



**Wales Institute of Social & Economic
Research, Data & Methods**

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Economaid, Data a Dulliau Cymru

WISERD DATA RESOURCES

WISERD/WDR/002

**Quantitative research resources
within the social sciences**

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February 2011

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	Living Costs and Food Survey (LCSF)
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Quantitative research resources within the social sciences

1. Introduction

This document provides an overview of some of the resources available for research within the Social Sciences. At the outset, it is acknowledged that there are difficulties in compiling a catalogue that is going to be 'all things to all people'. It is not possible to include all available resources for research, or to cover every topic that may be of interest to researchers. Information and intelligence needs are broad and wide ranging. Moreover, such cataloguing exercises quickly become out of date as new initiatives become available. It has also become apparent during the production of this manual that various cataloguing exercises are being undertaken by a variety of organisations. A number of the websites, listed in the document, themselves provide links to further resources.

However, it remains the case that there are gaps in knowledge about the existence and scope of information sources that are currently available. This overview therefore acts as a reference volume, assisting users by identifying the key sources of information related to data and research resources of potential interest.

Resources for research are considered under four broad areas:

- Compendia sources and reference volumes that provide accessible statistical summaries of particular topic areas, typically drawing upon a range of data sources;
- Bibliographic resources that enable researchers to search the content of libraries, document databases and download articles or 'grey' literature;
- Methodological resources that enable researchers to learn how to use statistical software, how to construct surveys, or to have concepts explained;
- Data resources that enable researchers to identify sources of data, browse the data (either online or in reference volumes) and download data for analysis.

1.1 Where Do I Start?

1.1.1 Compendia Sources and Reference Volumes

For an overview of data availability and key indicators either about a particular region (or sub region) or on a particular topics, a useful starting point is thematic and compendia sources. Section 2 provides an outline of key compendia sources produced by the Office for National Statistics and other Government Departments. For example, those wishing to consider Wales in the context of broader comparisons with Great Britain or the rest of the UK, the annual ONS publication Regional Trends provides key indicators for regions across a wide range of topics, with some data being provided at a sub-regional level. Those with a specific

interest in particular themes may wish to refer to volumes such as Population Trends, Social Trends or UK Health Statistics. Such reference volumes are readily available and are generally written in a style that is accessible to a wide range of audiences.

1.1.2 On-Line Resources for Data Extraction/Analysis

Compendia volumes may provide sufficient information for users who wish to access readily available evidence to contextualise their own research or analysis but who may not have a need to undertake their own analysis of available data. Those requiring more detailed information, either geographically or for particular subsets of the population may wish to investigate online sources of data. These allow a wider range of analyses than those published in statistical compendia. Such sources vary in terms of the degree of functionality offered to users. Some websites simply allow users to download existing tables of data. Others provide an interactive service that allows users to produce their analyses based on underlying data sources. Examples of such websites are provided in Section 5. For small areas, users may wish to refer to the **ONS Neighbourhood Statistics Service** (Section 5.1.1) as a first starting point for socio-economic data. For official labour market statistics, the *National Online Manpower Information Service* (Section 5.1.3) allows users to run bespoke queries on up to date and detailed labour market data.

1.1.3 Access to Micro-Data

The data published in both reference volumes or made available through interactive web-interfaces will be derived from a variety of administrative and survey sources. Access to the unit level data (or micro-data) of these sources to allow for further, more detailed analysis of these sources may be possible, subject to the assurances given to respondents regarding the use of their data, and the ability of the data custodians to allow access to the data whilst maintaining the anonymity of respondents. Mechanisms for gaining access to detailed micro-data are described in Section 5.3, with key examples in the UK including the *Data Archive*, the *Virtual Micro-Data Laboratory* and the *Secure Data Service*.

1.2 Training

Whilst access to micro-data provides rich potential for analysis, it also places a greater demand on users in terms of their analytical expertise. Whilst access to data through compendia sources and online tabulation services may only require users to have the ability to use and interpret tables and graphs, access to detailed micro-data may require researchers to have developed programming techniques, skills in data management and expertise in statistical techniques. It is also noted that statistics produced in reference volumes comply with National Statistics Code of Practice which sets out the key principles

and standards which official statisticians are expected to follow. Many of the statistics produced in reference volumes will be labelled National Statistics, a quality marker denoting that they have been produced in accordance with the principles set out in the Code of Practice (see <http://www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/ns-standard/index.html>).

Online interactive tools will also ensure that researchers cannot extract information for sub-groups where the number of observations is insufficient to ensure the statistical reliability of the information produced or where there is risk of disclosing the identity of individuals, households or businesses. Whilst the confidentiality of respondents is assured through anonymisation of records and other controls, access to micro-data requires users to possess the necessary analytical skills to ensure that their analysis is statistically robust (see Sections 4.1 and 4.2). In terms of granting access to its most sensitive micro-data, the Office for National Statistics requires applicants for Approved Researcher evidence to provide evidence of their professionalism and experience in handling sensitive data (see <http://www.ons.gov.uk/about/who-we-are/our-services/unpublished-data/access-to-ons-data-service/index.html>).

1.2.1 Training in statistical concepts

Some examples of online courses that provide training in understanding and interpreting statistics, statistical literacy and introductory statistics are provided in Section 4.1. Sources of more advanced training relating to the analysis of survey micro-data are described in Section 4.2. The Learning Environment for Multi-Level Methodology and Applications (LEMMA), based at the University of Bristol also provides online modules in statistics, covering both elementary concepts through to more advanced techniques (Section 4.2.5). Annex 1 of this report also provides a list of organizations that routinely run courses in statistics and research methods. Several of these provide online access to course materials that are free to browse and download.

1.2.2 Training in accessing secondary data

As well training in statistical concepts, training in accessing and handling data is also important. Websites that allow users to interactively extract data also provide good sources of training material that is aimed at users who do not necessarily have high levels of analytical skills. For example, the **National Online Manpower Information Service** (See Section 5.1.3) runs a 1 day course in the NOMIS system outlining the data sets that are available, key classifications used in the analysis of data and the techniques that are available. The course therefore serves as a good introduction to important sources of administrative and survey data, whilst also providing training in the NOMIS system. The

Neighbourhood Statistics website also provides a variety of documentation to support users of its Analysis Tool Kit (see section 5.1.1), including how to choose the most appropriate data to address research questions, the derivation of statistical indicators and guides demonstrating how to make comparisons over time or between geographical areas.

For researchers wishing to access micro-data for research, the Economic and Social Data Service provides a variety of online resources and introductory workshops that provide assistance to new users on the practicalities of data access from the Data Archive. The accompanying TRAMMS website provides online modules in using the Archive's online catalogue and other topics related to the secondary analysis of survey data. An understanding of multiple regression is assumed. For those undertaking analysis of more complex survey data, such as longitudinal data or multi-level data (e.g. employer/employee or household/individual), the resources outlined in Section 4.2 provide information on both data handling and the advanced statistical techniques developed for the analysis of such data.

1.2.3 Training in Primary Data Collection

Finally, several resources identified in Section 4.3 provide information on sources of training and methodological expertise in relation to primary data collection. Key in this respect is the Survey Resources Network which runs both the Survey Question Bank and provides training in survey related research methods. For those with an interest in longitudinal research, the UK Longitudinal Studies Centre again provides a source of information, advice and training to promote best practice in longitudinal survey design. The National Centre for e-Social Science provides support in the use of computer based tools in quantitative and qualitative research, whilst the development of on-line questionnaires is supported through the Exploring On-Line Research Methods web site.

2. Compendia Sources

2.1 Cross Cutting Compendia

Study Name	Location	Frequency of release	Coverage	Welsh Breakdown
Annual Abstract	National Statistics Online http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=94	Annual	UK Regions	No
Focus on Series	National Statistics Online http://www.statistics.gov.uk/focuson/	Ad Hoc	Dependant on topic	Dependant on topic
Monthly Digest of Statistics	National Statistics Online http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=611	Monthly	UK Regions	No

2.1.1 Annual Abstract

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=94>

The Annual Abstract is produced by the Office for National Statistics containing information on UK economy, industry, society and demography. Within these topics, it covers a number of areas, including population and vital statistics; parliamentary elections; international development; defence; education; the labour market; personal income; expenditure and wealth; health; social protection; crime and justice; lifestyles; environment; housing; transport and communications; national accounts; prices; government finance; external trade and investment; research and development; agriculture; fisheries and food; production; and the banking, insurance and service industry. The Annual Abstract has been compiled from 100 sources and contains over 10,000 series. Data and documentation can be obtained freely from the national statistics website or can be purchased as a hard copy. It is compiled on an annual basis and contains data on UK regions, including Governmental Office Regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Data is not available at anything lower than UK Regional level.

2.1.2 Focus on Series

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/focuson/>

The 'Focus On' series consists of a number of studies published by the Office for National Statistics, each 'focussing' on one specific topic. The series includes a number of social science related topics, such as ethnicity and identity; family; gender; health; older people; people and migration; religion; and social inequalities. It also has a specific study focussed on people in Wales, which is discussed below (see 2.43). Each study combines a number of different datasets, including the 2001 Census data, to illustrate its point. The frequency of release depends on the topic. Some, such as ethnicity and identity, are released on an ad

hoc basis, whereas others, such as the environmental accounts study, are released at regular intervals. The studies for each topic can be found on the National Statistics website. The output coverage, and the Welsh breakdown, of the data held within the Focus On series changes depending on which element of the series the user is looking at.

2.1.3 Monthly Digest of Statistics

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=611>

The Monthly Digest of Statistics is another Office for National Statistics published study, and is produced using the latest monthly and quarterly business, economic and social data. Each report consists of 20 chapters of tables, covering a number of topics, including the labour market; social services; law enforcement; agriculture, food, drinks and tobacco; production, output and costs; energy; communications; metals, engineering and vehicles textiles and other manufacturers; construction; transport; retailing; external trade in goods; UK balance of payments; government finance; prices and wages; leisure; and weather. Studies are released on a monthly basis and cover UK Regions, including Government Office Regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Further breakdown of Welsh data below the UK Regional Level is unavailable. The studies can be obtained freely from National Statistics Online or as a hard copy from the ONS.

2.2 Regional Compendia

Study Name	Location	Frequency of release	Coverage	Welsh Breakdown
Region in figures	National Statistics Online http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=10446	Bi-annually	Government Office Regions	No
Regional trends	National Statistics Online http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=836	Annual	UK Regions	Unitary Authority
Regional snapshot	National Statistics Online http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14161	Ad Hoc	UK Regions	Unitary Authority

2.2.1 Region in figures

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=10446>

Region in figures is a comprehensive source of statistics relating to the regions and sub-regions of England. Within the study are 9 reports, each covering one of the 9 Government Office Regions, containing information relating to population; economy; the labour market; education and training; transport and the environment; and living in the region. These reports were produced twice a year by the Office for National Statistics. However, they were discontinued in 2005, being replaced by the regional snapshot study (see section 2.23). The

data and documentation can be obtained from the National Statistics website without cost. The study only covers English Government Office Regions and offers no data relating to Wales.

2.2.2 Regional Trends

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=836>

Regional Trends is a regular source of information and statistics, produced by the Office for National Statistics for regions within the UK. The study is conducted annually and contains a range of demographic, social, industrial and economic statistics. Statistics are available at UK Regional level, including Governmental Office Regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The Welsh data can also be broken down to Unitary Authority level. The study can only be obtained online, and is available for free from the National Statistics website.

2.2.3 Regional Snapshot

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14161>

Regional snapshot is another regional study produced by the Office for National Statistics. The study contains a number of topics relating to social sciences including population; economy; the labour market; education and training; housing; transport; and crime. It also contains data relating to the environment. The data contained within the studies can be obtained at UK regional level, and it is also available for sub-regions, such as Unitary Authorities in Wales. Like the other regional datasets, this data is only available online and can be downloaded freely from the National Statistics website. The data is updated in batches 4 times a year, meaning that it is not always as up-to-date as other data sources. Only at the end of each year, when the data updates have been completed, is the data held within the study fully up-to-date.

2.3 Thematic Compendia

2.3.1 Business and the Economy

Study Name	Location	Frequency of release	Coverage	Welsh Breakdown
UK Business: Size, Activity, Location/Size Analysis of UK Businesses	National Statistics Online http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=933	Annual	UK Regions	Unitary Authority
Small and Medium Enterprise Statistics	National Statistics Online http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1692	Annual	UK Regions	No
Economic and Labour Market Review	National Statistics Online http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14692	Monthly	UK Regions	Unitary Authority
Financial Statistics	National Statistics Online http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=376	Monthly	UK National Level	No
UK Balance of Payments- The Pink Book	National Statistics Online http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1140	Annual	UK National Level	No
UK National Accounts- The Blue Book	National Statistics Online http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1143	Annual	UK National Level?	No

2.3.1.1 UK Business: Size, Activity, Location (2004 onwards)/Size Analysis of UK Businesses (Pre 2004)

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=933>

The UK Business: Size, Activity and Location series has been produced by the Office for National Statistics since 2004, when it replaced the Size of Analysis of UK Businesses study. Data from both series is freely available for download from the National Statistics website. The study has been compiled from the Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR), which is a statistical register containing information on VAT traders and PAYE employers. This register represents 99% business activity within the economy and contains around 2.1million businesses. Data held on each business relates to its size, classification and location, meaning that data is available at local site level for the whole economy. The data is held at UK Regional Level, including Governmental Office Regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, but can be broken down into sub-regions, such as Unitary Authorities in Wales. The data can also be related to Middle Super Output Areas (MSOA) for England and Wales.

