome of the project will be to hold a database containing Social Security Agency data matched with employment data, allowing the tracking of customers from benefit to employment and vice versa. This will allow measurement to be made of the success of those policies aimed at getting benefit claimants back to work.

### Progress to date

The project was initiated in 2005/06 and will be ongoing throughout 2006/07. Initial analysis was produced using February 2005 Social Security Agency data merged with six months of HMRC data. This allowed benefit claimants to be tracked as they moved between benefits and out of the benefit system and into employment.

### Planned future work

The next stage of the project is to build the necessary databases back to 2002 and to track benefit claimants between benefits and into employment on a monthly basis. Acquisition of, and further merging of, HMRC data (savings data) and the SWLD will allow the identification of individuals for the Pension Credit Benefit Take-Up campaign.

### Completion date

2006/07.

### Cost

£32,000 a year, based on the number of working days and cost of the data.

## Contact

[michelle.crawford@dsdni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.crawford@dsdni.gsi.gov.uk)

## G. Updating the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation

### Aims and objectives

The main objective of this project is to update and revise the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2000 in order to provide a more up-to-date snapshot of deprivation in Wales, at lower SOA geography.

Other objectives include:

- producing a supplementary subset of indicators on 'life stages', that is, children and elderly, where reliable results can be produced
- producing specific information for each local authority
- reporting on the changes to the compilation of the Index since it was prepared in 2000

### Progress to date

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2005 was published in September 2005 and was revised in November 2005 after a slight revision to employment domain and consequently the overall deprivation domain. A local authority analysis report was also produced alongside this publication and both are available on the National Assembly for Wales website. Work is currently being undertaken to publish a technical report in April 2006.

### Planned future work

It is planned to publish the indicators for the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2005 in April 2006, where data restrictions allow. These data will be updated on a yearly basis (where available) to produce a comparable time series for each of the indicators.

### Completion date

The project was completed in November 2005.

### Cost

Not available.

### Contact

[emma.arnell-smith@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:emma.arnell-smith@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

## H. Development of a new household survey for culture and sporting activities on attendance, participation and attitudes

### Aims and objectives

Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), working in partnership with its non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) and others, is aiming to improve current understanding of participants and non-participants in DCMS sectors and activities. To meet this aim, a new household survey, Taking Part, is being developed to collect information from around 27,000 adults in England each year.

### Progress to date

The survey was launched in July 2005 and will achieve an annual sample size of around 28,500 adults (16+). Provisional results from the first three months and from the first six months were published in December 2005 and March 2006 respectively. These reports can be found on the DCMS website:

[www.culture.gov.uk/global/research/taking\\_part\\_survey/survey\\_outputs](http://www.culture.gov.uk/global/research/taking_part_survey/survey_outputs)

In January 2006 DCMS also launched a child (11–15) component to the survey. DCMS will achieve approximately 3,000 interviews a year among this cohort.

### Planned future work

Estimates in the most recent release will be updated quarterly. DCMS is working with its partners to develop a programme of further analysis to ensure this new dataset is exploited to maximum effect. Future analysis includes a detailed annual report on engagement within and across DCMS sectors, profiling users, levers and barriers to engagement, and demographic variations.

### Project length

Ongoing.

### Cost

£2.6 million a year.

### Contact

[rebecca.aust@culture.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:rebecca.aust@culture.gsi.gov.uk)



## I. Improving the quality of the analytical dataset derived from tax credits administrative data

### Aims and objectives

To maximise the value of administrative data on Child and Working Tax Credits to customers inside and outside central government.

### Progress to date

This project has essentially been successfully completed. For the first time, the statistics on finalised 2004–05 awards published on 31 May 2006 was based on analyses of all cases rather than a sample. This enabled more accurate figures to be produced, and also more detail including at small area level.

### Planned future work

Figures at Census Super Area Output level will be produced during 2006–07 and we expect the improved data source to generate more customer requests and increase the overall value of the statistics to Society.

### Completion date

2006/07.

### Cost

Not available.

## Contact

[alan.mcintyre@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:alan.mcintyre@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk)

## J. Family Resources Survey linking project

### Aims and objectives

The aim of the project is to link records held on the Family Resources Survey (FRS) with administrative data held by DWP. The project was set up as a result of the FRS Strategic Review in 2004 which consulted key users as to their future requirements.

DWP plans to seek consent from FRS respondents to link their records to information held by the department. This information is held within DWP's Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

The greatest potential early gain from this project will be in the DWP estimates of take-up of income-related benefits. Customers across DWP also expressed a need for longitudinal information that will enable them to track movements on and off benefits in addition to having a wealth of information available through the FRS. These improvements will be beneficial to all areas of policy development.

The project relates to Great Britain only.

### Progress to date

The beginning of 2005 was spent researching legal and ethical issues regarding consent and data linking. This resulted in a number of papers that were presented to an internal Working Group in June 2005.

During summer 2005 detailed legal discussions continued and approval for the project was obtained from advisers in both DWP and HMRC.

In July 2005 a presentation was made to the WPLS Ethics Committee. The role of the Committee is to make recommendations on the acceptability of proposed uses of the WPLS, taking into account legal advice and ethical issues. The Committee endorsed the project.

The FRS fieldwork contract was re-tendered and awarded to the consortium of ONS and the National Centre for Social Research. Fieldwork under the contract will begin in April 2006 and there are provisions within it for the data linking work.

