

PLANS FOR THE ONS STATISTICAL WORK PROGRAMME 2007-08

Summary

ONS is constantly striving to ensure its portfolio of outputs are both relevant and up-to-date in an increasingly fast-changing world. This takes place against a background of developing technologies and methodology and the necessity to provide best value for money. Our planning for 2007-08 has addressed the strategic priorities, the opportunities and the challenges of efficiency. This will involve some re-balancing, with expansion in some areas and a contraction in others. There will be a reduction in the resources dedicated to some data collection activity. Careful planning will minimise the impact on data quality even though this risk cannot be entirely eliminated. We will be holding further discussions with stakeholders to ensure we obtain the maximum value from the changes.

ONS's approach

ONS's approach has been to protect priority outputs, to develop outputs which meet new demands, to deliver our corporate targets, and continue our modernisation programme. This approach requires making savings wherever improved efficiency can be attained in parallel with prioritising outputs. Our approach is driven by the following principles:

- the needs of our users and customers are fundamental in helping us prioritise our outputs;
- work of a similar nature carried out in different parts of the business is integrated where possible;
- data collection processes are rationalised and standardised as far as possible;
- the cost effectiveness of our survey collections is assessed to ensure an appropriate level of resource is dedicated to each.

Work programme 2007-08

ONS has made good progress during 2006-07 in adapting its resource use to meet new and developing needs. This will continue in 2007-08 with the deployment of resources to deliver a balanced programme of activities which tackle the strategic priorities facing the office. In 2007-08 the office will address the following priority issues:

- further investment in improving our population estimates and in preparation for the 2011 Census; providing a crucial statistical base beyond 2011;

- continued investment in modernising our systems, including the National Accounts, to reduce statistical risk, improve efficiency and provide statistical benefits to users;
- a statistical data collection, development and analysis programme which places greater emphasis on the service sector, productivity and its determinants and supports regional policy needs;
- a programme of analysis which addresses the priorities of children, ageing and societal welfare;
- continued consultation and development on the measurement of public service activity and productivity.

To accommodate these priorities we will be making a number of changes to current statistical activities as well as proceeding with our efficiency programme. Changes to the statistical programme are described in the Annex. Part 1 details areas where the statistical programme is to be expanded. Part 2 summarises areas where it is to be contracted. It includes:

- optimisation and re-balancing of some of the samples underpinning our business surveys;
- some reductions in sample sizes for business and household surveys;
- reduced detail and changes in frequency for a small number of outputs;
- more focussed data validation for our main business surveys.

Part 1: Expansion of the statistical programme in 2007-08

Children and Young Peoples Issues

Children and Young people issues are a priority area in social, economic and policy terms. They are one of the key themes of the current Comprehensive Spending Review. Earlier work such as the 2003 Green paper *Every Child Matters* and the 2005 paper *Youth Matters* identified five outcomes that are most important to children and young people:

- be healthy
- stay safe
- enjoy and achieve
- make a positive contribution
- achieve economic well-being

A key objective is also narrowing the gap between disadvantaged children and their peers.

ONS already publishes, or has available, a wide range of information relevant either for measuring progress against these objectives or to the design of policies to achieve them. These include

- information on demography and families
- mortality and morbidity
- teenage pregnancies
- young people in the labour market
- educational attainment
- schools output and productivity.

This range is being examined and refocused to maximise its relevance to the above agendas. This will include consideration of how the material can be made available in the most accessible and useful way. ONS is also considering what additional outputs should be provided, prioritising within available resources. It will shortly open discussions with key stakeholders within and outside government to ensure that the refocused and augmented work properly reflects customer need and priorities.

Ageing population

An ageing population has been identified as one of the key priority areas for cross-cutting analysis to support social and economic policy. *Opportunity Age* set out the objectives of enabling older people to play a greater role in society, and enabling everyone to prepare effectively for old age. ONS already publishes, or has available, a wide range of information needed to measure demographic change, the circumstances and roles of older people, and

provision for older age, much of it used by the Pensions Commission in its work. These include:

- information on demography and families, population structure and projections
- mortality and morbidity, including measures of health expectancy
- labour market participation
- contributions to pension schemes

ONS is considering what further output might be provided within available resources. Among the ideas which will be discussed and prioritised with stakeholders are: work on transitions, for example changes in retirement age and their impact; timing of retirement and differences between groups in labour market participation; health in older age; differences between ethnic groups in their experience of older age; the impact of migration on population ageing.