2.3.1.2 Small and Medium Enterprise Statistics

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1692>

The Small and Medium Enterprise Statistics series has been developed by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR). The series contains a breakdown of UK population, employment and turnover, which is classified by business size. Business size classifications relate to the number of people employed by the business, with 10 levels of classification being used. The series contains figures relating to the number of businesses and their aggregate employment and turnover in each class. Figures are provided for the economy as a whole, and as a sector by sector breakdown. The study also estimates the total number of 1 person businesses present in the UK, a statistic which is not captured by most official sources. The study has previously been produced as a statistical bulletin, but is now produced annually, and is available for free download from the National Statistics website or as hard copies in the form of press releases.

2.3.1.3 Economic and Labour Market Review (2007 onwards, replacing Economic and Labour Market Trends)

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14692>

The Economic and labour market review is a journal which has been produced by the Office for National Statistics since 2007, when it replaced the study entitled Economic and Labour Market trends. The publication looks to draw from a number of research projects to create an up-to-date picture of the UK economy and labour market. Key data on the economy and labour market is available at UK Regional level, including Governmental Office Regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, and can also be broken down into sub-regions, such as Unitary Authorities for Wales. The publication is available freely from the National Statistics website. Hard copies can also be purchased.

2.3.1.4 Financial Statistics (Including Explanatory Handbook)

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=376>

The Financial Statistics series incorporates data on public sector finance; central government revenue and expenditure; money supply and credit; banks and building societies; interest and exchange rates; financial accounts; capital issues; and balance sheets and balance of payments. This is held in two sections, which are updated on different time scales. The first section contains free standing data and tables and is updated monthly, and the second contains the data procured by the Office for National Statistics, which is updated quarterly. The study is produced by the Office for National Statistics and is freely available for download from the National Statistics website. It is also available as hard copies. The data is held at UK national level, and further breakdowns are not available.

The explanatory handbook for this study is released annually and can also be found at the National Statistics website. It is produced as a guide to the Financial Statistics study, providing detailed explanations of the data held within the publication.

(<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=4861>).

2.3.1.5 United Kingdom Balance of Payments- The Pink Book

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1140>

The 'Pink' Book, produced annually by the Office for National Statistics, contains data on the annual estimates of the UK balance of payments, including estimates for the current account; the capital account; the financial account; and the international investment position. The current account has been broken down into 64 countries, one of which is the UK. The lowest level of breakdown for the Pink Book is UK National Level. The data is available for free from the National Statistics website. Hard copies are also available for purchase.

2.3.1.6 United Kingdom National Accounts- The Blue Book

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1143>

The 'Blue' Book contains estimates of national product, income and expenditure for the UK. It is a UK national study, and no further breakdown of the data is available. The study covers the value added to the UK economy by industry; full accounts by sector; central and local government; and households and capital formation. All the data held within the Blue Book goes back at least 9 years, with some series going back further. The study is produced annually by the Office for National Statistics and is available for download from the National Statistics website. Hard copies are also available for purchase.

2.3.2 Crime and Justice

Study Name	Location	Frequency of release	Coverage	Welsh Breakdown
Crime in England and Wales	Home Office http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/crimeew0708.html	Annual	UK Government Office Regions and Wales	SSB's
Offender Management Statistics	Ministry of Justice http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm	Annual /Quarterly	UK National Level	No

2.3.2.1 Crime in England and Wales

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/crimeew0708.html>

The study on Crime in England and Wales is produced annually, and brings together statistics from the British Crime Survey (BCS) and crime data recorded by the police. The BCS records crimes against people aged 16 and over living in private households within England and Wales. The BCS study is based on a total sample of 40,000 interviewees, 3,002 of these coming from Wales. It is particularly useful because, due to the method by which it's recorded, it is unaffected by changes in the practices of both reporting and recording crime. This makes it a useful indication of crime trends over time. The study is produced by the Home Office and is freely available on their website. Data is available for UK Regions, including Governmental Office Regions and Wales. This can then be further broken down to sub-regional levels, such as SSB areas for Wales.

2.322 Offender Management Statistics

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/offender-management-stats-quarterly.htm>

Offender Management Statistics is a publication produced by the Ministry of Justice. It provides key statistics relating to offenders who are in prison or under Probation Service supervision. It contains statistics on different aspects of prisons and their inmates, including data on population, reception and discharges by type of prisoner, sentence length, offence, ethnic origin and sex. It also includes data on prisoners in police cells, such as young offenders, females and fine defaulters. A less detailed Quarterly Bulletin is also available. The data is freely available to download from the Ministry of Justice website. Limited regional breakdowns are available for some tables. The Quarterly Bulletin replaces three existing statistics publications: the monthly population in custody bulletin, Probation Statistics Quarterly and License recalls and returns to Custody.

2.3.3 Education and Training

Study Name	Location	Frequency of release	Coverage	Welsh Breakdown
Education and Training Statistics for the UK	Department for Children, Schools and Families http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rs_gateway/DB/VOL/	Annual	UK Regions	No
Higher Education Statistics for the UK	Higher Education Statistics Agency http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php/component/option,com_pubs/Itemid,122/	Annual	UK Regions	No

2.3.3.1 Education and Training Statistics for the UK

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/>

The Education and Training Statistics study has been completed by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. The data is available freely at the department's website. The study has been produced using more than 50 tables, containing data relating to schools, post-compulsory education and training and qualifications and destinations, expenditure on education and the UK population. This provides an integrated overview on statistics on education and training in the UK. Coverage includes UK Regions, including Government Office Regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Further breakdown of data for Wales is unavailable.

2.3.3.2 Higher Education Statistics for the UK

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php/component/option,com_pubs/Itemid,122/

The Higher Education Statistics publication is collaboratively produced annually by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). It looks to provide an overview of all higher education in the UK, including data on such topics as students, staff, institutional finance, applicants via UCAS, graduates and graduate destinations and student support. The data is held for UK Regions, including England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The publication and data are available freely online. Hard copies and a CD-rom are also available for purchase. A variety of more detailed publications are also available from the HESA website, including data presented at the institutional level such as statistics from the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education Survey.

2.3.4 Health and Care

Study Name	Location	Frequency of release	Coverage	Welsh Breakdown
Health Statistics Quarterly	National Statistics Online http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=6725	Quarterly	UK Regions	No
UK Health Statistics	National Statistics Online http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=6637	Ad Hoc	UK Regions	No

2.3.4.1 Health Statistics Quarterly

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=6725>

Health Statistics Quarterly is published 4 times a year, in February, May, August and November, by the Office for National Statistics, and is available freely from the National Statistics website. Hard copies are also available for purchase. The publication contains information on the latest health findings and topical articles as well as regularly updated statistics, giving information on topics such as health, deaths, childhood mortality, cancer survival, abortions, congenital abnormalities and morbidity. The data is available for UK Regions, including England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. No sub-regional data for Wales is available.

2.3.4.2 United Kingdom Health Statistics

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=6637>

UK Health Statistics, produced by the Office for National Statistics, brings together information on health and care for the UK with information being available on a regional basis, including Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. No sub-regional data is available for Wales. The study is produced intermittently, with publications being available for 2000, 2006 and 2008. The publication is freely available from National Statistics Online. Hard copies are also available for purchase.

2.3.5 Labour Market

Study Name	Location	Frequency of release	Coverage	Welsh Breakdown
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings	National Statistics Online http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=13101	Annual	UK Regions	Unitary Authority
Local Area Labour Markets: Statistical Indicators	National Statistics Online http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=14160	Quarterly	UK Regions	Unitary Authorities
Work and Worklessness Among Households	National Statistics Online http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8552	Quarterly	UK Regions	No

2.3.5.1 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=13101>

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) is produced by the Office for National Statistics to replace the New Earnings Survey, which ended in 2004. The survey covers the

levels, distribution and make-up of earnings and hours paid for employees within industries, occupations and regions. Aggregate tables from NES and ASHE were published in a series of annual volumes. These have now been replaced by a series of tables. The data is produced annually and each version can be found and obtained freely from the National Statistics website. The data is held for UK Regions, including Government Office Regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Data for Wales can be broken down into Unitary Authorities. Breakdowns of data include gender, region, occupation, industry, region by occupation and age groups. Variables broken down into these categories include gross weekly pay, weekly pay excluding overtime, basic pay including other pay, overtime pay, gross hourly pay, hourly pay excluding overtime, gross annual pay, annual incentive pay, total paid hours, basic paid hours and paid overtime hours. Micro-data from the ASHE survey is available through the ONS Virtual Micro-data Laboratory.

2.3.5.2 Local Area Labour Markets: Statistical Indicators

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=14160>

Local Area Labour Markets: Statistical Indicators uses different indicators to give an overview of the labour market in local areas. A number of indicators are used for different aspects of the labour market. Statistics relating to employment, unemployment and benefits dependence for the local population, and the earnings of the people living in the area are used as indicators of labour supply. Statistics relating to jobs and vacancies at workplaces in the area produce statistics of labour demand. Earnings statistics are used to provide indicators of both labour supply and labour demand. The data for this study is generally taken from the Annual Labour Force Survey and the Annual Population Survey. The data is present for UK Regions, such as Government Office Regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Accompanying tables also provide information at Local/Unitary Authority level for Wales and the rest of the UK. The survey is released quarterly by the Office for National Statistics, and is available freely for download from the National Statistics Online website.

2.3.5.3 Work and Worklessness Among Households

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8552>

The Work and Worklessness Among Households series is produced by the Office for National Statistics using data from the Labour Force Survey. The study looks at employment and unemployment within households and families in the UK. The topics contained within the series include information about working age households and about the adults and children living in them. It includes estimates of workless working-age households, and the adults and children living in them. This is broken down further by household type, regions and ethnicity. Estimates of employment rates among working age people by parental status, using person-

level analysis are also included. The data is published on a quarterly basis, based on the Labour Force Survey household datasets, and can be obtained freely from the National Statistics website. Data is available for UK Regions, including Government Office Regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, with no further breakdown for Welsh data.

2.3.6 Natural and Built Environment

Study Name	Location	Frequency of release	Coverage	Welsh Breakdown
Digest of Environmental Statistics	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/index.htm	Dependant on topic	Dependant on topic	Dependant on topic
Housing Statistics Annual	Department of Communities and Local Government http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/housingstatisticsannuals/housingstatisticsannuals/	Annual	England, with occasional UK coverage, depending on data availability.	No
Construction Statistics Annual	National Statistics Online http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/product.asp?vlnk=284&Pos=ColRank=1&Rank=272	Annual	UK Regions	No

2.3.6.1 Digest of Environmental Statistics

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/index.htm>

The Digest of Environmental Statistics is a summary of statistics for various environmentally related topics, produced by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). A number of topics have been summarised in the Digest, including: air quality; coastal and marine waters; climate change; inland water quality and use; land use and land cover; ozone depletion; public attitudes; radio activity; waste and recycling; and wild life. Summary statistics are displayed for each topic, with links providing easy access to more complex information. This data is available freely at the DEFRA website. The breakdown of the data depends on the topic chosen, with most of the data being held at a UK National Level. However, some has been broken down into UK Regions, Enumeration Authorities, Environment Agency Regions and Local/Unitary Authorities.

2.3.6.2 Housing Statistics Annual

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/housingstatisticsannuals/housingstatisticsannuals/>

Housing Statistics Annual is a study produced to cover all aspects of housing in England. It includes basic and physical data such as dwelling stocks and vacant dwellings and housing flow data, such as house building, demolitions and conversions. The data can be linked to a wide range of social, economic and financial datasets. The data has been collected by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), the Survey of English Housing and the Survey of Mortgage Lenders. Generally data only exists for England, however, in some cases, if data is available for the UK, this has been included. The data is freely available at the DCLG website. Hard copies are also available for purchase.

2.3.6.3 Construction Statistics Annual

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/product.asp?vlnk=284&Pos=ColRank=1&Rank=272>

Construction Statistics Annual is produced by the Office for National Statistics, with contributions from the Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's (BERR) Construction Statistics and Economics Unit. The publication looks to give a broad perspective of statistical trends within the construction industry in Great Britain throughout the last decade. The study contains data on construction output and new orders, tender price, output price and cost indices, data on building materials, floor space statistics, local and central government expenditure, lottery funded projects, international comparisons, employment statistics, workload of professionals, planning applications and health and safety statistics. The data is available for UK Regions, including Government Office Regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, and can be downloaded from National Statistics Online for free. Hard copies are also available for purchase.

