

### NEWS from HM Customs and Excise

## FREE TRADE STATISTICS – FROM UKTRADEINFO

by Dawn Charles

How would you like to have access to quality information on UK Imports and Exports at no cost to yourself? From January 2005 all services on [www.uktradeinfo.com](http://www.uktradeinfo.com), including our detailed Overseas Trade Statistics and our Importers' Details database are available totally free of charge.

The trade statistics could help you in identifying marketing opportunities for your products across the globe. Data are published for UK Imports and Exports of over 10,000 commodities between nearly 300 countries and territories. You can construct bespoke trade tables or alternatively use predefined tables for key industry groups. All data can be saved in a number of formats or printed directly from the website.

Additionally, if you want to identify possible business contacts, why not try the Importers' Details database? This contains over 130,000 names and addresses of UK based Importers from countries outside the European Union. You can search businesses using a variety of different criteria including name, commodity type and location.

An email alert service, 'uktradealert' pro-

vides news on Import- and Export-related issues from many Government Departments. It is constantly updated, enabling you to be notified of developments pertaining to the trading of goods.

Simply log in to [www.uktradeinfo.com](http://www.uktradeinfo.com), where you will be able to access all of these services and many more!

### As Cooks go, he went ... but not just yet

Len Cook will be leaving his National Statistician post for personal reasons to return to New Zealand at the end of August, which is four months before the end of his contract period. He has headed the Office for National Statistics since May 2000 (reported in **BSUG News 14**, May 2000), as well as being Registrar-General for England and Wales. His achievements include progressing the modernisation of the ONS systems and processes, as well as the introduction of a new code of practice. However, he has also lived through a number of controversies and criticisms, relating to classifications, errors and revisions.

### NEWS FROM DTI

#### Developments at the DTI's Trade & Investment Information Centre

The range of services provided at the DTI's Trade & Investment Centre at Kingsgate House, Victoria Street, London SW1 will be reduced, because of a decline in the number of visitors. From 2 April 2005, no printed books will be stocked. Arrangements are being made to transfer titles to City Business Library, 1 Brewers' Hall Garden, London EC2 or to The British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1. The Information Centre catalogue is being updated to show which titles are being transferred.

From April 2005 to April 2006, the Information Centre will continue to offer access to databases such as Global and World Trade Atlas, United Nations, OECD, Eurostat, Euromonitor and Business Monitor International. After April 2006, it is intended to offer a remote electronic service (the 'Virtual Information Centre') via UK Trade & Investment's website. Approved subscribers to this service will be able to see it on their desktop PC.

Any questions or comments on these changes may be posed at the Centre's Enquiry Counter, by telephone (020 7215 8000) or via the website ([www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk](http://www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk)). If you don't use it, you lose it.

### Ian Maclean Honoured



Congratulations to our Chairman, Ian Maclean for his outstanding contribution to the statistics community, particularly for 34 years of service on the Statistics Users' Council, 10 of them as Secretary and 15 as Chairman, which has been recognised by the award of the MBE in the New Year's Honours list. Ian had a follow-up letter from Gordon Brown congratulating him on his contribution for nearly half a century to the development of official statistics, particularly those relating to trade and commerce.

## EDITORIAL

### GOLDEN FIDDLESTICKS RULE OK? TWENTY QUESTIONS?

Is scepticism healthy? Are statistics like new clothes for the Emperor? Do fiddlers usually come in threes? How many rules are golden? Do we live in a real or virtual world? What is the collective noun for regulators? A proliferation? Are statistics ever going to escape from Disraeli's curse (Lies, damned lies...)? What prompts one to ask such vexing questions? Why, it's the recent publication of the umpteenth revisions from National Statistics, in this instance, concerning the treatment of road maintenance and repair data, reported on page 4 or a defective methodology in counting public sector employees. Repetition, repetition, repetition? Virtually

all official statistical series are eligible for revision, bar the Retail Price Index.

So would readers like to join in and offer lists of their own questions? Or suggest ways of ensuring the suppression of 'knee-jerkism'? Or what about creating new pressure groups, such as: DISRAELI, Discover If Statistics Really Are Ever Lies Intentionally, or CRASS, the Campaign Revolting Against Statistical Subreption? Perhaps *Financial Times* statistics editor Simon Briscoe is already a founding member by virtue of his forthcoming (April) contribution, *Britain in Numbers* (Methuen Publishing).