The first phase of piloting for the new FRS consent question is now complete. This involved detailed cognitive testing. A new draft question has been produced, based on the findings of the study, and will be used in the next stage of the pilots.

### Planned future work

The second phase of quantitative testing of the consent question will take place later in 2006, with a view to agreeing a final version by August 2006. It is planned that the consent question will be brought fully into the FRS in October 2006, allowing six months' potentially linkable data.

Throughout autumn 2006 a project will take place to develop matching algorithms using data collected in the pilot. It is envisaged that by the end of 2006 matching procedures will be agreed.

The first six months' matched data are expected to be available at the end of 2007.

### Completion date

The first full year's linked FRS data are expected to become available to analysts within DWP and HMRC at the end of 2008.

### Cost

The estimated cost of the project during 2005/06 was £90,000. This differs from the original estimate in the three-year Work Programme of £50,000 as it now includes estimated contractors' costs.

## Contact

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## Theme Group Members

This Work Programme was developed by:

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Michelle Crawford  
*Department for Social Development, Northern Ireland*

Alan Jackson  
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Fred Johnson  
*Department for Work and Pensions*

Martin McGill  
*Department for Work and Pensions*

Maurice Nettley  
*HM Revenue & Customs*

David Wall  
*Department for Communities and Local Government*

Robert Williams  
*Scottish Executive*

Ian Wood  
*Department for Culture, Media and Sport*

Darran Tucker (Secretary)  
*Office for National Statistics*

## Useful websites

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

National Statistics  
[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

Department for Communities and Local Government  
[www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

Department for Culture, Media and Sport  
[www.culture.gov.uk](http://www.culture.gov.uk)

Department for Work and Pensions  
[www.dwp.gov.uk](http://www.dwp.gov.uk)

HM Revenue & Customs  
[www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/index.htm](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/index.htm)

National Assembly for Wales  
[www.wales.gov.uk](http://www.wales.gov.uk)

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency  
[www.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.nisra.gov.uk)

Scottish Executive  
[www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)

# Transport, Travel and Tourism

## Report of progress against plans 2005/06

### Introduction

Transport, travel and tourism statistics cover a range of topics from national traffic counts and large-scale surveys of road freight operators to assessment of the role of tourism in the economy, and statistics about the relative safety of different transport modes.

Sources and data collection methods for transport and tourism statistics are wide-ranging. They include surveys involving direct observation, other surveys and administrative sources.

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

### A. Undertake and implement recommendations of the Quality Review Programme

#### Aims and objectives

The aim is to undertake and implement Quality Reviews as listed in the schedule of the National Statistics Quality Review Programme, including reviews of the Scottish Household Survey (SHS), Road Traffic Statistics, Maritime Statistics, National Road Maintenance Condition Survey and Vehicle Licensing Statistics.

#### Progress to date

##### *Scottish Household Survey*

Independent contractors reviewed the SHS during 2005, consulting a range of users of its results. The contractors' report sets out some options for the development of the survey, including the possible use of an unclustered sample and is available on the

SHS website. The Scottish Executive (SE) has consulted users regarding the detailed SHS questions for 2007 onwards, and invited survey companies to tender for the contract to conduct it. For further information, see:

[www.scotland.gov.uk/shs](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/shs)

#### *Other reviews*

The GB Road Traffic Statistics review is almost complete; the report will be published in the near future. A user consultation exercise has been carried out about the National Road Maintenance Condition Survey of roads in England and Wales, and the results of that exercise will be published shortly. The review is expected to be completed during 2006/07.

#### Planned future work

##### *Scottish Household Survey*

SE will decide on the content, structure and design of the SHS for 2007 onwards in the light of the costs quoted by the survey companies. A new version of the questionnaire should be developed in summer 2006, piloted in autumn 2006 and introduced in January 2007.

#### *Other reviews*

The Maritime Statistics review has had to be deferred; preparatory work is planned for summer 2006, with the formal review beginning in the second half of 2006/07, and completion later in 2007.

#### Completion date

The revised SHS should 'go live' at the start of January 2007. The first results (for 2007 Q1) should become available in the second half of 2007. Results for the calendar year as a whole should be published in *Scotland's People: Results from the SHS* in summer 2008. More detailed analysis of the main transport results will follow in the Household Transport statistical bulletin. Transport results for individual

local authority areas for the two years 2007 and 2008 combined will appear in Transport across Scotland in the 2009/10 financial year, as will the SHS Travel Diary results bulletin.

### Cost

£32,500

### Contacts

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[frank.dixon@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:frank.dixon@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

## B. Implementation of the Statistical Modernisation Programme on the International Passenger Survey

### Aims and objectives

The Statistical Modernisation Programme (SMP), being undertaken by ONS, will upgrade the current processing system used on the International Passenger Survey (IPS), allowing implementation of much of the recent methodological work conducted by the ONS IPS Research team.

The current processing system has been the main processing system used on the IPS for over ten years. However, it is no longer being used widely within ONS and therefore support for the system is becoming difficult. With SMP, a new system can be implemented using many of the standard tools that are being introduced as part of the programme.

With the frailty of the existing system, methodological work that has been carried out within IPS Research has not proceeded. With SMP much of this can be introduced. This includes, among other things, a change to the way missing fares and expenditure data are imputed, route weighting, and the introduction of a regional element in the weighting process.

### Progress to date

In 2005/06 ONS restructured SMP. As a result, it was decided that development of the IPS would no longer be within the scope of this programme and consequently there has been no progress in the report period.