2.3.7 Social and Welfare

Study Name	Location	Frequency of release	Coverage	Welsh Breakdown
Family Spending	National Statistics Online http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=361	Annual	UK Regions	No
Living in Britain/General Household Survey	National Statistics Online http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=5756	Annual	UK Regions	No
Pension Trends	National Statistics Online http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pensiontrends/	Annual	UK Regions	No
Population Trends	National Statistics Online http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=6303	Quarterly	UK Regions	No
Social Trends	National Statistics Online http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=5748	Annual	UK Regions	Dependant on topic
Work and Pension statistics	Department for Work and Pensions http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/workandpens/workandpens2004.asp	Annual	UK Regions	No

2.3.7.1 Family Spending- a report on the Expenditure and Food Survey

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=361>

The Family Spending report has been derived from information from the Expenditure and Food Survey (EFS), covering 6,200 UK households. It contains information on all aspects of household expenditure in the UK, analysing household expenditure on goods by household income, composition, size, type and location, giving a good dataset to view trends in household expenditure over time. The whole study gives an accurate picture on what households in the UK spend their money on. The data in the study is present at UK Regional level, including Governmental Office Regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The 2008 survey also includes an overview of EFS expenditure by Output Area Classification (OAC). The study is produced annually by the Office for National Statistics, and can be downloaded freely from the National Statistics website. Hard copies are also available for purchase.

2.3.7.2 Living in Britain/General Household Survey

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=5756>

The General Household Survey (GHS) (formally known as the Living in Britain Survey) is produced annually by the Office for National Statistics, and has run continuously since 1971, aside from a few years when it was in review (between 1997-1998 and 1999-2000). It is a multi-purpose inter-departmental survey, collecting a range of different data from private households in Great Britain. The survey currently consists of both a household reference questionnaire and an individual questionnaire completed by all those over the age of 16. Aggregate tables from the GHS, with limited commentary, can be obtained for free from National Statistics Online and is available at UK Regional level, including Government Office Regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Further breakdown of Welsh data is not available.

2.3.7.3 Pension Trends

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pensiontrends/>

The Pension Trends study consists of a number of downloadable chapters relating to pensions within the UK. These chapters include topics such as pensions legislation and reforms; the ageing population and the transition from work to retirement; state pensions; private pensions, including membership of pension schemes, pension contributions and scheme funding and investment; saving for retirement; pensioner income (from pensions and other sources) and expenditure; and pensions in the National Accounts. The more important chapters are updated annually by the Office for National Statistics, who draw statistics from a number of other governmental departments to create the study, whereas others are updated in an ad hoc manner. The data covers the UK at a Regional level, with the data being broken down into England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. A breakdown of Welsh data below a UK Regional level is not available. The data is available freely from the National Statistics website.

2.3.7.4 Population Trends

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=6303>

Population Trends is an annual publication based on population and demographic information that is released on a quarterly basis by the Office for National Statistics. It contains information on the latest findings within the fields of population and demographics, as well as containing articles on topical issues, such as one parent families, cohabitation and fertility differences. Statistics within the study include conceptions, births, marriages, divorces, internal and international migration, and population estimates and projections, which are updated quarterly. Data is available for UK Regions, including Government Office

Regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Sub-regional data for Wales is not available. The study is available for free download from the National Statistics website. Hard copies are also available for purchase.

2.3.7.5 Social Trends

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=5748>

Social Trends draws together a wide range of social and economic data from a range of government departments and other organisations, with the goal of showing changes in UK society. A number of social policy areas are covered by the study, including population, households and families, education and training, labour market, income and wealth, expenditure, health, social protection, crime and justice, housing, environment, transport, lifestyles and social participation. Social Trends is produced by the Office for National Statistics, and therefore is available freely from the National Statistics website. Hard copies are also available for purchase. Published annually, Social Trends holds data at UK Regional level, including Government Office Regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

2.3.7.6 Work and Pension Statistics

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/workandpens/workandpens2004.asp>

The Work and Pension Statistics are freely available for download on the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) website. The publication, formally known as Social Security statistics, is produced annually by the DWP. It looks into benefits given to people in the UK, focussing on 3 separate groups: children and families; the working age; and the elderly. A number of different non-contributory benefits are looked into, including both income and non-income based supports. The study covers the UK at a Regional level, including Government Office Regions, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. Further breakdown of Welsh data is unavailable.

2.3.8 Transport and Tourism

Study Name	Location	Frequency of release	Coverage	Welsh Breakdown
Transport Statistics Great Britain	Department of Transport http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/tsgb/	Annual	UK Region	No
Regional Transport Statistics	Department of Transport http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/tsgb/	Annual	UK Region	No
Transport Trends	Department of Transport http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/trends/	Annual	UK Region	No
Travel Trends	National Statistics Online http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1391	Annual	UK Region	Unitary Authority

2.3.8.1 Transport Statistics Great Britain

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/tsgb/>

Transport Statistics for Great Britain is produced annually by the Department for Transport (DfT). It contains a wide range of British transport statistics, including tables relating to: general and cross modal transport; aviation; energy and the environment; freight; maritime transport; public transport; roads and traffic; transport accidents and casualties; and motor vehicles and goods vehicles. The data is available at UK Regional level, including Government Office Regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Further break down of Welsh data is not available. The data is freely available at the DfT website. Hard copies are also available for purchase.

2.3.8.2 Regional Transport Statistics

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/tsgb/>

Regional Transport Statistics consists of a set of over 50 tables containing key transport data produced annually for the UK. This data is available at UK Regional level, for Government Office Regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Sub-regional data is not available. The topics included in the study include data on personal travel, public transport, road casualties, road traffic, air traffic, freight traffic and a general chapter containing population and housing data, as well as others. The series is completed by the Department for Transport and is free to download from their website.

2.3.8.3 Transport Trends

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/trends/>

Transport Trends is an overview and analysis of trends in transportation and travel in Great Britain. It is produced annually by the Department for Transport (DfT), and has been made freely available at their website. The data within Transport Trends is held at UK Regional level, with data being held for England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. Sub-regional data is not available.

2.3.8.4 Travel Trends - A Report on the International Passenger Survey

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1391>

The Travel Trends report is annually produced by the Office for National Statistics and presents the main results from the International Passenger Survey (IPS). The IPS is a survey used to collect information on passengers travelling into and out of the UK by air, sea and tunnel. It gives detailed analysis of the movements of foreigners as they travel around the UK and of British people as they travel abroad. The information can be used to look at long-term (20 year) and short-term (5 year) trends of movements into and out of the UK. The report is available freely at National Statistics Online. The data held is for UK Regions, including England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Some data is also published for Unitary Authorities, with the most frequently visited towns also being identified.

2.4 Welsh Compendia and Reference Volumes

Study Name	Location	Frequency of release	Coverage	Welsh Breakdown
Statistics for Wales	Welsh Assembly Government website http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/publications/sdcatalogue08/?lang=en	Annual	UK Regions	Dependant on topic
Statistical Focus on Wales and the UK	Welsh Assembly Government website http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/publications/focuswalesuk08/?lang=en	Ad Hoc	European Union, UK Regions and Government Office Regions	No
Focus on: Wales its People	National Statistics Online http://www.statistics.gov.uk/focuson/wales/default.asp	Ad Hoc	Wales	Unitary Authority

2.4.1 Statistics for Wales

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/publications/sdcatalogue08/?lang=en>

The Statistics for Wales series is produced by the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG), and provides details of publications, bulletins and articles based on the outputs of the Data Wales Partnership. This includes outputs produced by the WAG Statistical Directorate and Local Government Data Unit. These outputs cover a range of topics, including Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Community Safety, Economy and Labour Market, Education, Environment, Equality and Diversity, Health and Social Care, Housing, Local Government, Finance, Population and Census, Sustainable Development, and Transport, as well as including data on how these topics relate to each other. Documents covering each of these areas show the timetable and frequency of statistical outputs being produced within each theme.

2.4.2 Statistical Focus on Wales

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/publications/?lang=en>

Statistical Focus on Wales and the UK is a report, produced by the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG), providing statistics used for comparing Wales with the rest of the UK, and with other European Countries. The report covers topics such as demography, economics, health, education, housing and crime, as well as others. A number of surveys have been used to create the report, which is produced on an ad hoc basis, including the Labour Force survey, the Census of Population and the Welsh Health Survey. The report is provided on a UK Regional level for Government Office Regions, and at a European level, for the 27 European Union Countries. It is available for free download from the Welsh Assembly Government website. This report is complemented by a series of subject specific reports providing statistics on Wales for a number of themes including children, disability, diversity, ethnicity, gender, older people, rural Wales and social justice.

2.4.3 Focus on: Wales its people

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/focuson/wales/default.asp>

'Focus on: Wales its people' is one of a number of 'focus on' (see section 2.12) studies focussing on specific topics within the UK, published by the Office for National Statistics. As the name suggests this study focuses on the demographics within Wales, including information on characteristics; sense of national identity; ethnic diversity; and Welsh language skills. It also looks at Welsh-born people who are currently living elsewhere in the UK. The study combines a number of different datasets, including the 2001 census data, to illustrate each of the aforementioned topics. It can be obtained freely from the National Statistics website. The study covers the whole of Wales. Some data is available at Unitary Authority level.

3. Bibliographic Resources and Databases

3.1 MIMAS

<http://www.mimas.ac.uk/>

MIMAS is a JISC and ESRC-supported national data centre providing the UK Higher Education, Further Education and research community with access to key data and information resources to support teaching, learning and research across a wide range of disciplines. Key services include providing online access to Census data (including CASWEB and the Census Dissemination Unit census.ac.uk), access to the JSTOR archives of scholarly journals, ESDS International (run jointly with the UK Data Archive) and Geo-Spatial services.

3.2 BIDS

<http://www.bids.ac.uk/>

BIDS is the best known bibliographic service for the academic community in the UK, providing a wide range of bibliographic services free at the point of use. BIDS also provide linkages to the Ingental Journals full-text delivery service, allowing users to access electronic journals from academic publishers, providing access for BIDS users to over 5,000 full-text electronic journals.

3.3 JSTOR

<http://about.jstor.org/>

JSTOR provides users worldwide with access to the JSTOR archive of scholarly journals. JSTOR is a digital archive collection of core scholarly journals. However, it is unique in that complete archives of these journals have been digitised, starting with the very first issues, many of which were published as far back as the nineteenth century.

3.4 The International Bibliography of the Social Sciences

http://www.bids.ac.uk/info/ibss_service_guide.htm

The International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (IBSS) is an online searchable database for social science and interdisciplinary research. IBSS includes over 2.5 million bibliographic records relating to the four core social science subjects of anthropology, economics, politics and sociology.

3.5 INTUTE

<http://www.intute.ac.uk/>

INTUTE is a free online service providing a database of hand selected Web resources for education and research evaluated by subject specialists. The Social Science pages of INTUTE have been created by bringing together two of the Hubs of the Resource Discovery Network (RDN): Altis and SOSIG. The INTUTE service to selects and evaluate online resources according to agreed policies, priorities and criteria, enhancing the use of the internet for research.

3.6 EDINA

<http://edina.ac.uk/>

EDINA is a national academic data centre on behalf of the UK funding bodies for research and education. The aim of EDINA is the development and delivery of a wide range of cost-effective online services. Services included access to journal catalogues, a geo-data portal providing access to geo-spatial information, spatial data sets and boundary data for the development of thematic and statistical maps.

3.7 Higher Education Academy Subject Centres

<http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/ourwork/networks/subjectcentres>

The Higher Education Academy provides support for the Higher Education Sector to enhance the teaching, learning and experiences of students in higher education through informing policy, research and development, supporting learning and the professional development of staff involved in teaching and student support. The academy provides subject-specific support to academics and disciplines through a network of 24 subject centres. As well as providing resources for lecturers, learning materials and information about funding, news and events, the subject centres provide links to online learning and teaching materials, sources of data and resources for research.

4. Methodological Resources

4.1 On-Line Statistical Training

4.1.1 Using and Interpreting Statistics: OpenLearn

<http://openlearn.open.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=2880>

OpenLearn is a website produced by the Open University in the UK. This free online course provides a useful overview of issues related to using and interpreting charts, graphs and tables. The course includes online readings and exercises for self paced distance learning. There is an extensive list of references for further reading. Topics covered include: making sense of data displayed in different formats and interpreting graphs and charts. There is a follow-up course that covers the topics in more detail.

4.1.2 Statistical Literacy: University of Wollongong, Australia

<http://www.uow.edu.au/student/attributes/statlit/>

This course on statistical literacy provides users with an introduction to statistical concepts related to the production, presentation and interpretation of data. The modules help users to develop their skills related to the analysis and synthesis of statistical information and provide the opportunity to practice their own statistical literacy skills. There are a range of source materials (references), tips for users in addition to modules on producing, presenting and interpreting data.