## NEWS FROM ONS

# QUARTERLY PRODCOM INQUIRIES: RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION

PRODCOM is a survey of production mainly for the manufacturing industries. Businesses selected for PRODCOM supply value sales data (as a proxy for production) for the products they manufacture. Most industries (206 out of 253) are collected annually, but 47 are collected quarterly (mainly chemicals, textiles and pumps & compressors). The survey is conducted under EU regulation, but that is changing - quarterly collection is no longer compulsory for the UK.

Last October, trade associations in the industries potentially affected (and a range of other interested bodies) were asked for their views on whether this quarterly collection should continue, or whether PRODCOM should become annual for all industries. This note reports on the results of this consultation.

### Background

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) was clear that there was insufficient use within government to justify the costs of collection, both to the public purse and in terms of the compliance costs it places on businesses in the industries affected. If there was to be a case for the quarterly inquiries to continue therefore, there would need to be strong evidence of need that at least offset the estimated £350,000 per annum compliance cost to business and the potential saving of £230,000 to ONS.

Consultees were asked to comment on any aspect of the proposal, but there were three topics in particular on which views were sought:

1. How substantial was their use of quarterly PRODCOM data?
2. If they did make appreciable use of the quarterly data, would annual data, in the same detail and for the same industries, be a reasonable substitute?
3. Did they agree that a change from quarterly to annual collection of data would save respondents' time and effort?

### Responses

ONS invited specific responses from 23 organisations: trade associations in the industries affected and umbrella statistical bodies. In addition it advertised the consultation document on its website and informed all longstanding contributors to the quarterly inquiries.

16 replies were received. The ONS is grateful to all those who responded.

Most replies showed little use of the quarterly data. However, a number of trade associations were concerned that data from an annual inquiry would be available appreciably more slowly than the annual figures are now. In more than one case, their agreement to moving to annual inquiries was conditional on the results for the year as a whole being available with the current timeliness.

Two trade associations were, however, vigorous in their defence of the quarterly inquiries. One described them as vital to their industry (though in part it was the timeliness

with which the figures for the year became available that was essential) and another said the key strength of PRODCOM was the ability to analyse performance in year. The first association felt that annual data with the same detail would still be useful, but the other felt that a reduction in the frequency of the inquiries would be a huge loss.

A further respondent, who was writing on behalf of industries not covered quarterly, suggested that the quarterly inquiries should be expanded to cover a greater range of industries. Another felt that national statistics had a role in improving productivity and recalled that the previous quarterly Business Monitors had sold a substantial number of copies in 1975.

Most respondents, however, said that they would be content with a move to annual inquiries.

There were differing views on the extent to which effort would be saved by a change to annual inquiries. The three quarterly contributors that contacted ONS after learning of the consultation said that they would welcome a change to annual reporting. A couple of the trade associations said that such a change would save time and effort for their members. Others did not respond to this question specifically. Those organisations that argued for quarterly inquiries to continue (or to be extended) felt that the worth of the information outweighed any saving in the form-filling burden. One felt that if the completion of product inquiries became an

## NEWS FROM SBE

### STATISTICS FOR ECONOMIC POLICY-MAKING

Chris Allsopp, whose HM Treasury report was published in March 2004, gave a further exposé last November in the form of an economist's view of the statistical landscape and how it needs to be modified. He confessed that he thought statistics a dull subject, but found it anything but dull when conducting his review, not least because of the organisational issues surrounding how economic statistics are collected and the politics of how they are delivered.

He had been set the task of examining regional information and the statistical framework needed to support the key objective of promoting economic growth in all regions and reducing the persistent gap in growth rates between the regions.

Allsopp warned that there was an infinite demand for information and statistics. This implied a cost/benefit trade-off in deciding which data to collect. However, underlying this, he believed the system wasn't working as well as it should. For instance, 70% of UK GDP was generated from the services sector, yet 70% of the output tracked by government economic data was in the manufacturing sector.

The government's policies for regional convergence had created a greater demand for macroeconomic regional data, and there was scope for more integration of regional and national accounts. Further steps towards UK devolution would require additional core data to match responsibilities, but without devolution there was little justification for regional quarterly accounts.