### Planned future work

With the restructuring of SMP, the IPS team has been looking at alternative ways of implementing many of the projects completed in recent years that do not involve any work on the existing frail system. Plans are in place to introduce both imputation of fares and expenditure, and a regional weighting scheme over the next 12 months.

### Completion date

It is planned that regional weighting on the IPS will be in place by June 2006, while the automatic imputation of fares and expenditure will be introduced from the beginning of 2007.

### Cost

The project will be handled by existing IPS staff.

### Contact

[david.savage@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:david.savage@ons.gsi.gov.uk)

## C. Development of the replacement methodology for the UK Tourism Survey

### Aims and objectives

The UK Tourism Survey is the main source of data on domestic overnight tourism. However, there has recently been a loss of confidence in its results, particularly for the UK regions. Bids were invited to run the survey from April 2005 onwards.

### Progress to date

The contract for the UK Tourism Survey was tendered early in 2005 and awarded to a new supplier in April to run the survey from May 2005 and for the period 2006 to 2010. A new methodology was introduced to better measure the volume and value of domestic overnight trips. The random digit dialling telephone approach was replaced by face-to-face interviews to yield a more representative sample of the UK population. There will now be 103,000 face-to-face interviews a year, more than twice the number of the previous survey methodology, and a weekly sample size of around 2,000 adults aged 16 years and over. This sample will be representative of the UK population in relation to various demographic characteristics, including gender, age group, social class and geographical location. Monthly, quarterly and year-to-date summaries are produced on a regular basis, together with the tables required for Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to supply to Eurostat.

### Planned future work

The survey contractor will continue to supply data on a regular basis as agreed with the National Tourist Boards and DCMS.

### Completion date

April 2005.

### Cost

The survey is funded by the National Tourist Boards.

### Contact

[ed.pickering@culture.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ed.pickering@culture.gsi.gov.uk)

## D. Improve dissemination of Transport Statistics

### Aims and objectives

The aim of the project is to improve dissemination of transport statistics by considering new outputs and by improved access to data through web-based enhancements.

### Progress to date

Some restructuring of the statistics section of the Department for Transport (DfT) website has been carried out to improve accessibility to the data. More data underpinning particular Statistical Releases have been made available for users in spreadsheet form on the website. Tables from the annual compendium publication *Transport Statistics Great Britain* (TSGB) are now progressively being updated through the course of the year as new data become available, matching the release of Statistical Bulletins on specific topics. New editions of some occasional publications, such as *Focus on Personal Travel* and *Focus on Ports*, were produced and improvements were made to the timing of release of some publications.

In Wales, 29 transport tables had been put onto StatsWales, the web-based statistical dissemination tool, by the end of 2005/06.

### Planned future work

The updating of TSGB tables mentioned above will be completed in 2006/07. Further improvements to the presentation of transport statistics data on the DfT website will continue. In Wales it is planned that more data will be included on StatsWales.

In Scotland, twenty 'one page' summaries of statistics on particular topics will be added to the Transport Statistics Web site ([www.scotland.gov.uk/transtat](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/transtat)) in June 2006 (and subsequently updated), and the first edition of a new annual statistical bulletin, *Main Transport Trends*, will be published in August 2006.

### Completion date

The current phase of website development should be completed by the end of 2006/07. In Wales more

tables are planned for 2006/07 and tables will need to be updated regularly in future.

### Cost

These developments to the presentation of statistics material on the DfT website are expected to be met by the use of internal resources.

### Contacts

[paul.swallow@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:paul.swallow@dft.gsi.gov.uk)

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[frank.dixon@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:frank.dixon@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

## E. Improving the congestion measuring project

### Aims and objectives

The purpose of the project is to enhance capability to monitor congestion in England by developing existing and new data sources and measures which capture the key aspects of congestion and better reflect road users' experiences. In particular, the intention is to introduce new measures that reflect the variability of journey times. The project involves the Highways Agency and local highway authorities.

### Progress to date

DfT announced two Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets in July 2005. PSA1 focuses on improving journey time reliability on the Strategic Road Network, while PSA4 relates to person journey times on key routes in England's ten largest urban areas.

The baseline for the PSA1 target was published in February 2006. The target will be achieved if the average vehicle delay on the Strategic Road Network's 10 per cent slowest journeys is less in 2007/08 than in the baseline year 2004/05. The Highways Agency is using the new data to monitor performance across the network. Data underpinning the target relate to each junction-to-junction link on the network at 15-minute intervals.

The baselines and targets for the ten largest urban areas in England will be published in July 2006. These targets relate to the change in person journey time on key roads into city centres to 2010/11. The national target (PSA4) will be built from these local targets. Data underpinning the targets include journey times on major roads sourced centrally by DfT, and surveys of vehicle occupancy conducted by local authorities.

### Planned future work

DfT continues to work with the Highways Agency and local highways authorities to quality assure the existing data used to monitor the department's PSA targets. There are also work packages to develop further indicators of congestion and to explore new data sources that could improve congestion monitoring in the future.

## Completion date

DfT will have two PSA target baselines in place by July 2006. Work will be ongoing to monitor progress against these targets until 2007/08 (PSA1) and 2010/11 (PSA4), and to develop understanding of congestion and improve the management of roads.

The data acquisition contract finishes in December 2006 and data processing will continue for a few months beyond that. A new contract commencing in 2007 will be arranged so that DfT can continue to develop new indicators of congestion and monitor its progress towards achieving the PSA targets.