4.1.3 Introductory Statistics: Concepts, Models, and Applications

<http://www.psychstat.missouristate.edu/sbk00.htm>

This electronic statistical text book supports courses in introductory statistics. The book covers both theoretical and practical aspects of statistical modeling and includes several examples which use SPSS/WIN 7.0. There is a short bibliography included, links to other statistical resources on the web and web-based exercises are included in some sections of the text.

4.1.4 Electronic Statistics Textbook: Statsoft

<http://www.statsoft.com/textbook/stathome.html>

This Electronic Statistics Textbook offers training in the understanding and application of statistics. The material was developed at the StatSoft R&D department based on many years of teaching undergraduate and graduate statistics courses and covers a wide variety of applications, including laboratory research (biomedical, agricultural, etc.), business statistics and forecasting, social science statistics and survey research, data mining, engineering and quality control applications, and many others.

The Electronic Textbook begins with an overview of the relevant elementary (pivotal) concepts and continues with a more in depth exploration of specific areas of statistics, organized by "modules," accessible by buttons, representing classes of analytic techniques. A glossary of statistical terms and a list of references for further study are included.

4.2 Guidance on Analysis of Survey Data

4.2.1 Economic and Social Data Services (ESDS)

<http://www.esds.ac.uk/>

The Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS) provides access to an extensive range of key economic and social data, both quantitative and qualitative, spanning many disciplines and themes. ESDS also provides support to users of social and economic datasets for secondary analysis for research and teaching. Online resources are available to provide advice for new users; advice on accessing data, including registration; information on the terms and conditions of the use of data, including charges; information on ESDS and other training courses; and contact details for local site representatives. Introductory workshops demonstrating the use of the ESDS sites, data handling and analysis of secondary data are also available.

4.2.2 Teaching Resources and Materials for Social Scientists

<http://tramss.data-archive.ac.uk/index.asp>

This website has been set-up under the auspices of the ESRC's Analysis of Large and Complex Data (ALCD) programme to disseminate the research results of the programme to social science researchers in the form of a teaching resource. The target audience is taught post-graduate students, but it will also appeal to professional social science researchers and young academics keen to develop their methodological skills and knowledge of data resources. Users are introduced to data sources and methods via a series of research questions. Once data have been extracted, the training materials take users through standard analyses and lead them on to more complex analyses. The flexibility of the website also allows users with prior experience either of accessing data or complex analysis to find their own route and use of the material.

4.2.3 Practical Exemplars on the Analysis of Surveys

<http://www.restore.ac.uk/resources/PEAS.php>

Practical Exemplars and Survey Analysis (PEAS), supported by the ESRC Research Methods programme, aims to show social researchers: how to analyze complex surveys using different packages; why this is important by looking at the theory behind the methods

and what are the practical consequences for real examples. The website teaches users about the principles of survey design; weighting; stratification; clustering; methods for missing data; imputation. The resource is split into 4 modules: exemplars; theory; software; surveys.

4.2.4 Longitudinal Analysis for Social Science Researchers

<http://www.longitudinal.stir.ac.uk/index.html>

The Longitudinal Data Analysis for Social Researchers project was funded under the ESRC Researcher Development Initiative, delivered by the Universities of Stirling, St Andrews and Strathclyde. The project developed introductory seminars and workshops, in addition to further developing existing on-line training resources and to provide support for researchers. The materials are available online from the website and are targeted as an introductory learning resource for social science researchers. They focus upon the data management and data analysis techniques necessary to undertake quantitative longitudinal analysis with large scale secondary survey resources. The site provides links to data sources, full text books, datasets, longitudinal resources, working papers from the project and software support.

4.2.5 Learning Environment for Multi-Level Methodology and Applications (LEMMA), University of Bristol

<http://www.cmm.bristol.ac.uk/research/Lemma/>

LEMMA is one of the nodes of the ESRC-funded NCRM (National Centre for Research Methods), specialising in the analysis of data with complex hierarchical structure. The website is aimed at quantitative researchers of all levels, leading towards an online introductory course in multi-level modelling. Other modules include using quantitative data in research and introduction to multiple regression.

4.3 Methodological Centres/Networks/Collaborations

4.3.1 National Centre for Research Methods

<http://www.ncrm.ac.uk>

NCRM is a Hub-Node network of research groups, each conducting research and training in an area of social science research methods, coordinated by the Hub at the University of Southampton. The Centre forms part of ESRC's strategy to improve the standards of research methods across the UK. The Hub is responsible for co-ordinating the NCRM training and capacity building activities; informing policy and practice in relation to the development of research methods capability in the UK; liaison with academic and non-academic researchers and organisations; assessment of the methodological research and

training needs of the social science community; management of Centre communications, including dissemination, publications, online resources and outreach activities.

The NCRM website provides links to resources on training, information and data; the NCRM research programme and events. The NCRM training database holds information on a wide range of opportunities within the Social Sciences across the UK with a focus on research methods. The NCRM carries forward the work undertaken under the auspices of the ESRC Research Methods Programme which ran from 2002 to 2007 (<http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/methods/>).

4.3.2 Survey Resources Network

<http://www.surveynet.ac.uk/>

The Survey Resources Network is a service funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) to co-ordinate and develop ESRC activities related to survey research methods. The aim of the Network is to provide a coherent and integrated approach to the development of skills and knowledge, the dissemination of research findings and research resources, and the promotion of best survey practice. The Survey Resources network incorporates and expands upon two existing services; Question Bank and the Survey Link Scheme.

The Survey Question Bank (SQB) provides a suite of online resources in the field of social research, with a particular emphasis on quantitative survey methods. The SQB can be used to locate, and view examples of specific research questions as they were used for data collection. It is intended to assist with the design of new survey questionnaires, the search for data for secondary analysis, and the teaching of survey research methods.

The Survey Resources Network will provide an extended Survey Link Scheme, now called Survey Skills, which will offer a wide range of capacity-building and training opportunities covering all stages of the survey research process. Researchers will be able to attend workshops covering the survey process and then have the opportunity to spend up to 4 days with the survey organization responsible for the survey. One of the days will include accompanying an interviewer in the field.

4.3.3 UK Longitudinal Studies Centre

<http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/survey/ulsc>

The UK Longitudinal Studies Centre (ULSC) is the national resource centre for promoting longitudinal research and for the design, management and support of longitudinal surveys. It

was established by the ESRC as independent centre in 1999. The ULSC aims to promote the use of the rich portfolio of longitudinal data sets in the UK; support users of those datasets through the provision of advice, information, training in longitudinal analysis and the provision of resources to make data easier to use; and improve longitudinal survey methods by carrying out methodological research and promote best practice in the production of high quality data for users. ULSC provides training on the British Household Panel Survey. Online course materials relating to the analysis of panel data are also available.

4.3.4 The Manchester eResearch Centre

<http://www.merc.ac.uk/>

The purpose of the Manchester eResearch Centre (previously the National Centre for e-Social Science - NCeSS) is to investigate how innovative and powerful computer-based infrastructure and tools developed over the past five years under the UK e-Science programme can benefit the social science research community and help researchers using both qualitative and quantitative methods, either allowing researchers to conduct new research or else allowing them to conduct research more quickly. As well as its research remit, MeRC also provides information, training, advice, support and online resources to help the social science research community adopt e-Social Science.

4.3.5 Exploring On-Line Research Methods

<http://www.geog.le.ac.uk/orm/site/home.htm>

This training programme was developed under two ESRC-funded projects that aimed to enhance understanding of online research methods through the production and evaluation of a self-supporting online training package targeted at the social science community. The TRI-ORM project, running from May 2007 to May 2009 under the ESRC Researcher Development Initiative, aims to stimulate the careful and critical uptake, and further sophisticated use, of Online Research Methods (ORM) and to work towards mainstreaming these innovative methods by building a national and virtual network of research training in ORM. The site provides self study modules related to online questionnaires, online interviews, online research ethics, a technical guide to the development of online questionnaires and methodological developments and a portal for other information available online.

4.3.6 ESRC Research Development Initiative (RDI)

<http://www.rdi.ac.uk>

The Researcher Development Initiative supports the training and development of researchers in the social sciences at all stages of their career through development of a

robust national training infrastructure intended to drive forward research training in a systematic way. The RDI facilitates a range of activities and resources, including training for research students and researchers, regional training events and the development and use of new tools and packages for training purposes.

4.3.7. Quantitative Methods in Social Sciences

<http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/qmss/>

This network provides a focal point for methodological innovation and advancement of critical importance in quantitative methods. The programme is focussing on 5 areas; Social interactions and social networks; Analysing the life-course; Cross-national comparisons; Immigration and population dynamics; Survey design and quality. The programme focuses upon training of young researchers in specific methods through a combination of seminars and summer schools. The programme represents a continuation of Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences, led by Chris Skinner at the University of Southampton.

4.3.8 ReStore – Sustaining Online Resources

<http://www.restore.ac.uk/>

ReStore is primarily involved in the restoration and maintenance of ESRC funded online resources in the ReStore repository site. The ReStore project aims to 1) build a prototype of a service for sustaining online resources, 2) establish a service to sustain online resources in the field of research methods and 3) lead the development of a long-term strategy for ESRC in sustaining on-line resources. Web resources for inclusion in ReStore are selected through academic and technical reviews, which ensure high quality and technical robustness of the resources. The review processes have been developed by the ReStore team in consultation with the [Advisory Group](#). The web resources that are selected for maintenance are transferred to a supported web architecture on NCRM server for ongoing support. When necessary, external service providers are commissioned to do the required work if the original resource author(s) and ReStore team are unable to update the content or technology. To ensure the sustained nature of the resources, all resources within ReStore service are subject to further update reviews by regular intervals.

5. Web Access to Aggregate Data

5.1 Cross Cutting Sources

Study Name	Location	Frequency of update	Coverage	Welsh Breakdown
Neighbourhood Statistics	Office for National Statistics http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/	Updated continuously	UK	Local Authority Ward New Deal for Communities LSOA OA's MSOA Primary Care Organisation Health Authority Education Authority Westminster Parliamentary Constituency Parish
Office for National Statistics Time Series Data	Office for National Statistics http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/TSDIntro.asp	Updated continuously	Changes depending on series	Changes depending on series
National Online Manpower Information Service (NOMIS)	NOMIS website https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/	Updated continuously	Changes depending on series	Unitary Authorities Welsh Parliamentary Constituencies
Census Area Statistics on the Web (CASWeb)	CASWeb website http://casweb.mimas.ac.uk/	Every decade	UK	Unitary Authorities MSOA LSOA

5.1.1 Neighbourhood Statistics

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/>

Neighbourhood Statistics is a free service provided by the Office for National Statistics, allowing users to obtain a wide variety of data for specific areas. Data comes from a variety of survey and administrative sources. The service allows the user to complete two types of search. The first involves obtaining specific data for a specific area, such as a post code or a place; the second involves the user searching for a number of summary statistics for a post code or place. Statistics are present in a number of different categories, including: access to services; community well-being/social environment; crime and safety; economic deprivation; education, skills and training; health and care; housing; indices of deprivation and classification; income and lifestyles; people and society; population and migration; physical environment; and work deprivation. The data cannot be accessed on a Welsh National level. However, it can be selected for a number of sub-regions throughout the UK. Not all data is present for each sub-region. Data for each sub-region must be selected individually; batch

selection of multiple regions at one time is not supported by the service. Once selected, the data can be viewed online, downloaded as tables, or plotted onto choropleth maps by the service.

5.1.2 Office for National Statistics Time Series Data

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/TSDIntro.asp>

The Time Series Dataset is an online database containing statistics on a number of economic and socio-economic topics. The service gives access to more than 40,000 time series statistics. These statistics have been lifted from the key economic and social publications produced by the ONS. The coverage and timeliness of the data changes depending on which study/survey it has come from. The user can either choose to download data from a specific series over a specific time period, or they can download an entire release. Data can be viewed online or downloaded in excel tables.

5.1.3 National Online Manpower Information Service

<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

The National Online Manpower Information Service (NOMIS) is a free service provided by the Office for National Statistics which gives access to a large quantity of data relating to the UK labour market. The majority of the data comes from governmental surveys and studies, such as the Labour Force Survey (LFS); the claimant count; the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI); the New Earnings Survey (NES); and the Censuses of Population, and its supplementary tables, going back to 1981. The parameters of the data obtained are down to the user's specification. Users are able to choose individual series, individual tables from a series, and the fields they wish to display in the table. They are also able to choose the output level, be it country, which contains data for Great Britain, the United Kingdom, England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland, or Governmental Office Region, Local Authority (Unitary Authority for Wales), National Assembly for Wales Constituencies or Parliamentary Constituencies.

5.1.4 Census Area Statistics on the Web

<http://casweb.mimas.ac.uk/>

Census Area Statistics (CASWeb) is a service provided by the Central Data Unit (CDU) at MIMAS, based at Manchester University. It offers the ability to access, manipulate and download data from the 2001 and 1991 Censuses, allowing the users to define and create their own specific data tables using selected data. Access to the key census data tables, covering topics related to population, housing, transport, employment and education, and all its supplementary tables, is available, although a UK Federation/Athens username and

password is required. The data coverage is available at a number of levels, including Output Areas, such as Super Output Areas, and Local Authorities (or Unitary Authorities in Wales), although each dataset is not available at all levels. As the data held is census data, it is only updated once a decade.