Measuring Societal Well-being

Societal well-being increasingly figures in public debate, both in the UK and internationally. Traditionally, gross domestic product (GDP) has been used as an approximation for well-being. But it is clear that it is at best a partial and sometimes poor approximation. It mainly embraces only the market economy and excludes, for example, the well-being generated by the non paid household sector - not least by unpaid carers looking after dependants. Available evidence suggests that these contributions are massive but currently largely unmeasured. Further, a range of other factors affect well-being - for example, quality of leisure time, environmental considerations, health status and longevity, job satisfaction and perceived competence, literacy and culture, and so on.

ONS is expanding the information it provides to provide a wider analysis of societal well-being than gross domestic product alone can or should provide. It is approaching this in the following ways

- providing a disciplined approach to measuring what sometimes appear disparate dimensions of well-being. Satellite accounts provide a convenient framework in some cases, combining the rigour of an accounting approach such as underlies the National Accounts with the flexibility to cover a wide range of dimensions which national accounting conventions prevent being included in GDP.
- refocusing existing statistical outputs so that they are more useful and more accessible in the context of measuring well-being
- putting resources into providing new outputs where there are gaps in the existing portfolio
- ONS is preparing to discuss with a wide range of stakeholders how the above programme can be driven forward to the best advantage of customers. It is also considering where collaboration with outside partners and stakeholders may be the most productive way forward in providing the information that would be of greatest value.

Intensified Programme to Measure the Output and Productivity of the Public Sector

Public services account for over a fifth of GDP, larger than the total manufacturing sector. Public concern as to whether the sharp falls in public services productivity implicit in the National Accounts since 1997 were well based led to ONS's setting up the independent Atkinson Review of the measurement of public sector output.. Atkinson's recommendations amounted to a substantial work programme. In view of its continuing importance, the resources being devoted to this field are being increased. Planned work includes:

- further development of key methodologies, in particular to ensure that quality change is properly taken into account in the measurement output of services such as schools and the NHS. This development work is being taken forward in the light of emerging conclusions from the current public consultation, due to be completed in April. The consultation should help to ensure widespread acceptance of the new methodologies that are developed.
- publication of a range of productivity articles assessing the productivity performance of each of the key public services.
- a project with Communities and Local Government to improve all aspects of the quality of local government expenditure data including timeliness, following improvements to central government expenditure data from the COINS project; improving the quality of local government data will benefit the National Accounts, public sector finances and measurement of public sector productivity as local government expenditure contributes to the numerator of the productivity calculation
- development of satellite accounts to provide systematic and coherent information in areas such as education and training, and the provision of social care - in the informal unpaid sector as well as paid care.
- In addition, work is now fully under way on the Invest to Save Budget project to develop simple but robust measures of outputs in areas where the third sector is a potential provider of services. These measures should allow a strong common basis for assessing possible public, private and third sector providers. This will result in procurement decisions that are better based, thus saving money, while also reducing the administrative burden often currently associated with procurement and monitoring regimes. This work is being carried out in conjunction with DH, DfES, Kent County Council, the NCVO and the Personal Social Services Research Unit at the University of Kent.

A statistical data collection and analysis programme which places greater emphasis on the service sector and productivity and its determinants

The service sector is an increasingly important component of the UK economy. Since 1970 output of the sector has increased from 54% of value added to 74% today. Decisions relating to government economic policy require high quality statistics for this sector. ONS has been keen to support

this need through the development of statistics for gross value added value, output, trade in services, employment, government activity and much else. Initiatives in this area date back to the Pickford Review in the 1980s. More recently, user needs for service sector statistics were restated in the Allsopp Report (2004) which has helped to focus ONS activity in this area on: the development of the Index of Services (which forms part of ONS' estimates of GDP); Service Sector Price Indices; Trade in Services; a review of business surveys; and preparatory work for the introduction of the Standard Industrial Classification 2007 which will take place between 2008-2011. Beyond this, the Atkinson Review (2005) has led to ground-breaking work on the measurement of government output and productivity. Taken together, these initiatives have already led to a much greater emphasis on measuring services' activity over manufacturing. Key among the benefits of all of these improvements will be the development of an integrated framework for the analysis of service sector activity through ONS modernisation work, which will also ensure greater coherence between the different measures.

The work done to bring services output indicators (IoS) up to National Statistics standards will make it possible during 2007 to publish series on Market Sector Gross Value Added (MSGVA), covering both manufacturing and services output for the market sector, and accompanying productivity estimates.

