

## FOI Release

### *Information released under the Freedom of Information Act*

**Title:** Trade Union Statistics from 1979-1990

**Date of release:** 6 May 2014

#### **Information request**

- i) The total number of Trade Union members by region in the UK between the years 1979-1990 as far as possible.
- ii) The total number of Trade Union members between the years 1979-1990 by; public versus private sector, major occupation, industry, age, gender, ethnicity, income, full and part-time employment.

#### **Information released**

The Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS) holds some of the information requested. The information requested is attached and below.

BIS only holds data on trade union membership in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) datasets it receives from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). As such, we are unable to provide all the information requested.

Attached is a link to the ONS guide, LFS Variables 1979-1991, which shows that the ONS first included a question on the LFS about trade union membership in 1989. There is also no question on wages (questions were introduced in 1992, see the LFS Variables 1992-2002 document, linked below) or on public or private sector (questions introduced in 1993).

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/labour-market/labour-market-statistics/volume-7---2001.pdf>  
(see page 189).

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/labour-market/labour-market-statistics/volume-3---2002.pdf>  
(see pages 379 onwards for income, and pages 112 to 114 for public/private sector).

The attached table provides information for 1989 to 1991, as these are the annual LFS datasets that contain trade union membership data. Information has been provided for region, age, gender, ethnicity, broad industry and occupation and full-time/part-time. Additionally information has been provided by employees and in employment (employees plus self-employed plus those on a government scheme). However, where the numbers of self-employed and those on government schemes are small, making the information potentially disclosive, the in-employment categories have been grouped. This has happened in the occupation, industry and ethnicity tables. The employee figures have not been grouped.

The industry groups are based on Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 80. For more information, follow the link below:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/classifications/archived-standard-classifications/uk-standard-industrial-classification-1992--sic92-/index.html>

The occupation groups are based on the Classification of Occupations 1980 for 1989 and 1990 and the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) 90 for 1991. For more information, follow the link below:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/classifications/archived-standard-classifications/soc-and-sec-archive/index.html>

Also included in the Excel workbook is a table showing trade union membership from 1892 to 2010-11 using figures from the Certification Officer. The Certification Officer may hold some information by gender for the period you are interested in. These data will be held in paper form on individual trade union returns.

Another source that may be of use is the Database on Institutional Characteristics of Trade Unions, Wage Setting, State Intervention and Social Pacts (ICTWSS) which contains data going back to 1960. <http://www.uva-aias.net/207>.