5.2 Departmental Resources: Selected Examples

Study Name	Location	Frequency of release	Coverage	Welsh Breakdown
NHS Information Centre	NHSIC website http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections	Varies by dataset	Varies by dataset	Varies by dataset - very little.
Hospital Episode Statistics Online	HES Online http://www.hesonline.nhs.uk/Ease/servlet/ContentServer?siteID=1937	Varies by dataset	England	No
StatsWales	Welsh Assembly Government http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/index.htm	Varies by dataset	Wales	Unitary Authorities LSOA
Department for Work and Pensions Tabulation Tool	Department for Work and Pensions http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp	Varies by dataset. Key WPLS study released quarterly	UK	Unitary Authorities LSOA
Housing Statistics	Department of Communities and Local Government http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/livatables/	Ad Hoc	United Kingdom Great Britain UK Regions	No
HM Treasury Economic Data and Tools	HM Treasury http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/data_index.htm	Ad Hoc	UK Regional level	No
Learning and Skills Council Research Tools Website	Learning and Skills Council http://researchtools.lsc.gov.uk/KMSResearchTools/	Varies by dataset	England	No
UCAS Statistics On Line		Varies by dataset	UK	Limited tables by HEI

5.2.1 National Health Service Information Centre

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections>

The National Health Service Information Centre (NHSIC) allows access to a wide variety of datasets relating to health and care within the UK. Data relating to a number of topics can be accessed through the service, including data on: audits and performance; health and lifestyles; hospital care; mental health; population and geography; primary care; screening;

social care; and workforce. Each of these individual topics breakdown into a number of smaller areas containing studies and tables which can be freely accessed and downloaded. The data held has been lifted from a number of different surveys, and therefore the timeliness depends on the survey that the data has come from. The majority of data appears to be held for the UK on a national level, or for England, with very little breakdown of Welsh data.

5.2.2 Hospital Episode Statistics Online

<http://www.hesonline.nhs.uk/Ease/servlet/ContentServer?siteID=1937>

Hospital Episode Statistics Online (HESO) is an NHS provided service which gives access to a large amount of data relating to health in the United Kingdom. Data can be obtained from a variety of English authorities for outpatients, inpatients and accidents and emergencies. Data for Wales is not available. User specific data tables can be produced by selecting a number of different parameters, and will eventually be output as Microsoft Excel files. The majority of the data held has been abbreviated, and therefore data dictionaries and clinical classifications are available from the HESO website to enable understanding of the records. Due to confidentiality issues access to detailed data cannot be obtained through the website, written applications must be made to the NHS to obtain access.

5.2.3 StatsWales

<http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/index.htm>

StatsWales is a free to use service provided by the Welsh Assembly Government. The service gives users the ability to view, manipulate, create and download tables and maps based on a wide variety of official Welsh datasets. Data topics include: community safety; housing; environment; social inclusion; Wales spatial plan areas; equality; agriculture; transport, travel and tourism; local government finance; population and migration; economy and labour market; health and care; schools and teachers; and post education and training, each of which breaks down into a number of subtopics, for which tables of data can be produced. The datasets can be obtained for Welsh National Level, with breakdowns to Unitary Authorities and Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA), amongst others, depending on the dataset chosen. The frequency of release also depends on the dataset chosen.

5.2.4 Department for Work and Pensions Tabulation Tool

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp>

The Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP) Tabulation Tool provides access to a number national statistics datasets relating to employment and benefits, such as pensions and job seekers allowance. The tool allows users to download statistics to their own

requirements. Users can manipulate datasets to create tables based on the specific information they require. The DWP suggest that users concentrate on obtaining statistics from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS), which provides data based on 100% of claimants, before looking at other studies, which only cover a small percentage of claimants. Data can be obtained at a wide range of levels, including UK Regions, Government Office Regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland; Local Authorities (Unitary Authorities in Wales); and Super Output Areas (SOA), including Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA). The frequency of data release depends on the data being accessed, but data for the WPLS is released, and therefore updated, quarterly.

5.2.5 Department of Communities and Local Government: Housing Statistics

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/livetables/>

The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) produces its Housing Statistics in the form of live tables. The fact that these tables are 'live' denotes that the tables are updated continuously, as soon as more recent data is made available, the timescale of which depends on the data source. A number of data sources provide data for these tables including government departments, local governments and local authorities, communities and other non-governmental surveys. The datasets held cover a number of topics, including: stock, house building; housing renewal; household estimates and projections; housing market and house prices; rents, lettings and tenancies; homelessness; household characteristics; housing finance and household expenditure; social housing sales; and affordable housing supply. Data within the surveys is present for Great Britain, United Kingdom, or UK Regions, including England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

5.2.6 HM Treasury Economic Data and Tools

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/data_index.htm

The Economic Data and Tools Service, provided by HM treasury, contains a number of publications based on economic data. These include: weekly economic indicators, which contains the most recent publications and up-to-date economic data; forecasts for the UK economy, which provides information on UK economy forecasts, containing data going back to 1997; national statistics, which provides a number of HM Treasury datasets including topics such as public expenditure, key fiscal budget aggregates, borrowing and debt and details on central government spending; and gross domestic product deflators; and statistics on public funding and spending, which contains historic, recent and estimated outturns of data and the latest budget/pre-budget reports. The data held within these topics is generally held at UK Regional level, including Government Office Regions, Wales, Scotland and

Northern Ireland. The service can be found at the HM Treasury website and is updated in an ad hoc fashion, depending on the topic, as new data is released.

5.2.7 Learning and Skills Council Research Tools Website

<http://researchtools.lsc.gov.uk/KMSResearchTools/>

The Learning and Skills Council Research Tools web site provides access to research reports and analysis tools for the two major surveys conducted by the Learning and Skills Council. These sources are the National Employer Skills Survey and the National Learner Satisfaction Survey. The main objective of the NESS is to provide robust and reliable information from employers in England on internal skills deficiencies, recruitment difficulties and workforce development. Data is provided for the 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2007 surveys. The National Learner Satisfaction Survey is the largest survey of the views of post-16 learners ever undertaken in England. It provides an invaluable insight into learners' perceptions of what is already working well in post-16 education and training and what might be improved. Data is provided for each of the 5 surveys conducted since 2001 (annually from 2001 to 2004 and 2007). The analysis tool provides both a benchmarking tool allowing comparisons across geographical areas and a tabulation tool. The tabulation tool allows tables to be transposed, graphs to be produced and figures to be exported to downloadable excel files.

5.2.8 UCAS Statistics On-Line

http://www.ucas.ac.uk/about_us/stat_services/stats_online/

The University Clearing and Administration Service (UCAS) is responsible for managing applications to higher education courses in the UK, processing approximately 2 million applications to full time undergraduate courses each year. UCAS Statistics On-Line consists of a Statistical Enquiry Tool and access to a range of annual data sets and static data tables. The Statistical Enquiry Tool makes available UK data for all full time applicants at UCAS institutions covering the period 1996 to 2007 entries, enabling customized tables to be produced. Annual data sets and Data Tables provide similar information, but allow data over a number of years to be viewed more easily. The Enquiry Tool does not allow for regional analysis. Some of the available tables provide limited information on UCAS applicants by region of residence and by institution applied for. However, no further options for analysis of particular sub-groups are available.

5.3 Access to Micro Data

5.3.1 United Kingdom Data Archive

<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>

The United Kingdom Data Archive (UKDA) service holds the largest collection of social science and humanities related data in the UK, including both qualitative and quantitative datasets, and macro, micro and multimedia (images and audio files) data. It is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) of the Higher Education Funding Councils and the University of Essex. The Archive is the lead partner of the Economic and Social Data Service and is responsible for the overall management of ESDS, ESDS Qualidata and ESDS Longitudinal (jointly with the Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER)). ESDS also supports ESDS International (providing access to international micro-data) and ESDS Government (providing access to large scale government data sets).

Data from the UKDA can be downloaded freely providing its use is non-commercial, although hard copies can be obtained in the form of CD-ROMs at a small cost. Documentation and metadata is available freely, but to access the actual data, registration is necessary, for which a UK Federation/Athens account is needed. Different data licences can be obtained depending on the data being accessed. The standard conditions of use of data are outlined in the End User Licence (EUL) that is agreed to during registration. Some data collections have special conditions of use further to those of the EUL and may take the form of a Special Licence.

5.3.2 Economic and Social Data Service

<http://www.esds.ac.uk/search/searchStart.asp>

The Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS), jointly funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) provides access to a range of key social and economic datasets, including both qualitative and quantitative datasets, spanning a wide range of topics and themes. The UK Data Archive is the service provider for ESDS and supplies most of the data sets. ESDS provides 4 specialist facilities; ESDS Government; ESDS International, ESDS Longitudinal and ESDS Qualitative.

5.3.2.1 Economic and Social Data Service: Government

<http://www.esds.ac.uk/Government/>

Government ESDS aims to promote and facilitate increased and more effective use of government datasets in research, learning and teaching across a range of disciplines. These are the official surveys carried out by the government within the UK, key sources including the Labour Force Survey and the General Household Survey. The service is lead by the Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research (CCSR). CCSR provides user support, runs user meetings on specific surveys, runs training courses on key topics of interest, on specific statistical packages and on methods of statistical analysis and provides topic-related online course materials and a range of teaching datasets.

5.3.2.2 Economic and Social Data Service: International

<http://www.esds.ac.uk/international/>

The International category of the ESDS is involved in disseminating and supporting international aggregate and survey data, including both macro and micro data. The service provides help for users in locating and acquiring international survey (micro) data from other archives, introductory courses to raise awareness of international datasets and their research potential and an annual conference on issues relating to international data research. Among others, ESDS International provides access to the following sources: Eurobarometer; Eurofound; European and World Values Surveys; European Social Survey; International Social Survey Programme; Latinobarómetro; and Young Lives.

5.3.2.3 Economic and Social Data Service: Longitudinal

<http://www.esds.ac.uk/longitudinal/>

ESDS Longitudinal is provided jointly by the UK Data Archive and the UK Longitudinal Studies Centre (ULSC) at Essex. It also links in closely with user support provided by the Centre for Longitudinal Studies. It provides access to a number of UK Longitudinal data collections, including: the 1970 British Cohort Study; the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS); the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA); the Families and Children Study (FACS); the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England (LSYPE); the Millennium Cohort Study (MCS); and the National Child Development Study (NCDS). The service encourages links and aims to facilitate access to other sources of longitudinal data.

5.3.2.4 Economic and Social Data Service: Qualidata

<http://www.esds.ac.uk/qualidata/>

The Qualidata category of the ESDS provides access to a number of Social Science qualitative datasets. These include in-depth and semi-structured interviews; focus groups; field notes and observations; and personal documents and photographs.

5.3.3 Census Micro-Data: Samples of Anonymised Records

<http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/sars/>

The Sample of Anonymised Records is a service offered by the Catherine Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research (CCSR). It offers access to samples of individual anonymised data from past censuses (1991 and 2001). The data held covers a range of census topics, including housing, education, health, transport, employment, ethnicity and religion. Accompanying User Guides are also available from the SARS website.

The SARS data is split up into 4 sections:

1. **The individual SARS**, which give access to a sample of individual data from the censuses, which is available at UK Regional level, including Government Office Regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Individual data also includes information on households, qualifications and caring.
2. **The household SARS**, which allow access to data from a sample of UK households, allowing linkages between households and family members. This data is available for Registrar Generals Standard Regions for the 1991 Census and for England and Wales for the 2001 census.
3. **2001 Small Area Micro Data (SAM)**, which gives access to individual data at Local Authority (or Unitary Authorities in Wales) level. This data takes a sample of 5% of the UK population, and offers data on the individuals contained within that sample.
4. **Controlled Access Micro Data Samples (CAM)**, which provides 2001 census data at a Local (Unitary) Authority level. Access to this data, as the name suggests, is controlled, and can only be obtained through application to the ONS. Once an application has been made, users must go to the ONS offices, such as Newport, Tichfield or London, to gain access and use the datasets.

All the data provided is free to access and download, although registration and an Athens/UK Federation account are necessary. There are three levels of access available, for which there are different licenses. A standard EUL exists for access to the less specific data, a Special License (SL) for the more specific data, and a Controlled License for the CAM data. Hard copies of data are also available in the form of CD-ROMs, and can be purchased from the SARS website. The data frequency and breakdown of the datasets depends on the survey being requested.