The report recognised that there was a huge demand for microeconomic regional data. However, regions had different data needs. Allsopp recommended better use and enhancement of business surveys and other data sources, an institutional solution through an ONS and GSS presence in the regions, with a mechanism created to decide priorities for data collection across

## FUTURE BURISA CONFERENCE

British Urban & Regional Information Systems Association

### NEW NATIONAL DATABASES, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Friday, 20 May, 10.00–4.30, Natural History Museum, South Kensington, London SW7

PETER CAPELL, formerly ODPM (Chair)

#### Speakers from ONS:

**MALCOLM BRITTON**, Department for Education and Skills, (Pupils Database and the Childrens Act 2004), Department for Work and Pensions

**BRUCE OELMAN**, ONS (Business microdata)

**KEITH MURRAY**, Ordnance Survey (Joining up information - addresses, land and property)

**ROBERT BARR**, Manchester University (Developing address registers)

**PAUL ALLIN**, ONS Citizen Information Project (UK population register - options and statistical implications)

More information is available from: **LISA EVERETT (BURISA); TYE CROFT, HOMESTEAD ROAD; RAMSDEN BELLHOUSE; ESSEX CM11 1RP**

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regions. He suggested a rethinking of sectoral data requirements from a technical (producer) perspective with boosts for sectors of particular policy interest, although he noted that coherence might require a fairly uniform level of detail. He found that the skew towards manufacturing data was not being created by the sampling for economic business surveys, but by the schemes for product classification and he urged a reconstruction of the PRODCOM/SERVCOM systems.

Allsopp concluded that there needed to be a rethink of the requirements for sectoral data and for creating a balanced statistical system that could evolve with the economy. He was confident there was broad consensus on the way forward and that the report's recommendations were the minimum required. However, he feared that UK economic statistics had a very low priority among policy-makers, even though UK compliance costs were very low in comparison with other EU member states. And resource and compliance costs would

be higher unless administrative data such as tax records could be used. The government must realise that if a proper support for policy-making were to be provided, it would have to pay for it.

In answer to questions Allsopp said that the ONS had difficulties in dealing with the globalisation of business in national statistics - for instance, the recording of 'UK' output data in the car industry where UK cars were manufactured from sites in various countries. He wondered what this suggested about the validity of regional data in the first place. However, Allsopp thought we could get a long way by basing figures on the location of factories and employees. He said his report had been well received and that he expected the ONS to implement the report's recommendations. Even so, he added that there were several examples of "false economies" being made by policy-makers. In one case, much more data could be gleaned from business surveys at a cost of £4m. In terms of the economy, this sum was inconsequential. Yet, policy-makers balked at doing so.

occasional (i.e. annual) task rather than a regular one this could make for problems, so that the saving in compliance costs from switching to annual collection would not be as much as estimated.

#### Decision

It is clear from the consultation that quarterly inquiries are not required for most of the industries where they exist at present. There cannot therefore be a case for continuing with them for these industries. The ONS has considered whether it would be feasible to limit quarterly inquiries only to those industries where the consultation has shown an evident need. However, that would mean that the entire cost of running a system of both annual and quarterly inquiries would fall on very few industries. In addition, the figures for those industries would be poorer than at present, since it would be difficult to estimate quarterly the extent to which there were sales of their products by businesses in other industries from which data was not collected quarterly. It has therefore on balance decided that PRODCOM should become annual for all industries.

The ONS does recognise the need to respond to the requirement for timely results. It will do its best to ensure that the move to annual inquiries does not slow the availability of the data for full years. Results for those inquiries that are presently annual will be speeded up by the change; the ONS is looking to complete publication of the 2004 figures a month earlier than it achieved for 2003.

### NATIONAL STATISTICS – there is not no alternative

Statistics have become a political football. The Conservative Shadow Chancellor, Oliver Letwin, launched a Framework for Statistical Accountability, which includes proposals to ensure that National Statistics are not subjected to political interference ie making them more 'independent' of the government. It suggests that the ONS should be divided into two: a National Statistics office reporting directly to Parliament, to be a regulator and data analyst; and a social and business surveys office, constituted as a Cabinet Office executive agency, responsible for primary data collection. So what is new about that? Sounds like the revival of CSO, OPCS and BSO. A (new?) Code of Practice would be enforceable throughout government by the National Statistician. Isn't it already? The purpose of the proposals is to improve public confidence in statistics as well as ensuring 'transparency' whereby public service providers should only be able to publish performance data related to government targets if they were cleared by the Statistics Office. (A Register/Registrar of Targets? Now there's a new idea along the road to Transparency) A bit difficult to see how this could be achieved with an organisation which is being down-sized.