## Cost

Data acquisition and processing costs for DfT currently run at about £1.5 million a year and will continue to the end of 2006. Beyond that, a new contract will be in place.

## Contact

[eric.crane@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:eric.crane@dft.gsi.gov.uk)

## F. Improvements to GB road accident statistics

### Aims and objectives

The objectives of the project are to collect additional information to ensure that road accident statistics meet current needs. A further objective is to strengthen the statistics by ensuring consistency in the way that road accident information is collected by the police, while minimising the collection burden.

### Progress to date

The programmed quinquennial review of the STATS 19 injury road accident collection system was completed in 2005 and the main agreed changes in an effort to enhance the quality of the data collected were:

- the adoption across Great Britain of an enhanced 'Contributory Factor' (CF) (to road accidents) dataset – an initial CF dataset had been trialled by a small sample of police forces from 1999 to 2004
- enhanced information relating to road user journey purpose
- enhanced information relating to foreign vehicles and drivers
- enhanced information relating to pedestrian casualties injured while 'at work'
- rationalisation of the 'first point of impact (on a vehicle)' variables in an effort to ease the reporting burden of this information on police forces in Great Britain

### Planned future work

DfT has been working alongside PITO (Police Information Technology Organisation), looking into the feasibility and cost of police forces in Great Britain issuing mobile data capture devices to officers to enable injury road accident data to be input at the scene of an accident electronically. However, the project is still in its infancy, with no projected rollout date having been agreed at the present time.

### Completion date

For STATS 19 the first results of the new CF dataset will be published in September 2006 as part of the DfT annual report *Road Casualties Great Britain*. There is no completion date agreed at present for the PITO project.

### Cost

DfT's contribution to the Police IT project over the three years from 2005 to 2008 is approximately £3 million.

## G. Monitoring local transport

### Aims and objectives

To assist local authorities in England with monitoring local transport, by further development of common resources.

### Progress to date

DfT published in March 2006 a toolkit for use by local authorities and others wishing to carry out Local Household Travel Surveys.

### Planned future work

A contractor has been appointed to provide free support to users of the toolkit until summer 2007. The contractor will also develop further survey modules to enhance the toolkit.

### Completion date

August 2007.

### Cost

2006/07: £15,000

2007/08: £5,000

### Contact

[valerie.davies@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:valerie.davies@dft.gsi.gov.uk)

### Contact

[stephen.reynolds@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.reynolds@dft.gsi.gov.uk)



## H. Weighting the GB National Travel Survey

### Aims and objectives

The purpose of the project is to complete the weighting of the National Travel Survey (NTS), improving the representativeness of results. This was one of the key recommendations from the *Review of the National Travel Survey*.

### Progress to date

A strategy for weighting the NTS has been developed. A report outlining the weighting methodology was published in September 2005, together with a report comparing weighted and unweighted data for one survey year (2002).

### Planned future work

NTS data for other survey years (1995 to 2004) are currently being weighted. A report showing weighted trend data will be published, highlighting any changes to key time series as a result of weighting the data. It is intended that future NTS publications will be based on weighted data.

### Completion date

A report containing weighted trend data is planned for publication in September 2006 alongside the 2005 NTS First Release.

### Cost

2004/05: £30,000

2005/06: £22,000

## Contact

[olivia.christophersen@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:olivia.christophersen@dft.gsi.gov.uk)

## I. Develop use of spatial analysis for informing transport policy and development monitoring

### Aims and objectives

The availability of spatially referenced data is increasing all the time and, when allied to geographic map-based information, it can lead to improved understanding of data. The purpose of this project is to develop awareness of the potential of the spatial analysis in transport policymaking, to provide an analytical mapping service in DfT, and increase the value gained from spatially referenced data.

### Progress to date

The Geographic Information System (GIS) Unit that has been set up in DfT has continued to promote the value of geographic information across the department, to co-ordinate the receipt and handling of electronic mapping information, and to provide a mapping and spatial analysis service to many users.

### Planned future work

This work will continue. In addition, the Unit is now actively trying to encourage the co-ordination of different applications of spatial data across DfT, to improve efficiency and potentially to gain benefits from the wider sharing of such data.

### Project length

Ongoing.

### Cost

Mainly internal staff costs.

## Contact

[paul.swallow@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:paul.swallow@dft.gsi.gov.uk)

## J. Explore the potential of Intelligent Transport Systems to provide better quality and more cost-effective means of data collection

### Aims and objectives

A number of companies in the road haulage industry are using electronic tracking systems to monitor the movements of their vehicle fleet. It is hoped that in time it will be possible to use these systems to collect at least some of the statistics that are currently collected using questionnaires.

### Progress to date

Consultants have carried out a study to investigate the potential for capturing road goods survey data from operators' electronic vehicle tracking systems. As only about 15 per cent of the vehicle fleet have such systems installed, and as they do not all capture the information needed by DfT, it is unlikely that it will be possible to introduce electronic data capture for road goods surveys in the near future. For the annual bus and coach survey, operators are given a choice of completing the annual survey on paper, on a spreadsheet, or online. About a third of small operators complete online.

### Planned future work

Contact will be maintained with the road haulage industry to monitor the take up of tracking, or other relevant, systems and with the IT sector to monitor the availability of appropriate systems.

### Completion date

Ongoing.

### Cost

None.