5.3.4 Virtual Micro-Data Laboratory

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/about/who-we-are/our-services/vml/index.html>

The Virtual Micro-Data Laboratory (VML) is a facility provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) which provides on site access to sensitive micro-data held by ONS. Access to the data is restricted, and the data can only be accessed onsite at an ONS site, such as at Newport, Titchfield or London. The facility has been established to allow access to data that cannot be deposited at the Data Archive. Established in 2004, the VML was initially developed as a safe setting providing access to business micro-data, such as the Annual Business Inquiry. The coverage of business data sets has increased over time. The VML has also been used by other government departments to provide access to non-ONS business data and to enable links to be made between these data sets and ONS sources (e.g. the National Employers Skills Survey and the Workplace Employment Relations Survey).

Since its establishment, the VML has also been utilised to provide on-site access to confidential social data held by ONS. Access to the ONS Longitudinal Study and the Controlled Access Micro-data Sample, a more disclosive version of the SARS data, are both provided through the VML. More detailed versions of the Labour Force Survey and the Annual Population Survey than which are available through the data archive (referred to as the client files), are also available through the VML. The VML versions of social data sets are generally characterised by greater levels of geographical detail than that which is available from on-line sources, such as the Data Archive.

Key documentation and metadata for these surveys are freely available for download from the ONS website, enabling the user to look at the parameters of the survey before making an application. Applicants to use the VML must go through the ONS Approved Research application process. Use of the VML may be charged, depending upon the type of data being accessed and the funding associated with research project for which access is being applied. Those wishing to access the VML must attend a training course. Details of the

application process are available on the VML web-pages. At the time of writing, much of the data that is accessible through the VML is being transferred to the *Secure Data Service*, a new service provided by the UK Data Archive which provides desktop access to potentially disclosive micro-data for the academic community (see section 5.3.5 below).

5.3.5 Secure Data Service

<http://securedata.ukda.ac.uk/>

The Secure Data Service is a new service operated by the UK Data Archive that provides desktop access to potentially disclosive micro-data for the academic community. The functionality and many of the procedures associated with use of the SDS have been developed from those of the VML, with the exception that data can be accessed by academic researchers from their host institutions via the .ac.uk network. In its pilot phase the SDS has focussed on enhancing access to ESRC funded data sets, including the BHPS. At the time of writing, arrangements are being made for the SDS to hold ONS business and social data that is currently only available in the VML. It is envisaged that a majority of the VML data will be made available through the SDS and that overtime, researchers and research projects will migrate from the VML to the SDS. The SDS will generally operate the same approval procedures and security model as the VML. As with the VML, users of the SDS are also required to be trained in its use. The course covers issues surrounding disclosure control, the mechanics of accessing the system and issues related to funding. Researchers are supported in the use of SDS data by user support officers who advise on data, assist with applications, train researchers and undertake disclosure control. The SDS will also be able to be used to provide a secure setting where researchers can work with survey data matched with potentially disclosive administrative data. The SDS is developing these arrangements in collaboration with its partner service, the Administrative Data Liaison Service (see Section 5.3.6 below).

5.3.6 Administrative Data Liaison Service

<http://www.adls.ac.uk/>

The Administrative Data Liaison Service (ADLS) is funded by the ESRC to support administrative data based research in the UK. The ADLS does not hold administrative data. Its function is to act as an intermediary between academic researchers and data holding organisations to provide information, aid with communication and promote the use of administrative data. The ADLS provides an advisory service to assist with enquiries from academic researchers and a range of resources to assist researchers in the location, access and use of administrative data for research. Information on the datasets held by data holding organisations is provided, with further information on administrative data sets held by various

organisations being added over time. At the time of writing, information on administrative data held by the following Departments is provided: Department for Work and Pensions; Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs; Higher Education Statistics Agency; Police Forces; Office for National Statistics; Communities and Local Government; Department for Education; Department for Health; National Housing Federation; Tenants Services Authority; The NHS Information Centre; General Register Office for Scotland and the Scottish Government.

5.3.7 Access to Micro-data at Eurostat

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1913,47567825,1913_47567846&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

Eurostat provide access to micro-data from the following European Surveys; the European Community Household Panel Survey (ECHP); the EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS); the Community Innovation Survey (CIS); the EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions Survey (EU-SILC) and the Structure of Earnings Survey (SES). Direct access to the anonymised data is only provided by means of research contracts. Access is in principle restricted to universities, research institutes, national statistical institutes, central banks inside the EU, as well as to the European Central Bank. Individuals cannot be granted direct access. Institutions wishing to gain access must provide details of their institution, the person who will be in charge of the data and details of the research projects that the data is intended for. Amendments to the contract are required for additional projects. There are also significant charges levied for accessing these data sets (e.g. EULFS, 8,000 euros for complete back catalogue) that researchers may find prohibitive.

6. Audit of Social and Economic Surveys

6.1 Overview of Existing Audits

This audit has been undertaken to provide an up-to-date picture of the variety of information currently available for research purposes. The scale of this review is potentially vast. For this reason, a selective approach has been taken, focussing upon data highlighted as important in previous audits supplemented with additional information. The existing audits drawn upon are outlined below.

Data Catalogue: Anne E. Green, Rhys Davies, Peter Elias, Chris Hasluck, David Owen and Rob Wilson, Institute for Employment Research, University of Warwick (2002).

This catalogue provided a comprehensive review of regional and sub-regional sources on employment and economic activity. For each data source, information is provided about geographical coverage and spatial disaggregation, the methods of data collection and frequency, the use and interpretation of data, and its availability and access. It has seven subject headings: economic development; business development, competitiveness and investment; skills; employment; social inclusion; demography; and environment and quality of life. An accompanying report *Regional and Sub-Regional Information and Intelligence* (Anne Green and David Owen, 2002), provided an overview of the regional and sub-regional information / intelligence needs, uses, gaps and priorities identified during the course of the *Mapping Regional Data* project outlined above.

Administrative data as research resources: a selected audit

Paul Jones and Peter Elias, Warwick Institute for Employment Research, University of Warwick/Economic and Social Research Council (2006)

<http://eprints.ncrm.ac.uk/452/>

This report was undertaken on the recommendation of the UK Data Forum, a multiagency body which monitors the work being undertaken to implement the National Strategy for Data Resources for Research in the Social Sciences (the 'National Data Strategy'). Within this strategy, administrative data resources are seen as important and potentially useful resources, yet there are obstacles to their use, relating particularly to the legislation through which they are obtained, ethical considerations and the need to preserve the confidentiality of individuals and organisations.

The researchers describe administrative data as information which arises via the operation of a transaction, registration or as a record of service delivery. They relate specifically to the

administration of a system or process and are not primarily generated as research resources. To manage the scale of the exercise, administrative data sets related to five subject areas were investigated; education, labour market, health, business and demography. The reports also consider issues surrounding data access and sharing.

Getting Fitter for the Job: Improving the Quality of Labour Market Information Using Individual Level Surveys. Alan Felstead (2009)

http://www.ukces.org.uk/upload/pdf/alan-2520felstead-2520individuals-2520paper_1.pdf

This paper considers the quality of labour market information (LMI) necessary to guide and inform skills policy within the UK, mapping available sources and suggesting ways in which greater coordination can be made between surveys for the benefit of policy makers and other data users. In contrast to the subject based audits identified above, this paper considers available data sources according to their funding source and geographical coverage. Sources are classified as 1) official UK surveys; other UK surveys and international surveys. The relative merits of these sources in terms of frequency, timeliness and their ability to support sub-regional analysis is considered.

6.2 ONS Business Surveys

Background	ONS conducts some 70 Business Surveys under the 1947 Statistics of Trade Act. This legislation compels businesses to respond to requests for information from ONS. Note some surveys compel employers to provide information about their employees – this is still referred to as business data.
Accessibility	To maintain the confidentiality of respondents, ONS business data has only been accessible through secure safe setting environments within ONS sites (London, Titchfield, Newport) and at the offices of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (Belfast) and the Scottish Government (Glasgow). However, it is envisaged that many of these data sets will shortly (during 2011) become available through the Secure Data Service (see section 5.3.5).
Questionnaires	Questionnaires and further information about these business data sets is available at http://www.ons.gov.uk/about/who-we-are/our-services/vml/about-the-vml/datasets-available/dataset-downloads/index.html . Supporting documentation will also be available through the SDS when data is transferred to this service during 2011.
Advantages	Accurate objective information provided directly by employers. Surveys do not rely on subjective responses of employers to attitudinal questions. Due to safe setting environment, the available micro-data is highly detailed, often containing postcodes and retaining detailed industry and occupational codes. ONS business surveys are based upon the same sampling frame called the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR). All business have unique IDBR reference numbers, allowing the responses to be linked both across time and between different surveys.
Disadvantages	The main interest of ONS is to produce accurate estimates of national/regional/sectoral aggregates. To reduce compliance costs, sampling fractions vary according to size of enterprise. Small enterprises may only be surveyed infrequently and are asked reduced forms of the full questionnaires issued to large businesses.
Applicability to Wales	Small sampling fractions among SMEs may hinder the applicability of these sources to Wales. Ownership of companies is complex and it can therefore be complicated to conduct separate analysis for Wales, particularly where plants are part of multi-site enterprises whose headquarters may not be based in Wales.

Survey Name	Frequency	Description
Annual Inquiry into Foreign Direct Investment (AFDI) 1996-	Annual	Aims to collect FDI flows to foreign countries, and from abroad to the UK, for all possible firms. An AFDI panel dataset enables linking to other datasets.
Annual Respondents Database (ARD) 1973-	Annual	The Annual Respondents Database (ARD) holds responses to the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI). The ABI is the most comprehensive business survey covering: turnover, costs, employment, industry, and investment. It is a census of large businesses, and a sample of smaller ones. The ABI forms the spine against which data from different surveys can be linked.

Survey Name	Frequency	Description
Business Enterprise Research and Development (BERD) 1995-	Annual	The BERD is an annual survey designed to measure Research and Development (R&D) expenditure and employment in the UK. The survey also includes sources of funding and types of R&D.
Business Spending on Capital Items (BSCI) 2000-	Annual	This small survey produces estimates of the proportion of acquisitions and disposals by industry.
Business Structure Database 1997-	Annual	The Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR) is a comprehensive list of UK businesses that is used by government for statistical purposes. It essentially includes all UK businesses except those run by sole traders and falling below VAT threshold and some non-profit making organisations. The IDBR's primary function is to provide a sampling frame for surveys of businesses carried out by the ONS or other government departments. This information is now held in the Business Structure Database (BSD) which is a derived dataset based on an annual 'snap shot' of the IDBR.
Community Innovation Survey (CIS) / UK Innovation Survey CIS2 (1994/96) CIS3 (1998/2000) CIS4 (2002/04) CIS5 (2004/06) CIS6/UK IS (2005/07)	4-yearly	The survey covers product, process and wider innovation including expenditure on different kinds of innovative activity, effects of innovation, sources of information and cooperation, barriers to innovation, protection methods for innovation, and public support for innovation.
E-commerce Survey (ECOM) 2000-	Annual	The e-commerce Survey collects information on which technologies UK businesses have, how these technologies have been used and the level of that use.
International Trade in Services (ITIS) 1996-	Annual and Quarterly	The ITIS inquiry (formally called the Overseas Trade in Services Inquiry) collects data on UK companies' international transactions in services, including the type and value of service imports/exports.

Survey Name	Frequency	Description
Monthly Inquiry into Distributive and Service Sectors (MIDSS) Jan 2001-	Monthly	The Monthly Inquiry into the Distribution and Services Sector (MIDSS) is designed to meet the Government need for the production of a monthly Index of Services (IoS) and the Index of Distribution (IoD) which is a component of the IoS.
Monthly Production Inquiry (MPI) Jan 2000-	Monthly	The MPI is a sample-based survey covering all of the UK. It was principally designed to meet a government need for the production of a Monthly Index of Production (IoP).
Monthly Wages and Salaries Survey (MWSS)	Monthly	The Monthly Wages and Salary Survey (MWSS) is a survey of approximately 8,400 businesses in Great Britain, collecting up to date information on pay, commission, bonuses, overtime and pay award arrears. The survey is used to construct the Average Earnings Index, a key measure of inflation.
Products of the European Community (PRODCOM) Jan/Mar 1997-	Annual	PRODCOM (Products of the European Community) is a European Union (EU) wide survey of production mainly for the manufacturing sector.
Quarterly Capital Expenditure Survey (QCES or CAPEX) Jan/Mar 1997-	Quarterly	CAPEX is a quarterly survey to collect capital expenditure for various industry groups by asset type. It is a compulsory survey with a total sample size of 32 thousand.