### SBE MEETINGS

Thursday 28 April 2005

#### AMERICA'S TWIN DEFICITS: MANAGEABLE PROBLEMS OR TICKING TIME BOMBS?

NARIMAN BEHRAVESH, Consultant Global Economist, Global Insight

All enquiries about attendance or membership: Society of Business Economists 01264 737552

CIPFA, 3 Robert Street, London WC2 (6 pm)

Wednesday 18 May 2005

#### PRICE DISCRIMINATION, INNOVATION AND HAPPINESS

GILES KEATING, Global Head of Research, Credit Suisse Private Banking

## THE ATKINSON REVIEW – FINAL REPORT

# Measurement of Government Output and Productivity for the National Accounts

Sir Tony Atkinson's Interim Report on this subject was published in July 2004 (mentioned in **BSUG NEWS 26**, October 2004). His Final Report, which runs to 240 pages, appeared in December 2004. After its introductory chapter, Chapter 2 describes the subject matter of the review, outlining the main steps in the development of the ONS approach to measuring government output, which has been much influenced by international guidelines, considered in Chapter 3. Chapter 4 provides a methodological framework, setting out the principles which should form the basis for

measuring government output, inputs and productivity. The implications for national accounts measurement in the UK are discussed in Chapters 5 and 6, which deal with inputs and outputs respectively. The process of implementation is the subject of Chapter 7. Chapters 8 to 11 consider separately four spending functions: health, education, public order and safety, and social protection. An Executive Summary rounds off the body of the report.

The full text of the report is available from [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

## NEWS FROM ONS

### Mid-2003 Population Estimates

Mid-2003 estimates of the population of England, Wales, Great Britain, and the United Kingdom were published on 9 September 2004. At the same time estimates were published by local authority in England and Wales. For England the estimates were also published by Government Office Region, Strategic Health Authority, and by Local Health Board in Wales. Estimates for Scotland and Northern Ireland, also by local authority, were published, on 25 May 2004 for Scotland and on 11 August 2004 for Northern Ireland.

The population estimates which are available on Statbase can be accessed via the Internet. Population data, metadata, and methodology guides can be accessed most readily via the population estimates homepage: [www.statistics.gov.uk/popest](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/popest).

Publication of the mid-2003 population estimates for England and Wales and the revised mid-2001 and mid-2002 estimates followed the conclusion of a series of studies designed to improve population estimates in the areas that proved hardest to count in the 2001 Census in England and Wales. The results of this work are reported at:

[http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/the\\_me\\_population/LAStudy\\_FullReport.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/the_me_population/LAStudy_FullReport.pdf)

The results showed that the One Number Census worked well in most areas, but that there were a few cases where it was not able sufficiently to adjust for exceptional circumstances. The analysis showed that there was a need for revisions to the 2001 Census-based population figures of around 107,000 for England and Wales as a whole. The revisions were confined to 15 local authorities. For the great majority of areas (361 local authorities), the previously published 2001 Census-based population estimate remains the best estimate of the population. These studies have given us a stronger understanding of the operation of the census and local authority registers in areas where it is most difficult to measure the population. This knowledge will be invaluable in planning the 2011 Census and in continuing work on population estimates.

Mid-2004 population estimates for the UK, England, and Wales are due to be published in August 2005. Estimates for Northern Ireland will be published in July 2005 and for Scotland in April 2005.