## Contact

[chris.overson@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:chris.overson@dft.gsi.gov.uk)

## Theme Group Members

This Work Programme was developed by:

Antonia Roberts (Chair)  
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*Department for Transport*

Frank Dixon  
*Scottish Executive*

Barbara Noble  
*Department for Transport*

Alan Oliver  
*Department for Transport*

Ed Pickering  
*Department for Culture, Media and Sport*

Rodney Redmond  
*Department for Regional Development, Northern Ireland*

David Savage  
*Office for National Statistics*

Henry Small  
*National Assembly for Wales*

Paul Swallow  
*Department for Transport*

Philippa Brimicombe (Secretary)  
*Office for National Statistics*

## Useful websites

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

National Statistics  
[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

Department for Culture, Media and Sport  
[www.culture.gov.uk](http://www.culture.gov.uk)

Department for Regional Development, Northern Ireland  
[www.drdni.gov.uk](http://www.drdni.gov.uk)

Department for Transport  
[www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk)

National Assembly for Wales  
[www.wales.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.wales.gov.uk/statistics)

Scottish Executive  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/transtat](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/transtat)

# Other National Statistics

## Report of progress against plans 2005/06

### Introduction

The Other National Statistics Theme covers statistics on a wide range of topics. It includes numbers of people working in the public sector and Armed Forces; the provision of public and community services, such as the Fire and Rescue Service; compendia publications (those that contain statistics from a number of Themes); and statistics on international developments.

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

### Priority projects

#### A. Introduction of the Common Employee Record

##### Aims and objectives

The purpose of the project is to collect data on civil servants more relevant to Civil Service need, particularly data on skilling and qualifications of civil servants.

##### Progress to date

Development work has been put back until 2007 at the earliest, and will probably be taken on under ONS leadership, in close partnership with the Cabinet Office and the new Government Skills Sector Skills Council ([www.government-skills.gov.uk](http://www.government-skills.gov.uk)).

##### Completion date

Current expectation is 2007.

##### Cost

Not yet assessed.

##### Contact

[andrew.roberts@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.roberts@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk)

#### B. Introduction of electronic data collection for fire and rescue incident statistics

##### Aims and objectives

The introduction of an electronic data collection process will meet the following objectives:

- to end the use of paper forms for the collection of incident data by the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS)
- to provide 100 per cent reporting of incidents attended by the FRS
- to expand the collection and to provide more details on non-fire incidents
- to provide more timely statistics

##### Progress to date

A scoping study by Informed Solutions on the technical architecture of the new electronic data collection system was completed in March 2005. A consultation on data collection requirements with the FRS and other stakeholders was conducted between March and May 2005 and published in December 2005. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) – now the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) – published a response to this, and an XML schema has been drawn up for data transfer based on the finalised set of incident questions and data definitions.

Following a competitive tendering process, Informed Solutions were appointed as the project implementation contractors in December 2005.

##### Planned future work

The new system will be developed in the early part of 2006, followed by a pilot of the new data collection system by a number of FRSs in July and August 2006. Post-pilot, any necessary changes will be made and FRSs will be trained on the new system, and rollout will start at the end of 2006.

### Completion date

National rollout will start in December 2006.

### Cost

Approximately £600,000 (including Invest to Save Budget funding).

## C. Establishing a Neighbourhood Statistics database for primary fire incidents

### Aims and objectives

The purpose of the project is to provide details of primary fires and associated casualties for areas smaller than fire and rescue authorities.

### Progress to date

The first dataset covering 2002 was published on the Neighbourhood Statistics website in December 2005. The 2003 dataset was published in March 2006. Data quality checks and cleansing have been carried out on the 2004 data in preparation for delivery to ONS in April 2006.

### Planned future work

The 2004 dataset is due to be published in May 2006.

### Completion date

Annual updates will be continually provided throughout the lifetime of the Neighbourhood Statistics Programme.

### Cost

Total cost for the three years 2003/04 to 2005/06 is estimated to be £226,500.

### Contact

[david.champion@dclg.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:david.champion@dclg.gsi.gov.uk)

### Contact

[david.champion@dclg.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:david.champion@dclg.gsi.gov.uk)

## Theme Group Members

This Work Programme was developed by:

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Siobhan Carey

*Department for International Development*

Janet Dougharty

*Defence Analytical Services Agency*

David Penny

*Office for National Statistics*

Andrew Roberts

*Cabinet Office*

Wilma Schofield

*Scottish Executive*

Darran Tucker (Secretary)

*Office for National Statistics*

## Useful websites

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

National Statistics

[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

Cabinet Office

[www.civilservice.gov.uk/index.asp](http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/index.asp)

Defence Analytical Services Agency

[www.dasa.mod.uk](http://www.dasa.mod.uk)

Department for Communities and Local  
Government

[www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

Department for International Development

[www.dfid.gov.uk](http://www.dfid.gov.uk)

Home Office

[www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk)

National Assembly for Wales

[www.wales.gov.uk](http://www.wales.gov.uk)

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

[www.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.nisra.gov.uk)

Scottish Executive

[www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)



# appendices





# Appendix A

## Aims and Objectives of National Statistics

(Extract from  
*Framework for  
National Statistics*)

The *Framework for National Statistics*, published in June 2000, set out the aims and objectives of National Statistics as follows:

The primary aim of National Statistics is to provide an accurate, up-to-date, comprehensive and meaningful picture of the economy and society and to support the formulation and monitoring of economic and social policies by government at all levels. National Statistics also aims:

- to inform the Parliaments and Assemblies and the citizen about the state of the nation and provide a window on the work and performance of government, allowing the impact of government policies and actions to be assessed
- to provide business with a statistical service which promotes the efficient functioning of commerce and industry
- to provide researchers, analysts and other customers with a statistical service that assists their work and studies
- to promote these aims within the UK, the European Union and internationally and to provide a statistical service to meet European Union and international requirements

The Framework document goes on to describe the three main objectives of National Statistics in pursuit of these aims which are to:

- improve the quality, timeliness and relevance of its services to customers, both within government and the wider community
- improve public confidence in official statistics by demonstrating that they are produced to best professional standards and free from political interference
- operate efficiently by improving value for money in the production of its outputs and minimising the burden on those who supply it with data

# Appendix B

## Relationship between GSS-affiliated departments, agencies and administrations and theme working groups

### National Statistics Theme Working Groups

Department/Agency	Head of Profession	Agriculture, Fishing & Forestry	Commerce, Energy & Industry	Crime & Justice	Economy
Bank of England	✓				
Cabinet Office	✓				
Civil Service College					
Competition Commission					
Crown Prosecution Service					
Defence Analytical Services Agency	✓				
Department for Communities and Local Government	✓				
Department for Constitutional Affairs	✓			✗	
Department for Culture, Media & Sport	✓		✗		
Department for Education & Skills	✓				
Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	✓	✗			
Department for International Development	✓				
Department for Transport	✓				
Department for Work & Pensions	✓				
Department of Health	✓				
Department of Trade & Industry	✓		✗		✗
Employment Service					
Equal Opportunities Commission					
Foreign and Commonwealth Office					
Forestry Commission	✓	✗			
General Register Office for Scotland	✓				
Government Actuary's Department	✓				
Health & Safety Executive	✓				
Higher Education Funding Council for England					
Higher Education Statistics Agency					
HM Courts Service				✗	
HM Revenue & Customs	✓		✗		✗
HM Treasury	✓				✗
Home Office	✓			✗	
House of Commons Library					
Information Centre for Health and Social Care	✓				
Learning & Skills Council					
Local Government Data Unit					
National Assembly for Wales	✓	✗			✗
National Audit Office					
National Health Service Scotland					
National Savings & Investments					
Northern Ireland Civil Service*	✓	✗		✗	
Office for National Statistics	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Office for Standards in Education	✓				
Office of Communications					
Office of Fair Trading					
Office of Manpower Economics	✓				
Office of Water Services	✓				
Scottish Executive	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗

✗ denotes departmental participation in a particular Theme Working Group.

\* Statisticians working in the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and other Northern Ireland departments are not members of the GSS.



# Appendix C

## National Statistics Quality Review Programme

### Details of completed reviews as at 31 March 2006

(✓ denotes completed Reviews; + denotes the inclusion of the devolved administrations)

Theme Review Topic	Completed						Lead Departments/ Comments
	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	
<b>Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry</b>							
Forestry Statistics			✓				Forestry Commission
Strategic Review of Farming and Food Statistics					✓		Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
<b>Commerce, Energy and Industry</b>							
Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR)		✓					Office for National Statistics
<b>Crime and Justice</b>							
Forecasting the Prison and Probation Populations			✓				Home Office
Crime Statistics				(✓)			Home Office <sup>1</sup>
Efficacy of Sentencing				(✓)			Home Office <sup>1</sup>
Homicide Statistics				(✓)			Home Office <sup>1</sup>
Motoring Statistics				(✓)			Home Office <sup>1</sup>
Administration of Justice Statistics				(✓)			Home Office <sup>1</sup>
Drug Seizure and Offender Statistics				✓			Home Office
<b>Economy</b>							
Short Term Output Indicators	✓						Office for National Statistics
Government Accounts and Indicators			✓				Office for National Statistics
Balances of Payments and Trade Statistics					✓		Office for National Statistics
Review of UK Regional Accounts						✓	Office for National Statistics
<b>Education and Training</b>							
Higher Education Student Statistics			✓				Department for Education & Skills
Initial Entry Rate into Higher Education				✓			Department for Education & Skills
School Workforce Statistics					✓		Department for Education & Skills
Measurement of Attainment of Young People					✓		Department for Education & Skills
Review of School Statistics in Northern Ireland						✓	Department for Education & Skills (Northern Ireland)
<b>Health and Care</b>							
Reviews will be subject to the outcome of work on the Framework for Health and Care Statistics and the wide-ranging review of public health information sources.							

<sup>1</sup> These Home Office Reviews were started/ completed prior to the formal launch of National Statistics and were published formally under the National Statistics banner in 2003/04.