ONS will publish a guide to its work on productivity, which will aim to increase the accessibility of productivity statistics for users, and to show the links between different levels of productivity data. As part of its analytical work to improve data on the drivers of productivity, ONS will lead a Eurostat funded research programme involving ten other EU NSIs to develop indicators of ICT impacts, and complete a study for Eurostat on R&D capitalisation and its effects. ONS will collaborate with academic researchers and OECD on further work to investigate productivity impacts of more broadly defined intangible assets, following work outlined in the 2006 Pre Budget Report.

Take forward the Allsopp programme for developing improved regional economic statistics and in particular establish the ONS regional presence

The critical path for delivery of the programme flows from the development of the essential infrastructure (the Business Register, access to administrative data) on which the design of new surveys depend, as well as the technical development work required to produce the enhanced Regional Accounts. Hence, development of the business register and initial work to develop business surveys (Business Register Employment Survey (BRES)) are planned to continue. BRES is fundamental to improving local unit information to support better regional statistics.

Work has been progressing well on BRES with the short-term alignment of BRS1 and ABI1 complete and forms were sent out in September 2006; we are expecting improvements to the quality of regional employment estimates to be seen in data published end 2007. Consultation documents were published on

the National Statistics website and set out an initial proposal for the broad design of BRES for businesses and users to comment on. The consultation period for users closed on 1 September 2006.

The development of a regional GVA output measure project should provide the assessment of options and approach for progressing Regional GVA (P) (ie production-based) as planned by 31 March 2007. The first experimental real regional GVA (P) is expected to be published end March 2008, based on National Accounts Blue Book 2006. The first estimate of improved regional GVA(P) in real terms for 2008 should be published end December 2009, based on the re-engineered National Accounts Blue Book 2009.

We are currently on target to implement an ONS Regional Presence in the English Regions by end March 2007. This will provide two ONS staff in each of the 9 English Regions. The main functions of the Regional Presence include to:

- gather intelligence to help improve the quality of ONS data and processes;
- quality assure final estimates of regional GVA;
- help improve the quality of the IDBR and business survey data;
- provide improved access to IDBR and other data for RDAs;
- provide a first point of ONS contact for key regional bodies;
- provide independent statistical advice on the use of ONS and GSS statistics, including technical issues and monitoring performance against targets;
- work with regional partners on collaborative projects;
- facilitate provision of training to regional partners on, for instance, economic statistics; and
- assess, or assist in the assessment of locally commissioned / locally held data.

Census 2011 and population statistics

Preparation for the 2011 census continues as planned and is progressing well. The census forms the crucial benchmark for all other social statistics, including population estimates and survey results. User consultation on census topics and questionnaire development will continue during 2007/08 and is due to result in an agreed set of questions for the 2009 rehearsal early in 2008.

The Census test, which takes place in May 2007, will be evaluated during 2007 resulting in an updated census design and associated requirement specifications for census systems and services. The main contract for these services is due to be let in early 2008, and strategies for procurement of other services such as postal services and field staff recruitment, training and pay, will be developed during the 2007-08 period.

ONS is planning a series of improvements to population statistics over the period to 2012. In 2007-08 work will focus on improvements in the methods of distributing internal and external migrants between local authorities in

population estimates; methods for estimating the numbers of short term migrants, and plans and priorities for taking forward work on migration statistics, recommended by the Migration Statistics Task Force.

Continued investment in modernising our systems to reduce statistical risk, improve efficiency and provide statistical benefits to users

ONS currently has a wide range of outdated statistical and technical systems that are high risk and inefficient. The ONS Modernisation Programme (Odyssey) is therefore modernising our systems and processes to improve the quality and reliability of our statistics and allow us to reflect changes in society and be more responsive to the needs of users. It is doing this through:

- the creation and further development of a shared corporate data repository (CORD - Central ONS Repository for Data) which will eventually hold all ONS's statistical sources in a common environment;
- the standardisation of statistical methods, systems, processes and technology solutions used to deliver ONS outputs;
- the re-engineering of business processes to reduce statistical risk and improve efficiency and effectiveness.

Odyssey projects currently under way include:

- modernisation of the National Accounts methods, processes and systems, leading to more robust (less risky) delivery and better quality statistics;
- modernisation of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) so that the next set of UK Population Estimates can be taken on much more quickly and effectively, making the LFS more useful to key customers in government (e.g. Bank of England, Department of Work and Pensions);
- development of a new integrated household survey that will bring benefits through the use of a common sampling frame and standard sampling procedures, as well as allowing better analysis and integration of data in a more cost effective way;
- modernisation of the Field Data Collection systems for household surveys, improving their efficiency and effectiveness;
- new technology replacements of existing non-robust processes and systems for the collection of data from businesses;
- migration of the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) and Retail Prices Index (RPI) systems onto the new ONS strategic platforms to minimise risk;
- development of a new, more robust and user-friendly National Statistics website.