6.3 Other UK Surveys of Businesses

Survey Name	Frequency	Description	Accessibility
Workplace Employment Relations Survey (WERS)	1980, 1984, 1990, 1998 and 2004	<p>The 2004 Workplace and Employment Relations Survey (WERS 2004) is the fifth in a series of surveys that collect information about the state of employment relations in workplaces throughout Britain. The purpose of the WERS is to provide a statistically reliable account of British workplace relations in order to examine and track changes in those relations over time. Respondents in approximately 2300 workplaces were interviewed for WERS 2004. The survey is conducted in 4 parts. The majority of the data is collected using a questionnaire, which is filled out by a senior manager at the workplace who has responsibility for personnel or employment relations issues (referred to as the Cross Section Management Questionnaire).</p> <p>Both the 1998 and 2004 surveys collected data from individual employees. The sample of employee questionnaires completed was 28,237 in 1998 and by 22,451 in 2004. This sample was drawn from workplaces who participated in the management-level survey of workplaces with five or more employees (in 1998 the survey focused on those with ten or more employees).</p>	<p>On Line Sources Micro-data is available for download from the <i>UK Data Archive</i> upon registration. Archive SN: 5294.</p> <p>ONS A more disclosive version of the data set is available at the ONS <i>Virtual Micro-data Laboratory</i>. This allows WERS to be linked to information about these workplaces collected through ONS business surveys.</p>
National Employers Skill Survey (NESS)	1999 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2007	<p>The main objective of the NESS is to provide robust and reliable information from employers in England on internal skills deficiencies, recruitment difficulties and workforce development. The forerunner of the National Employer Skills Survey was called the Employer Skills Survey and was conducted in the years 1999, 2001 and 2002. Each survey consisted of approximately 27,000 interviews across England. In 2003 the new National Employer Skills Survey (NESS) was introduced, encompassing a larger sample of around 72,000 interviews across England. This was followed by surveys in 2004 and 2005. The latest NESS was undertaken in 2007. With a sample of just over 79,000 interviews, it is the largest source of information on current skill issues affecting employers in England. The new series of the NESS were jointly commissioned by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and the Sector Skills Development Agency (SSDA). A similar survey is conducted in Scotland (Futureskills Scotland: Skills in Scotland 2006). A Welsh Survey focussing on generic skills has also been conducted (see below).</p>	<p>On Line Sources An interactive tabulation service for data from the 2003-2007 surveys is available at the LSC website at http://researchtools.lsc.gov.uk/ness/home/home.asp, although registration is required.</p> <p>ONS Micro-data for the 2007 survey is available at is available at the ONS <i>Virtual Micro-data Laboratory</i>. This allows NESS to be linked to information about these workplaces collected through ONS business surveys.</p>

Survey Name	Frequency	Description	Accessibility
Farm Business Survey	The survey has been conducted annually since 1982.	<p>The Farm Business Survey is conducted annually by the Department for Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to collect business information from 2,400 farms from England and Wales. It provides information on the physical and economic performance and the financial position of farm businesses, informing policy decisions relating to farm businesses. The aim of the survey is to contrast the business characteristics of different groups of farms, such as farm types, size, geographical location/environment and the age and education of the farmer.</p> <p>Further information about the survey can also be found at the surveys DEFRA website (https://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/asd/fbs/default.htm)</p>	<p>Accessible through the <i>UK Data Archive</i> with an Athens/UK Federation Account.</p> <p>Data exists within the archive for surveys conducted between 1982 and 2007.</p> <p>Group Archive SN: 33194</p>

6.4 Commercial Data Sources

Survey Name	Frequency	Description	Accessibility
Dun and Bradstreet (D&B)	The D&B business database is kept up to date by verifying company records on a daily basis.	Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) is one of the largest commercial suppliers of business information – both worldwide and in the UK. The UK database of corporate and non-limited business records has records for about 2.1 million actively trading UK businesses and branches.	Access is restricted. Users need to purchase specific information / products to meet their needs. http://www.dnb.co.uk/About/About_DNB.asp
Financial Analysis Made Easy (FAME)	Continually updated.	FAME is a database that contains information for companies in the UK and Ireland. FAME contains information on 3.4 million companies, 2.8 million of which are in a detailed format. For the top 2.8 million companies the reports typically include: contact information including phone, e-mail and web addresses plus main and other trading addresses, activity details, 29 profit and loss account and 63 balance sheet items, cash flow and ratios, credit score and rating, and security and price information (listed companies only).	FAME is available on DVD-ROM, as an intranet feed or on the internet with daily updates. FAME is available to academic institutions with Athens authentication and can be purchased through a CHEST agreement.
CACI Geodemographic Data	CACI products develop constantly, but significant developments occur around the Census.	CACI Limited is an information services company specialising in the provision of geodemographic, marketing and lifestyle data for small area geographies. As well as supplying data sets for small area geographies, CACI offers a variety of 'Area Data' for specific locations and the specialist application of GIS. Key products include: The <i>ACORN</i> classification ³ (built using census data), which distinguishes areas of Great Britain sharing similar characteristics, and was developed to be used as a classification of consumers. The <i>PayCheck</i> classification, which provides estimates of gross household income across the UK. It profiles income for 1.6 million individual postcodes, using Census and market research data. <i>Workforce ACORN</i> , which describes characteristics of people at their place of work. It makes use of statistics on where and how people travel to work. <i>StreetValue – property price indicator</i> , which enables analysis of the price of properties at postcode level, based on information from the Mortgage Market Database, which pools data supplied by lenders.	Access is restricted. There are strict confidentiality and licensing constraints on the use of CACI data.

6.5 ONS Surveys of Households/Individuals

Survey Name	Frequency	Description	Accessibility
Census of Population	Every 10 years	A census is a survey of all people and households in the country. It provides essential information from national to neighborhood level for government, business, and the community. The most recent census was on 29 April 2001. Plans are currently being made for the next census, which will take place on 27 March 2011.	<p>Online Sources</p> <p>Neighborhood Statistics provides much of the 2001 Census data from the published reports, and summary statistics for a range of small areas. The service includes mapping and data manipulation tools.</p> <p>Nomis provides detailed tables from the 2001 Census and some previous censuses.</p> <p>Census.ac.uk is the web portal for the ESRC Census Programme. The Programme makes available census data from the censuses conducted in 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001. Available data includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aggregate small area data 1971-2001 - Interaction data (migration and commuting flows) 1981-2001 - Micro-data (SARS/ SAMS) 1991-2001 <p>Sample of Anonymised Records (SARS): The SARs are samples of individual records from the 1991 and 2001 Censuses. The Individual SAR (Licensed) is a three per cent sample, which relates to some 1.84 million records of the census dataset.</p> <p>ONS</p> <p>Controlled Access Micro-Data Sample (CAMS): This is a more detailed version of the licensed SAR file. This data can be accessed by arrangement with the Office for National</p>

Survey Name	Frequency	Description	Accessibility
			<p>Statistics through the <i>VML</i>. This data will not be included in the initial migration of data from the <i>VML</i> to the <i>SDS</i>. The <i>CAMS</i> file contains geography at LA level, full occupational detail (unit <i>SOC</i>) and industry and more detail on many other variables.</p>
Labour Force Survey (LFS)	<p>Quarterly data since Spring 1992.</p> <p>Survey dates between 1993 and 2005, data was provided for seasonal quarters (December - February, March - May, June - August, September - November).</p> <p>From 2006 onwards, data is provided for calendar quarters.</p>	<p>The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a quarterly sample survey of households (people living at private addresses in Great Britain). Its purpose is to provide information on the UK labour market that can then be used to develop, manage, evaluate and report on labour market policies.</p> <p>The primary purpose of the LFS is "the prompt publication of key aggregate, whole economy, indicators, for the integrated assessment of labour market conditions" (National Statistics Review of the Labour Force Survey2). The labour market covers all aspects of people's work, including the education and training needed to equip them for work, the jobs themselves, job searches for those out of work, and income from work and benefits.</p>	<p>On Line Sources Data sets are placed on <i>NOMIS</i> where they can be interrogated on line to produce descriptive tables.</p> <p>Anonymised datasets are placed on the <i>UK Data Archive</i>. Two different versions of the LFS micro-data are available from the data archive. End User License versions of the LFS data contains data where detail of certain variables is suppressed to maintain confidentiality. Special License versions of the LFS data contain more detailed information. This includes geographical information, which is available at Unitary Authority level.</p> <p>Group Archive SN: 33246</p> <p>ONS A more detailed version of the LFS, referred to as the Client files, is available for analysis on site at the ONS through the <i>VML</i>. These files contain geographical information to Ward level. This more disclosive data should also become available through the <i>SDS</i> during 2011.</p> <p>Information regarding the survey and its methodology can be found in the LFS user</p>

Survey Name	Frequency	Description	Accessibility
			guides, see http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=1537&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=272
Annual Population Survey (APS)	APS datasets are produced quarterly with each dataset containing 12 months of data.	<p>The Annual Population Survey (APS) combines results from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the English, Welsh and Scottish Labour Force Survey boosts (during 2004 and 2005 the APS also comprised of an additional boost for England (APS (B))) which are funded by the Department for Work and Pensions, the Department for Education and Skills, the National Assembly for Wales and the Scottish Executive.</p> <p>There are approximately 170,000 households and 360,000 persons per dataset. More robust estimations for local area labour markets are available from the APS than from the main LFS.</p>	Conditions of access to the APS are identical to those surrounding LFS.
New Earnings Survey (NES) 1986 - 2003	Annual	The NES is an employer survey which surveys the hours and earnings of employees. It was based on a 1% sample of employees (approx 150,000 per year), selected on the basis of NI numbers. (see below)	Data provided by businesses under the 1947 Statistics of Trade Act. Micro-data available through the Virtual <i>Micro-Data Laboratory (VML)</i> . This data should also become available through the SDS during 2011.
New Earnings Survey Panel (NESPD) 1975 - 2003	Annual	Sampling for the NES is done by taking records with a specific final two digits on the employees NI number, enabling the creation of a panel data set, which has since been replaced by the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)	Data provided by businesses under the 1947 Statistics of Trade Act. Micro-data available through the Virtual <i>Micro-Data Laboratory (VML)</i> . This data should also become available through the SDS during 2011.
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) 2004 - 2007	Annual	The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) currently provides the largest (despite a sample size cut in 2007) and most comprehensive source of information about the levels, distribution and make-up of earnings for and hours worked by employees in the UK. Information is also collected about pensions, leave entitlements and non-pecuniary benefits.	Data provided by businesses under the 1947 Statistics of Trade Act. Micro-data available through the Virtual <i>Micro-Data Laboratory (VML)</i> . This data should also become available through the SDS during 2011.

Survey Name	Frequency	Description	Accessibility
Expenditure and Foods Survey	Continuous annual basis with fieldwork spread evenly throughout the year.	<p>The Expenditure and Foods Survey shows how households spend their money; how much goes on food, clothing and so on; and how spending patterns vary depending upon income, household composition, and regional location of households. The survey also contains data on household income and its sources.</p> <p>The survey has been conducted from 2001 to date and was preceded by the Family Expenditure Survey and the National Food Survey, which had been undertaken since the 1950's.</p> <p>The goal of the survey is to define the 'basket of goods' for the Retail Prices Index (RPI) and the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) which are both measures of inflation. It is also a major source for estimates of Household Expenditure in the UK National Accounts and for modelling the effect of changes to tax and benefit policies.</p>	<p>The results are published annually in Annual Family Spending. The micro-data is held at the <i>UK Data Archive</i>. User Guides available for each individual survey are available.</p> <p>Group Archive SN: 33334</p>
Household Assets Survey (HAS) (also known as Wealth and Assets)	Ongoing longitudinal panel survey. The survey started in July 2006 and the first wave of interviews was conducted over a two year period. The second wave commenced in July 2008 and will finish in June 2010.	<p>The Household Assets Survey (HAS) is a new longitudinal survey that collects information from people living in private households across Great Britain. Consenting responding households from the first wave will be approached for a second wave interview two years on from their initial interview. The survey population is all adults aged over 16 years (excluding those aged 16-18 currently in full-time education) and the target wave one sample size was 32,000 individuals.</p> <p>The HAS questionnaire is divided into two parts. The first part of the questionnaire is the household schedule, asking the number, demographics and relationship of individuals to each other, as well as information about equity release, the ownership, value and mortgages on the residence and other household assets.</p>	<p>Preliminary statistics based on the first year of HAS interviews between July 2006 and June 2007 were published on January 24 2008. These statistics are designated 'experimental' and were published to indicate the range of data gathered by the survey. The report Wealth and Assets Survey, Experimental Statistics 2006/07 is available to download for free at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=15074.</p> <p>The first results from Wave one are scheduled for release in November 2009. It will be released on the <i>UK Data Archive</i> along with supporting documentation in late 2009.</p>

Survey Name	Frequency	Description	Accessibility
		<p>The second part of the questionnaire is the individual schedule which is administered to each adult in the household and asks questions about economic status, education and employment, numerical ability, business assets, benefits and tax credits, saving attitudes and behaviour, attitudes to debt, major items of expenditure, retirement, attitudes to saving for retirement, pensions, financial assets, non-mortgage debt, investments and other income.</p>	
<p>English Housing Survey (EHS)</p>	<p>The EHS started in April 2008, with the merging of two large-scale continuous housing surveys: the English House Condition Survey (EHCS) and the Survey of English Housing (SEH).</p> <p>The EHCS started in 1971 and was run on a 5 yearly basis until 2001, after which is ran as an annual survey, until 2008.</p> <p>The EHS dates</p>	<p>The English Housing Survey is a national survey of housing in England, commissioned by Communities and Local Government (CLG). It covers all tenures and is the only national survey which involves a physical inspection of property by professional surveyors. The information obtained through the survey is designed to provide an accurate picture of the type and condition of housing in England, the people living there, and their views on housing and their neighbourhoods. It enables the government's aim, which is to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home at a price they can afford, to be monitored, and also identifies which areas and households are most affected by poor or energy inefficient housing.</p>	<p>ONS provides datasets to CLG for analysis- research published on their website.</p> <p>SEH data is available at the <i>UK Data Archive</i> – however EHS is not available at this time.</p>