Theme Review Topic	Completed						Lead Departments/ Comments
	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	
<b>Labour Market</b>							
Distribution of Earnings Statistics			✓				Office for National Statistics
Framework for Labour Market Statistics			✓				Office for National Statistics
Labour Force Survey			✓				Office for National Statistics
Review of Employment and Job Statistics						✓	Office for National Statistics
<b>Natural and Built Environment</b>							
Construction Statistics		✓					Department of Trade and Industry
Survey of English Housing and Related Sources						✓	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (now DCLG)
<b>Population and Migration</b>							
National Population Projections: Review of Methodology for Projecting Mortality		✓					Government Actuary's Department
International Migration Statistics				✓			Office for National Statistics
<b>Social and Welfare</b>							
Income Support Statistics		✓					Department for Work & Pensions
Jobseeker's Allowance Statistics		✓					Department for Work & Pensions
Child Support Agency Statistics		✓					Department for Work & Pensions
Households Below Average Income and the Pensioners' Incomes Series				✓			Department for Work & Pensions
Issues in Measuring Household Income and the Redistribution of Income				✓			Office for National Statistics
<b>Travel, Transport and Tourism</b>							
National Travel Survey		✓					Department of the Environment, Transport & the Regions (now DfT)
Bus, Coach and Light Rail Statistics				✓			Department for Transport
Road Freight Statistics				✓			Department for Transport
Tourism Statistics					✓		Department for Culture, Media & Sport
Domestic Waterborne Freight in the UK						✓	Department for Transport

Theme Review Topic	Completed						Lead Departments/ Comments
	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	
<b>Other National Statistics</b>							
Defence Personnel Statistics		✓					Defence Analytical Services Agency – MOD
United Kingdom Defence Statistics Annual Publication			✓				Defence Analytical Services Agency – MOD
Armed Forces Medical Statistics			✓				Defence Analytical Services Agency – MOD
DFID's Statistical Information Systems			✓				Department for International Development
Ministry of Defence Finance and Economic Statistics					✓		Defence Analytical Services Agency – MOD
Statistics on Defence Logistics					✓		Defence Analytical Services Agency – MOD
Review of Service Pensioners' Statistics						✓	Defence Analytical Services Agency – MOD
<b>Yearly Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Total = 44</b>

# Appendix D

## Changes to the Scope of National Statistics during 2005/06

### Series brought into scope

#### DfES

*Private Fostering Arrangements in England* – new publication, released in November 2005, which will be used to measure the impact of the new duty on local authorities in the Children Act 2004, to promote awareness locally of the private fostering notification requirements. New data will be available annually.

#### DCMS

*Taking Part* – new publication, released in December 2005, which aims to find out how people choose to spend their own time, and their views on the leisure activities and facilities available to them. New data are available at regular periods throughout the year.

#### Home Office

A new table on age-disputed asylum applications has been added to the regular annual publication *Asylum Statistics United Kingdom*.

### Withdrawals from scope

#### ONS

*United Kingdom Trade in Services (UKA1)* – ONS has reorganised the way in which data on UK Trade in Services are published. As a result, this publication ceased from February 2006. Most of the information is available in the *Pink Book*, ONS's annual Balance of Payments publication.

# Appendix E

## Glossary

### A

ABRP Administrative Burden Reduction Project  
AEI Average Earnings Index  
AFF Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry  
AITIS Annual International Trade in Services  
ALI Adult Learning Inspectorate  
APHO Association of Public Health Observatories  
ARI Annual Register Inquiry  
ART Avoiding Refusal Training  
AS Assistant Statistician  
ASHE Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings  
AWE Average Weekly Earnings

### B

BCS British Crime Survey  
BDL Business Data Laboratory  
BoP Balance of Payments  
BSD Business Structure Database

### C

CAMS Controlled Access Microdata Sample  
CAP Common Agricultural Policy  
CDEWAS Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste Arisings Survey  
CEI Commerce, Energy and Industry  
CF Contributory Factor  
CIP Citizen Information Project  
CIWAS Commercial and Industrial Waste Arisings Survey

CLA Children Looked After

CLIP Central & Local Government Information Partnership

COA Census Output Area

COFOG Classifications of Functions of Government

COINS Combined Online Information System

CORD Central ONS Repository for Data

CPD Continuing Professional Development

CPI Consumer Prices Index

CPS Continuous Population Survey

CSSR Councils with Social Service Responsibilities

CTS Cattle Tracing System

CWAI Cost Weighted Activity Index

### D

DCA Department for Constitutional Affairs

DCLG Department for Communities and Local Government

DCMS Department for Culture, Media and Sport

Defra Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

DELNI Department for Employment and Learning, Northern Ireland

DENI Department of Education, Northern Ireland

DET DCMS Evidence Toolkit

DETI Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Northern Ireland

DfES Department for Education and Skills

DFID Department for International Development



DfT Department for Transport

DH Department of Health

DHSSPS Department of Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety, Northern Ireland

DISC Data Collection System

DLHE Destination of Leavers from Higher Education

DSM1 Data Sharing Mechanism 1

DSP Data Sub-Programming

DTI Department of Trade and Industry

DWP Department for Work and Pensions

## E

Ecofin EU Economic and Finance Ministers

EDD Education Data Directory

EDP Excessive Deficit Procedure

ELWa Education and Learning Wales

ESA95 European System of Accounts 1995

ESR Electronic Staff Record

ESRC Economic and Social Research Council

ESS European Statistical System

EU European Union

Eurostat Statistical Office of the European Union

## F

FBS Farm Business Survey

FE Further Education

FRS Family Resources Survey/Fire and Rescue Service

FTE Full-Time Equivalent

FTV Film and Television Survey

## G

GAD Government Actuary's Department

GB Great Britain

GDP Gross Domestic Product

GIS Geographic Information System

GP General Practitioner

GPS Global Positioning System

GRO General Register Office

GROS General Register Office for Scotland

GSS Government Statistical Service

GSS HRC Government Statistical Service Human  
Resources Committee

GVA Gross Value Added

## H

HE Higher Education

HEFCE Higher Education Funding Council  
for England

HESA Higher Education Statistics Agency

HH1 Home help/Home Care Return

HMCS Her Majesty's Courts Service

HMRC Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs

HMT Her Majesty's Treasury (the Treasury)