Part 2: Contraction of the statistical programme in 2007-08

A technical annex, providing more details, is available upon request

Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings (ASHE)

ASHE has replaced the New Earnings Survey (NES) as ONS's main source of information on the distribution of earnings. It is an annual survey of employers who complete questionnaires on behalf of employees who have been selected for the survey. The sample is 1% of employees on the PAYE scheme. As employment has grown, the sample size has therefore grown and was approximately 250,000 in 2006. The survey provides the most detailed and comprehensive source of national information on levels of earnings (separately for type of worker and for gender), make-up of total earnings (split between basic pay and other components) and distribution of the earnings of individual employees. Results are used for policy purposes in relation to the gender pay gap and low pay estimates. The survey has important economic and financial uses in the funding formula for local authority and health authority grant allocations, as well as being used in setting public sector pay. Other uses include the settlement of insurance claims and examination of longitudinal data, where a panel of individuals is observed over time. and in general labour market policy assessment.

The sample size will be reduced by 20% overall, with reductions targeted on those industries that exhibit the least variation in their earnings patterns. The 20% cut in the sample will take the ASHE sample size back to where it was in the 1980s, but the survey design and the process for weighting the results to population totals have been improved since then and we have introduced routine reporting of appropriate measures of statistical quality. This sample reduction will increase standard errors and it will not be possible to publish as much detail at occupational, sub-regional and industrial level as a result and this may have an impact on the utility of the outputs for some purposes. The survey will remain fit for purpose at UK level, though, and there will be little impact on key indicators such as the gender pay gap and estimates of low pay. The changes will be implemented for the 2007 survey.

See technical annex for more detail

Employment and Earnings Surveys

The employment and earnings surveys collect data that feed into statistics released in the Monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release and accompanying outputs. These include the Average Earnings Index (AEI), which is an important indicator of inflationary pressure used by the MPC when considering interest rate decisions; workforce jobs estimates, which are the main indicator of changes in employment in different industries (though the Labour Force Survey is the preferred source for other estimates of employment); the Annual Business Inquiry, which is used extensively for

analysing employment at the small area and detailed industry level; the (relatively) new estimates of employment in the public sector, which are high profile statistics used extensively throughout government and more widely; and statistics on vacancies in the economy that are used as conjunctural indicators of economic growth. The primary users of the Labour Market Statistics are HMT, DWP, Bank and DTI, though there is a wide user base outside of government.

We will look for a 10% reduction in the samples underpinning the surveys, though larger reductions will be sought in the vacancies survey and both short period and annual employment surveys to mitigate the impact on the samples underpinning the production of the public sector employment estimates and the AEI. ONS will reallocate the reduced samples in a way that optimises their design, and thus offset some of the loss in precision of the survey estimates. While there will be some loss of quality for most of the outputs, minimising the impact on the Monthly Wages and Salary Survey sample and optimising its design is likely to protect the quality of the AEI. The sample cuts are also likely to lead to a reduction in the detailed industry analyses available for the employment estimates, though this is not the case for earnings indicators.

See technical annex for more detail

Labour Market Regional First Releases

Monthly labour market statistics Regional First Releases were introduced in April 1998 for the 11 countries and regions of the UK as part of a package of improved labour market statistics. Northern Ireland produce their own monthly releases. Each of the eleven monthly Regional First Release (RFR) includes a textual summary of the latest labour market data together with maps, charts and over 20 pages of data tables. Data are updated each month for the key regional estimates of employment, unemployment and inactivity totals and hours worked data, all sourced from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and for the regional and local area counts of Jobseeker's Allowance (Claimant count) benefits. Much of the data is only updated each quarter, including more disaggregated regional LFS estimates, regional estimates of jobs, and annual or rolling 4-quarterly Annual Population Survey (APS) estimates of population, employment, unemployment and inactivity for 4 different geographies (Local Authorities and Unitary Authorities (LAs), Parliamentary Constituencies (PCs) , Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) and NUTS 3 areas). Finally, some of the estimates, such as jobs densities, are updated only annually.

