

ROUTLEDGE REVIVALS

Sources of Non-Official UK Statistics

Fifth Edition

David Mort



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SOURCES OF NON-OFFICIAL UK STATISTICS

Introduction

Published statistical series and marketing data play an important role in the provision of information for business, industry, economic analysis, academic and other research. In the United Kingdom as in most major economies, Central Government and its departments are the main suppliers of statistical information. These statistics are usually referred to as 'official statistics' and details of the range of official statistics available can be obtained from National Statistics (www.statistics.gov.uk). As well as Central Government, there are many other organizations involved in compiling and disseminating statistics and these include: trade associations, professional bodies, market research organizations, banks, other financial services companies, chambers of commerce, economic research and forecasting organizations, consultants, academic institutions, commercial publishers, and some manufacturing companies. Sources from these publishers form the basis of the entries in this directory, and these resources are usually referred to as 'non-official statistics' to differentiate them from data published by government. They may also be referred to as 'non-governmental statistics'.

Traditionally, the two areas of statistical publishing – official and non-official – have been largely separate from each other, although some trade association data has been used in selected official series, and various non-governmental bodies often lobby and advise government statisticians on statistical series and issues. In recent years, however, the line between official and non-official sources has become increasingly blurred with more official data being distributed and sold through private sector sources, and more data from non-governmental sources being incorporated in government series and services.

This fifth edition of *Sources of Non-official UK Statistics* provides details of almost 900 non-official titles and services, and is a unique and well-established source of information on an important area of business information.

Non-official Statistics

Although Central Government is the major producer of statistics, there are various reasons why these statistics do not always provide sufficient detail on specific markets, sectors, and products. Non-official sources can cover product areas and sectors excluded from Central Government data, and they may also cover different types of data not usually included in official sources. Examples of the latter include end-user statistics covering the consumption of specific products and services rather than just total sales, salary surveys, opinion surveys, product price information, and forecasts. In some cases, non-official sources simply repackage and comment on official data but these commentaries often provide a useful analysis of the major trends in official series. New markets, such as the Internet and mobile technologies, are often covered in more detail by non-official sources. Many of the private sector companies now selling detailed time series from Central Government sources are also adding value to the data with commentaries, ratios, and further analysis based on the original figures.

Prices of non-official statistics can vary from a few pounds to thousands of pounds for detailed research, but a considerable proportion of the UK titles are still available free of charge. More publishers are beginning to put some or all of their statistical output on their web sites and are offering the data as a freely accessible feature.

One disadvantage of non-official statistics is that, in some cases, the material is not available generally. Many trade associations and professional bodies, for example, only circulate material to members while other organizations limit access to clients, survey participants, or others specific groups. However, the percentage of the total non-official output restricted to only a limited group of users is relatively small and, even where detailed statistics are confidential, an executive summary or synopsis of data may be available generally. Another problem is that the reliability and accuracy of the data can vary considerably from one non-official source to the next. The amount of resources devoted to statistical activity, and the level of statistical expertise can vary from one organization to another and this is likely to have an effect on the statistics produced. Only a few sources give details on how the figures have been compiled and the specific methodologies used.

Most of the items included in the directory are clearly statistical publications but non-statistical sources, such as trade journals and

yearbooks, are included if they contain a regular statistical series or feature. This edition of the directory also has a separate section in each entry for Web-based sources of statistics where these are available.

Sources included in the Directory

This edition contains information on 879 titles and services produced by over 430 organizations. The entries are based largely on information supplied by the publishers in Spring/Summer 2001, supported by desk research by IRN Services. The compilers would like to thank all those publishing organizations responding to our request for information.

Statistics of interest to business and industry, and which are produced regularly, are included. For a source to be considered as regular, it must be produced at least once every six years. Most publications and services included are either continuous or annual, twice-yearly, quarterly, or monthly. One-off surveys or market reports do not qualify but market reports updated regularly are included.

Only sources issued in, and concerning, the United Kingdom or Great Britain are covered. Material with international coverage has been excluded unless it has a strong element of UK coverage. Some regional sources, relating to Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and other regions have been included as well as material covering the capital city, London. Other local statistics on very specific local areas have been excluded.

Most sources included are available generally but there are some titles and services which have a restricted circulation. These have been included as summaries or older editions which may be made available to others. In some cases, publishers have asked to be excluded from the directory and we have agreed to this request.

As well as standard time series statistics, forecasts, trend surveys, and opinion surveys are also included but data dealing with only one corporate body, such as company annual reports, has generally been excluded.

Finally, the sources listed cover a range of delivery formats including the standard book form, those which are produced on one or two sheets of paper such as press releases and pamphlets, through to electronic data available on the Web, or via proprietary databases, CD-ROM, discs, or magnetic tape. Details of statistics available on publisher web sites have been included for the first time.

Structure of the Directory

The directory is divided into the three parts.

Part I The Statistics

The entries are arranged alphabetically by publishing organization, and numbered consecutively. The entries have been based on responses from the publishing bodies themselves supplemented, where possible, by a scanning of the source document. Usually, if an organization publishes more than one title, each title has a separate entry. The exceptions are regular market research surveys produced by one publisher on various topics. As most of these latter surveys follow the same format, they are included in one general entry rather than listed separately.

All of the categories below may be included in an individual entry although some entries may have no information in certain categories if these are not relevant, or if the information is not available:

- **Name** of the publishing body
- **Title** of source
- **Coverage**, including details of any text/analysis supporting the data, and sources of statistics
- **Frequency** of source
- **Web Site**, with details of any data free on site, paid-for access to data, online ordering facilities, or general details of sources
- **Cost**, usually refers to cost per year unless otherwise stated
- **Comments**, about the publication, including any restrictions on availability
- **Address** of publisher
- **Telephone and Fax** numbers
- **Web site and email** URL and address.

Part II Title Index

All the specific titles and services covered in the directory are listed alphabetically here. Titles beginning with numbers are listed at the beginning of the sequence. Annual reports are listed individually under Annual Reports followed by the name of the organization publishing a particular annual report. The numbers given for each title are entry numbers not page numbers.

Part III Subject Index

A detailed subject index containing references to the relevant entry number in Part 1.

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Part I

The Statistics