### FUTURE BSUG CONFERENCE

#### STATISTICS FOR BETTER DECISIONS

Tuesday, 7 June 2005 10.00 - 4.00

at the ROYAL STATISTICAL SOCIETY,  
12 ERROL STREET, London EC1

Speakers include

LEN COOK, National Statistician  
VICKY PRYCE, Chief Economic Adviser, DTI  
ADRIAN COOPER, Oxford Economic Forecasting  
DONALD HEPBURN, Unilever  
DAVID MORT, IRN Research  
MERJA HULT, Eurostat

Applications to and further details from Geoff Noon, MTA (see page 4 for contact details),  
Fee – £25 (includes lunch) payable to BSUG

### FUTURE FSUG EVENT

#### HOW WILL FINANCIAL STATISTICS USERS BENEFIT FROM THE NEW DATA EMANATING FROM BASEL II?

15 April 2005, 1.30-3.45pm

at British Bankers Association, Pinners Hall,  
105-108 Old Broad Street, London EC2

#### WHO BENEFITS FROM FINANCIAL DATA PROVIDED TO SUPERVISORS?

GRAHAM FRASER, Integrated Regulatory Reporting – Policy, Financial Services Authority

#### AN INDUSTRY REACTION TO INCREASED PRUDENTIAL REPORTING

SIMON HILLS, Director, British Bankers Association

#### INCREASED DISCLOSURE - ADVANTAGES AND PITFALLS .... THE BEGINNING OF A REVOLUTION

ALAN HILTON, Basel II Programme, Group Risk, Barclays Bank PLC

#### HARMONISING BANK REPORTING IN A BASEL II CONTEXT - AN EDUCATOR'S VIEW

BRANDON DAVIES, Head of the Risk Academy, Global Association of Risk Professionals

## NEWS FROM ONS

### PUBLIC SECTOR FINANCE REVISIONS: ROAD MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

As a result of examining its treatment of road maintenance and repair data since 1998/9, ONS has announced that it has been combining depreciation and renewals approaches to these items, resulting in some double counting. The consequent revisions have resulted in showing increased current expenditure (and hence the current budget) and increased net investment of between £350 and £500 million per annum from 1998/9. It thereby becomes apparent that these revisions impact on the interpretation of Gordon Brown's 'Golden Rule'. The media coverage of the ONS release was peppered with emotive words - 'fiddle', 'stealth', 'gloss'. Doesn't say much for the collective memories of 'scribblers' of Len Cook's 2004 statement on the ONS Revisions policy (**Economic Trends**, February 2004) and the Statistics Commission's April 2004 Report, (No.17) on the subject. 'Twas ever thus. Conversely, the ONS News release was accompanied by an 8-page Technical Explanatory Note - transparency or obfuscation? Papers are accessible on the ONS website: [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk).

## NEWS FROM ODPM

### TOWN CENTRES DATA UPDATED TO 2002

As announced in the report on the Town Centres project in Jacob Willcock and Mark Thurstain's presentation to the July 2004 BSUG meeting reported in **BSUG NEWS 26**, October 2004, On 28th January ODPM released provisional, updated boundaries and statistics for town centres, covering 2002 data. The boundaries are generated from measures of town centre activity, whilst the statistics cover employment, floorspace and rateable value. This release was an update of boundaries and statistics published last year, for 2000 data.

The boundaries and statistics rely on floorspace data from the Valuation Office Agency, which are also published separately by ODPM. These underlying floorspace data will be revised in June 2005, to generate a consistent series from 1998-2004. Following these revisions, ODPM hope to revise the town centres work, and release a similar series of boundaries and statistics for town centres.

The town centres work is available on ODPM's website, at [www.odpm.gov.uk/statistics/towncentres](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/statistics/towncentres)

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## NEWS FROM ONS

### POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS ON BUSINESS STATISTICAL DATA

#### Background

From 1st January 2005, all EU-listed corporate groups must produce their consolidated accounts using International Accounting Standards (IAS), also called International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The EU's endorsement of these standards enforces their use and although, initially, these IAS/IFRS standards apply compulsorily only to EU listed groups' consolidated accounts, that is not the end of the matter:

- All other UK companies may choose to apply IAS/IFRS voluntarily. Consequently, not only listed groups' accounts will be IAS/IFRS-based but also the accounts of an unknown number of unlisted companies.
- The UK's Accounting Standards Board (ASB) is harmonising its standards with the IAS/IFRS, so UK standards, applying to all companies, may soon be difficult to distinguish from IAS/IFRS.
- An IFRS is under development to apply to smaller businesses and the ASB is planning to update its UK Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (FRSSE) accordingly.
- There are plans for further harmonisation between IAS/IFRS and US accounting rules (US GAAP).