We propose replacing the monthly RFRs by quarterly RFRs from early 2008. By then it is expected that APS estimates can be grossed to the latest UK population estimates and be kept in line with the latest population estimates on a regular basis using modernised computer systems. This will allow the APS estimates to be used in preference to the regional LFS estimates. It is proposed

to keep the headline rolling 3-monthly regional estimates updated each month and published in the National First Release (Table 18(1)) as now. Claimant count data for LAs and PCs will continue to be published monthly on the ONS website and on Nomis.

In 2004, the main users were consulted about the publication of quarterly LFS data versus the rolling annual APS data. Opinion was split between those who prefer timely, up to date estimates and those who prefer less timely but higher quality estimates. It was decided to move to quarterly releases when the APS could be produced using the latest population estimates. It is thought unlikely that there was any major policy need by anyone to have monthly regional labour market information.

Annual Business Inquiry 2 (financial) and Purchases Inquiry

The ABI(2) provides detailed financial information across a range of industries including production, construction, distribution, services and finance. It excludes employment information which is collected by ABI(1). In particular it provides information by industry and region which are used in compiling National and Regional Accounts and in benchmarking the short period economic surveys. It is used extensively by other government departments, principally HMT, DTI, DEFRA, DCMS and the devolved administrations and also by the Bank of England. The results are also used by the EU commission under the UK's obligations on the regulation for Structural Business Statistics.

The Purchases Inquiry provides a detailed product breakdown of the purchases made by businesses and is a supplement to the current Annual Business Inquiry long questionnaire. The results are used as a component for the Input-Output Supply and Use Tables and Analytical Tables. Some product specific estimates (breakdown of purchases of fuels) are also used by DTI and form part of the statutory requirement of the EU Structural Business Statistics (SBS) Regulation (although the statutory requirement will drop to optional with the introduction of the revised SBSR planned for 2008).

The intention is to save costs in two ways: We will reduce the amount of time spent on validating survey returns to the ABI2 and we will suspend the Purchases Inquiry for a year while we improve the way it is run and re-focus it on the needs of modernised National Accounts.

On validation, we believe that we can target our efforts at the completed survey returns that have most impact on the overall results. We will retain the internal consistency checks for all survey returns and the validation we do on the aggregate results. Our planned approach for the 2006 inquiry, which is being developed using methodological advice, is likely to mean significantly reducing the amount of validation for the 15% or so of businesses with the lowest annual turnover. For the 2007 inquiry we will have to restrict validation further but the approach will be subject to further detailed study using an

approach developed by our internal ONS methodologists and the advice of external academic experts. The sample size will be maintained following the reduction from 74,000 to 62,000 last year.

For Purchases, we believe that it will be possible to make efficiencies by redesigning the survey. We will re-assess the sample size needed, ensuring that the design is as efficient as possible in meeting user needs, and we will rigorously scrutinise the level of detail needed. We plan to suspend the 2007 survey, which would be despatched at the beginning of 2008, to allow this work to be undertaken.

See technical annex for more detail

Short Term Turnover Surveys

The Monthly Inquiry into the Distribution & Service Sector (MIDSS) is the statutory survey of service sector businesses (excluding retail) in GB and collects information on turnover and employment. The sample size is 30,000 and the results are used for the monthly Index of Services (IOS) and GDP(O) estimates. Other users include Eurostat, DTI, SE and NAW. The Monthly Production Inquiry (MPI) is the statutory survey of production business in UK and collects monthly turnover and employment. The sample size is 9,000 and the results are used for the monthly Index of Production (IOP) and GDP(O) estimates. Other users include Eurostat, SE & NAW. The MPI also feeds the metalworking machine tools and engineering turnover & orders publications.

The sample sizes will be reduced by around 15%. The methodological work for MIDSS has already concluded that a reduction on this scale should not reduce the quality of the high level aggregate statistics because the sample design is being re-optimised. This change is going ahead quickly. The methodological work on MPI has only just begun and while we aim to optimise the sample similarly to preserve the quality of the high level aggregates, we do expect some reductions in quality at the 4 digit SIC level.

See technical annex for more detail

Consumer Price Index

The monthly Consumer Prices Survey collects data which feeds into the Consumer Price Index and the Retail Price Index. The CPI is the main measure of domestic inflation in the UK and forms the basis of the government's inflation target. The CPI is also used to compare inflation rates across the EU. The RPI is used for a variety of purposes including indexation of pensions, wage bargaining and uprating of private contracts.