HO Home Office

HoP Head of Profession (for Statistics)/Statistical  
Head of Profession

HOPNC Home Office Police National  
Computer Database

HR Human Resources

HSC Health & Safety Commission

HSE Health & Safety Executive

HSfE Health Survey for England

## I

IC Information Centre for Health and Social Care

ICLS International Conference of Labour Statisticians

ICT Information and Communication Technology

IDBR Inter-Departmental Business Register

IHS Integrated Household Survey

ILO International Labour Organisation

IMD Index of Multiple Deprivation

IMPS Improving Migration and Population Statistics

INISPHO Ireland and Northern Ireland Public Health Observatory

Intrastat Intra-EC Trade Statistics

IoH/R Index of Hotels and Restaurants (Wales)

IoP Index of Production

IoS Index of Services

IPS International Passenger Survey

ISD Information and Statistics Division (NHS Scotland)

IT Information technology

ITIS International Trade in Services

## L

LA Local Authority

LAT Learning Achievement Tracker

LCI Labour Cost Index

LFS Labour Force Survey

LLWR Lifelong Learning Wales Record

LLUK Lifelong Learning UK

LMS Labour Market Statistics

LSC Learning and Skills Council

## M

MAP Marrakech Action Plan

MDG Millennium Development Goal

MIAP Managing Information Across Partners

MIS Management Information System

MoD Ministry of Defence

MYE Mid Year Population Estimate

## N

NAMEA National Accounts Matrix including Environmental Accounts

NAO National Audit Office

NAREP National Accounts Re-engineering Project

NAW National Assembly for Wales

NCDDP National Clinical Dataset Development Programme

NCHOD National Centre for Health Outcomes Development

NDPB Non-Departmental Public Body

NeSS Neighbourhood Statistics Service

NESS National Employer Skills Survey

NHS National Health Service

NHSCRS NHS Care Records Service

NI Northern Ireland

NICS Northern Ireland Crime Survey

NIESR National Institute of Economic and Social Research

NIMDM Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure

NINIS Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service

NIO Northern Ireland Office

NISRA Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

NLPG National Land and Property Gazetteer

NLSS National Learner Satisfaction Survey

NMIS National Management Information System

NMS New Measures for Success

Nomis® National Online Manpower Information Service

NPD National Pupil Database

NPfIT National Programme for Information Technology (Department of Health)

NRwS New Relationship with Schools

NS National Statistics

NSCD National Statistics Centre for Demography

NSI National Statistical Institute

NSID National Statistics and International Division (ONS)

NTS National Travel Survey

NUTS Nomenclature for Units of Territorial Statistics

## O

OAC Output Area Classification

ODPM Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development

Ofsted Office for Standards in Education

OGC Office of Government Commerce

ONS Office for National Statistics

## P

PAT18 Policy Action Team 18

PAU Pensions Analysis Unit

PESA Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses

PITO Police Information Technology Organisation

PLASC Pupil Level Annual School Census

PMF Performance Management Framework

PSA Public Service Agreement

PSAG Pension Statistics Advisory Group

PSG Professional Skills for Government

PSNI Police Service of Northern Ireland

PSTF Pension Statistics Task Force

## Q

QITIS Quarterly International Trade In Services

QOF Quality and Outcomes Framework

## R

RAP Referrals, Assessments and Packages of Care return

RARPA Recognising and Recording Progress and Achievement

R&D Research & Development

RLD Regional and Local Division

RPI Retail Prices Index

RSS Royal Statistical Society

## S

SCORE Scottish Continuous Recording System

ScotPHO Scottish Public Health Observatory

ScotXed Scottish Exchange of Education Data

SCP Sustainable Consumption and Production

SCU Survey Control Unit

SDS Single Data System

SE Scottish Executive

SEED Scottish Executive Education Department

SFA Success for all

SFFS Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy

SFR Statistical First Release

SHS Scottish Household Survey

SiGT Statisticians in Government Team (ONS)

SIMD Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

SIP School Improvement Partners

SIR Staff Individualised Record

SMIS Scottish Criminal Justice and Management Information System

SMP Statistical Modernisation Programme

SOA Super Output Area	<b>X</b>
SR1 Supported Residents Return 1	XML Extensible Mark-up Language
StO Statistical Officer	<b>Y</b>
SUF Statistics User Forum	YCS Youth Cohort Study
SUS Secondary Uses Service	
SWLD Social and Welfare Longitudinal Database	
<b>T</b>	
TSGB Transport Statistics Great Britain	
TWG Theme Working Group	
<b>U</b>	
UK United Kingdom	
UKCeMGA United Kingdom Centre for the Measurement of Government Activity	
UKHS United Kingdom Health Statistics	
ULN Unique Learner Number	
UN United Nations	
UN-ECE United Nations Economic Commission for Europe	
UPN Unique Pupil Number	
<b>V</b>	
VA Value Added	
VAT Value Added Tax	
VICS Volume Indices of Capital Services	
VML Virtual Microdata Laboratory	
<b>W</b>	
WBL Work Based Learning	
WHASS Workplace Health and Safety Survey	
WHO World Health Organisation	
WPLS Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study	

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on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office  
ID5391544 07/06 343057 19585 AM4298

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