So some UK businesses will be definitely affected by IAS/IFRS immediately from 2005 while others may delay the process for an indefinite period.

IAS/IFRS differ from current UK accounting standards (UK GAAP) in many respects. Although the most significant effects are likely to be within the areas of financial instruments, other effects in areas such as employee costs, pensions, taxation, revenue recognition, leasing, insurance etc may be felt, depending upon the nature the business. The IAS/IFRS system is not static and new and revised standards will continue to appear.

#### Implications for statistics

How does this affect producers and users of business statistics?

The range of differences between UK GAAP, international GAAP, statistical standards (ESA95 etc) etc coupled with the fact that survey-based data may not be fully congruent with current UK accounting standards may lead to a number of possible discontinuities in statistical outputs.

#### What's being done?

Since 2001, a Eurostat/ECB Taskforce on Accounting and Statistics has had the prime objective of analysing IAS/IFRS impacts. Some useful outputs to date include:

- Comparisons of IAS/IFRS with ESA95
- Initial surveys of contributors across several member states, identifying indicative areas of impact.

- Setting up a process for monitoring and commenting on new IAS/IFRSs.

- Production of a list of statistical variables likely to be affected by IAS/IFRS (still a work in progress)

Hard analyses of specific IAS/IFRS impacts on businesses have been sparse, however, little hard data being available until recently.

#### The way forward

ONS set up an IAS/IFRS taskforce, in mid 2004, which adopted a 3-point action plan:

Stage 1 – A series of visits to a range of businesses, to identify likely areas of impact. Contacts made in late 2004 indicated that some businesses were taking a 'wait and see' approach while others were biting the bullet and making extensive preparations. Few, however, were able or willing to indicate the significance of IAS/IFRS impacts on their figures.

Stage 2 – A survey of businesses, asking respondents a limited range of questions about potential IAS/IFRS impacts. Approximately 500 businesses were surveyed during January/February 2005 and the results are being analysed currently.

Stage 3 – Make appropriate adjustments to data collections, so that changes can be understood, analysed and, wherever possible, estimated to minimise discontinuities.

None of the above will remove the need for vigilance in identifying significant IAS/IFRS impacts post-2005, but should ease the burden of the ex post analysis required.

#### Postscript

The move to IAS/IFRS from 2005 is just one instance of accounting change and further changes are in the pipeline. UK GAAP is already converging with international standards, and given that IAS/IFRS are expected to evolve further, the effects will be spread over a number of years. The option allowed to non-listed businesses to apply IAS/IFRS will also add to the delay in the effects being experienced.

UK GAAP is closer to IAS/IFRS than the GAAPs of many other member states and so it may be that the impact of IAS/IFRS will be felt significantly less in the UK than elsewhere.

Taking a longer-term view, the concepts and principles within IAS/IFRS (e.g. the use of 'fair value', which approximates market value) represent a move toward those within statistical systems, so the move towards IAS/IFRS should be welcomed as a way of improving the quality of business statistics.

If you have any views or comments on this article please contact Dave Hobbs ([david.hobbs@ons.gov.uk](mailto:david.hobbs@ons.gov.uk)) or Pat Thomas ([pat.thomas@ons.gov.uk](mailto:pat.thomas@ons.gov.uk)).

## NEWS FROM ONS

### ONS ORGANISATION CHART

ONS watchers may be interested to know that the ONS website contains a chart displaying the current structure of its senior management. Space limitation does not allow its reproduction here and in view of the announced changes relating to staffing levels and relocation (reported in **BSUG**

**NEWS 26**), those interested will be well-advised to keep an eye on the organisation chart as it evolves; an earlier one was included in **BSUG NEWS 21**. It can currently be found on the 'Information about National Statistics' area of the site ([www.statistics.gov.uk/about-ns/foi/ons-org-chart](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about-ns/foi/ons-org-chart)) though it should be remembered that the site is undergoing a re-development programme.

## BSUG WEBSITES

[www.bsug.org.uk](http://www.bsug.org.uk)  
[www.dtistats.net/bsug](http://www.dtistats.net/bsug)

The **bsug.org** site gives the history, aims and objectives of the Group, Committee members' names and contact details, and information about forthcoming meetings, which can be booked on-line. The **dtistats.net** site gives access to current and back copies of **BSUG NEWS** and, in addition, reports of meetings.