Rotation of the sample of locations and re-enumeration of outlets is necessary to maintain the relevance of the sample used for price collection. In recent

years (since 2000), around 35 locations a year have been enumerated for the following year. In 2006/07, sample rotation was deferred apart from in a few locations and this drew criticism from the BoE & HMT due to the increased probability of "outlet bias" being reflected in the published indices as a result of the sample of locations and shops used becoming less representative.

For 2007/08, the plan has two elements: firstly to reinstate a limited rotation of the sample of locations, focussing on those where response rates have been quite low and replacing them with new locations of the same type; and secondly, to enumerate the new locations (ie to identify all the outlets) and re-enumerate some of the existing locations that we believe to be most out of date. In this way we will be protecting the relevance of the overall sample. In total, we will enumerate (or re-enumerate) 16 locations in 2007/08. This is a significant improvement on the approach taken in 2006/07 even though it does not represent a complete return to normal practice.

For later years, plans for rotating and enumerating locations will be considered in the context of the need to re-negotiate the contract for data collection for the CPI / RPI. Enumeration in the last year of the current contract (2008/09) would mean that we would have a more up to date outlet frame for the start of the new contract. At this stage, we expect to move to full enumeration in 2008/09, although the details of the new contract might mean that we tailor our approach to better meet the needs of the new contract.

Producer Price Index

This is a statutory survey collecting approx 9,000 price quotations monthly from around 5,000 manufacturers, 3,800 price quotations from 1,900 manufacturing exporters and 2,500 price quotations from 1,500 importers. The resulting price indices are used by the ONS for deflating current price values in the National Accounts and by the Treasury and Bank of England for monitoring the general level of inflation in the economy and monetary policy making. Industry and OGDs use price data for formulating cost adjustment contracts, evaluating movements in input costs and comparing their own business's performance with national averages. PPI and Export Price Indices are required by the EU Short Term Indicators Regulation.

In a move that will help redress the historic imbalance between the effort we put into the manufacturing sector and the growing service sector, the sample size of the PPI survey will be reduced by 25%. This will be achieved by reallocating the sample to maintain the quality of the high level PPI (ie at 2 digit SIC level and above) and will involve a package of recruitment in certain areas offset by cuts in other areas. Below 2 digit level, there will be an inevitable loss of quality for certain industries' PPIs and a loss of detail in the published data although the intention is to continue publishing all the 4 digit SIC level PPIs. This will be implemented in 3 stages, in March 07, July 07 and December 07 and users will be kept fully informed as the precise implications for publications are established.

See technical annex for more detail

Expenditure & Food Survey

The Expenditure & Food Survey (EFS) is a UK wide continuous household survey of around 6,800 households. It provides information on household spending patterns for the RPI. The expenditure weights for the RPI need to relate to people within given income limits, for which EFS is the only source of information. It is also an important source used in compiling national estimates of consumers' expenditure which feed into the National Accounts and estimates of GDP. The results inform the redistribution of income analyses and other analyses of income within ONS and are used by the Treasury and HMRC for tax benefit modelling and income analyses. The diary element of the survey provides DEFRA with a detailed breakdown of food purchased by household, from these data estimates of the nutritional intake of households across the UK are calculated. These in turn are used to monitor whether we are getting the nutrients we need to be healthy, ensure nutritious food is available to all and educate consumers to adopt healthier diets.

The sample size will be reduced by 5 per cent, equivalent to a reduction of over 300 households in Great Britain. This is being implemented from January 2007 and will increase sampling error slightly across all outputs.

See technical annex for more detail

Motor Vehicle Production Inquiry

The MVPI and the associated survey MVEI (Motor Vehicle Engine Inquiry) are voluntary monthly surveys which collect volume data for passenger car and commercial vehicle production (and new orders), and production of vehicle engines. This survey is run in partnership with the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders Ltd (SMMT). ONS dispatch two sets of forms to 28 businesses for MVPI and 3 businesses for MVEI who return data to both ONS and SMMT who liaise on quality of data and publish on the same day. ONS publish a market sensitive first release showing unadjusted and seasonally adjusted data and a Business monitor a week later showing more detailed information (eg breakdown by size). Engine production statistics are used within the Index of Production with contextual information from the main survey. Other users include Welsh IoP, DTI, Eurostat, HMT, Bank of England, OECD and banks. The statistics are used within Government as intelligence on the motor vehicles industry.

The inquiry will be dropped and the collection of the key information on turnover will be subsumed within the Monthly Production Inquiry and reported through the Index of Production in the standard way. The detailed information currently published in the first release and Business Monitor publications will be lost when those publications are withdrawn. Implementation is planned for summer 2007.