Survey Name	Frequency	Description	Accessibility
	follow the financial year, covering April to March each year. Fieldwork takes places on a quarterly basis, with interviews/ surveys being carried out in two months of each quarter, i.e. for quarter 1 fieldwork takes place in April and May.		
General Lifestyle Survey (GLF) (also known as General Household Survey)	Continuous, conducted from 1971 onwards, excluding 1997 and 1999.	The GLF is a multi-purpose continuous survey. It collects information on a range of topics from people who live in private households in Great Britain, including: smoking; drinking, health; households, families and people; housing and consumer durables; marriage and cohabitation; and occupational and personal pension schemes.	Annual - General Lifestyle Survey Overview Report Annual anonymised datasets are placed on the <i>UK Data Archive</i> . Group Archive SN: 33090
Opinions Survey	Since April 2005 the Opinions Survey has been carried out 12 times a year. From beginning to end, each survey period lasts fourteen weeks.	The Opinions Survey is a multipurpose survey developed by the ONS to be a fast, cost-effective and reliable way of obtaining information on a variety of topics too brief to warrant a survey of their own.	Data from each module is deposited at the <i>UK Data Archive</i> one year after fieldwork along with accompanying user guides. Group Archive SN: 33252

Survey Name	Frequency	Description	Accessibility
International Passenger Survey (IPS)	Continuous	A large multi-purpose survey which collects information from passengers as they enter/leave the UK by the principal air, sea and tunnel routes.	<p>Excel files of aggregate data are available to download.</p> <p>Data is also available monthly, in the Travel and Tourism News Release; quarterly in the Travel Pac and MQ6 Transport, Travel and Tourism; and annually, in the Travel Trends publication.</p> <p>User guides available for each of these segments at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/ssd/surveys/international_passenger_survey.asp</p> <p>Micro-data for the survey is not available</p>

6.6 Other Cross Sectional Surveys of Individuals/Households

Survey Name	Frequency	Description	Accessibility
Skills and Learning			
Skills Survey (SS)	1997, 2001 and 2006	This series provides a high quality representative series of surveys focused on individuals living in Britain (and more latterly, the UK). The series gathers information on the skills used at work via survey questions directed at workers themselves. Workers include adults between 20 and 60 who are in paid work (in 2006 this was raised to 65). It uses several different measures of work skills, some of which have been used in previous surveys (such as SCELL and EIB, see below).	Accessible through the <i>UK Data Archive</i> with an Athens/UK Federation Account. User guides available for each individual survey. Archive Group SN: 33342
National Adult Learning Survey (NALS)	At irregular intervals: 1997, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2005.	The National Adult Learning Survey (NALS) examines adult learning experiences. It has been used to monitor progress towards the National Learning Targets which have now been superseded. The first four surveys covered England and Wales, with Scotland being included in the 2005 survey. The sample includes adults aged 16 and over, irrespective of their employment status.	Accessible through the <i>UK Data Archive</i> with an Athens/UK Federation Account. Archive Group SN: 33327
Survey on Adult Participation in Learning (SAPL)	Annual survey - 1999 onwards.	The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) has carried out a Survey of Adult Participation in Learning in the UK on annual basis since 1999. On occasion, the survey has been supplemented with modules directed at issues of topical interest.	Copies of the questionnaires, details of the methodology and sampling framework, and SPSS data files are available on request from NIACE
Employment			
Work-Life Balance Surveys (WLBS)	2000, 2003, 2006	The Work-Life Balance Survey (WLBS) was carried out to assess the extent to which employers operated work-life balance practices, to see whether employees felt the existing practices met their needs, and to provide a baseline against which future surveys could monitor progress. The 2003 and 2006 surveys consist of both an employer and employee survey.	Accessible through the <i>UK Data Archive</i> with an Athens/UK Federation Account. Employer surveys:- 2000: SN4465 2003: SN5080 2006: SN5787 Employee surveys:- 2003: SN5079 2006: t.b.c.

Survey Name	Frequency	Description	Accessibility
Working in Britain (WIB) Employment in Britain Survey (EIB) Social Change and Economic Life Survey (SCELI)	2000 1992 1986	These surveys provide an overview of the changing nature of work and employment relationships within Britain. Although not directly related to each other, the surveys utilise many of the same instruments, This is particularly the case for Working in Britain, where the central aim was to make comparisons overtime and so directly replicated many of the questions asked by the Employment in Britain survey. The Social Change and Economic Life Survey (SCELI) focused on six local labour markets – Aberdeen, Coventry, Kirkcaldy, Northampton, Rochdale and Swindon.	Accessible through the <i>UK Data Archive</i> with an Athens/UK Federation Account. Archive EIB:SN: 5368, SCELI: SN: 2798
Public Attitudes			
British Social Attitudes (BSA)	Annual survey – 1985 onwards. Forms part of International Social Survey Programme (ISSP)	British Social Attitudes survey (BSA) is based on a randomly selected sample of adults (18+) residing in selected households across Britain. Up to 3,500 respondents per annum take part. Questions have covered topics such as newspaper readership, political parties and trust, public spending, welfare benefits, health care, childcare, poverty, the labour market and the workplace, education, charitable giving, the countryside, transport and the environment, Europe, economic prospects, race, religion, civil liberties, immigration, sentencing and prisons, fear of crime, and the portrayal of sex and violence in the media.	Annual reports based on the data are available from NatCen. Technical reports available from http://www.britisocat.com upon registering. Annual data sets from 1984 onwards deposited at Data Archive.
British Election Study (BES)	Conducted around general elections since 1964.	The purposes of the British Election Study (BES) are: (1) to study long-term trends in British voting behavior; (2) to explain the election outcome; (3) to explain party choice; (4) to explain turnout; and (5) to examine the consequences of elections for the operation of democracy more generally. The core survey uses a national face-to-face probability sample and the primary instrument is a post-election face-to-face survey.	Accessible through the <i>UK Data Archive</i> with an Athens/UK Federation Account. Archive Group SN: 33066
Public Attitudes Towards Standards of Conduct in Public Life	2003/2004 Great Britain 2005/2006 United Kingdom	This goal of the Public Attitudes Towards Standards of Conduct in Public Life study was to ascertain the general public's opinion about standards of conduct in public life. Main topics of the study include the opinions of members of the	Accessible through the <i>UK Data Archive</i> with an Athens/UK Federation Account. Archive SN: 5472

Survey Name	Frequency	Description	Accessibility
		public and the expectations of the conduct of Members of Parliament, Government Ministers, and other public officials. Details on the demographic characteristics of the respondents are also contained.	
Crime and Justice			
Offending Crime and Justice Survey (OCJ)	Survey conducted annually, 2003-2006	<p>The Offending Crime and Justice Survey (OCJ) has been commissioned by the Home Office, and is the first national, longitudinal offending survey for England and Wales. The survey uses both personal interviewing and self interviewing methods. The main objective was to provide a solid base to measure the prevalence of offending and drug use within England and Wales.</p> <p>Main topics contained within the survey include attitudes to the criminal justice system; contact with criminal justice system; victimisation; antisocial behaviour; white collar/'hi-tech' crime; domestic violence; drinking; drug use; health, lifestyle and risk factors; and reactions to the survey and re-contact.</p>	<p>Accessible through the <i>UK Data Archive</i> with an Athens/UK Federation Account.</p> <p>Group Archive SN: 33360</p>
British Crime Survey (BCS)	1982 1984, 1988, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998 and 2000. Annual from 2001 onwards.	<p>The British Crime Survey (BCS) is one of the largest social surveys conducted in Britain, based on a core sample of 40,000. It is currently carried out by the British Market Research Bureau (BMRB).</p> <p>The BCS is primarily a 'victimisation' survey, in which respondents are asked about the experiences of property crimes of the household (e.g. burglary) and personal crimes (e.g. theft from the person) which they themselves have experienced. The reference period to which these questions relate is from the first of January in the calendar year preceding the BCS, up to the date of interview.</p>	<p>Accessible through the <i>UK Data Archive</i> with an Athens/UK Federation Account.</p> <p>Archive Group SN: 33174</p>
Health			
Health Survey for England	Survey conducted annually since 1991	The Health Survey for England (HSE) comprises a series of annual surveys beginning in 1991. Each year the Health Survey for England focuses on a different demographic group and looks at such health indicators as cardio-vascular disease, physical activity, eating habits, oral health, accidents, and asthma. All	<p>Accessible through the <i>UK Data Archive</i> with an Athens/UK Federation Account.</p> <p>Group Archive SN: 6112</p>

Survey Name	Frequency	Description	Accessibility
		surveys have covered the adult population aged 16 and over living in private households in England. Children were included in every year since 1995.	
NHS Patient Surveys	Frequent surveys conducted across a variety of themes	<p>NHS Patient Surveys have been conducted by the Commission for Health Improvement (CHI) and the Commission for Health Care Audit and Inspection (CHAI) since 2003, and have been used to improve the quality of care being given by health care organisations.</p> <p>Surveys aim to: provide feedback from patients to health care organisations; inform Healthcare Commission inspections and reviews; assess the performance of health care providers; and to allow organisations to compare results, ensuring that methods of best practice can be identified and shared.</p> <p>A number of patient and related NHS surveys can be found at the <i>UK Data Archive</i>, under the group SN 33348 including Emergency Departments, Outpatients, Inpatients (young, adult), Ambulance Services,</p>	<p>Accessible through the <i>UK Data Archive</i> with an Athens/UK Federation Account.</p> <p>Group Archive SN: 33348</p>
Infant Feeding Survey	The survey has been conducted every 5 years since 1975.	The survey provides baseline statistics about feeding practices in the UK, although earlier surveys only cover England and Wales. Each survey is based on a representative sample of mothers, who have been selected from all UK births registered through that year. Main topics covered by the study include: details of pregnancy and birth; how infants are fed, including incidence, prevalence and duration of breast-feeding, and types of milk/other drinks/food given; vitamins consumed by mother and baby; post-natal care and childcare advice received; mothers' intentions and practices regarding breast-feeding, including feeding in public places; smoking and drinking during pregnancy; mothers' intentions to return to or start work; and demographic details of mother.	<p>Accessible through the <i>UK Data Archive</i> with an Athens/UK Federation Account.</p> <p>Data exists in the archive for surveys conducted between 1985 and 2005.</p> <p>Group Archive SN: 33251</p>
Family Incomes			
Families and Children Study/ Survey for Low	Survey conducted	Originally the study was known as the Survey for Low Income Families. In 2001, high income families were included, giving a full	Accessible through the <i>UK Data Archive</i> with an Athens/UK

Survey Name	Frequency	Description	Accessibility
Income Families	annually, 1999-2005	sample of UK families, and the study became known as the Families and Children Study. The study has a number of objectives, including: to evaluate the effectiveness of the Government's work incentive measures, improving living standards and improving child outcomes; to compare the living standards and outcomes for children and for families across the income distribution; and to compare changes in the above across the waves since 1999.	Federation Account. Group Archive SN: 33375
Inland Revenue Survey of Personal Incomes (SPI)	Survey conducted annually on a financial year basis.	The Survey of Personal Incomes (SPI) is based on information held by HM Revenue and Customs (formed on 18 April 2005, following the merger of Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise Departments) tax offices on individuals who could be liable to UK tax. The principal purpose for conducting the SPI is to cost proposed changes to tax rates, personal allowances and other tax relief's for Treasury ministers. It is also used to assist in the making of policy decisions within HM Revenue and Customs and the Treasury; for tax modelling and forecasting purposes. The survey is based on a sample of administrative records. Sample sizes exceed 500 thousand.	The <i>UK Data Archive</i> currently holds data for 1985-1986, and 1995-1996 onwards. Archive Group SN: 33297
Tourism			
UK Tourism Survey	Surveys have been undertaken annually between 2000 and 2008.	<p>The United Kingdom Tourism Survey is a national consumer survey measuring the value of tourism trips taken by residents of the UK. The survey is sponsored jointly by VisitBritain, VisitScotland, Visit Wales and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board.</p> <p>The survey covers trips away from home lasting one night or more taken by UK residents. Trips taken for a range of purposes are included, including holidays, visits to friends and relatives, business and conferences. Tourism is measured in terms of volume (trips taken, nights away) and value (expenditure on trips).</p> <p>Up until 2005 the survey was conducted via telephone interview. Since 2005, the survey has been conducted as a face-to-face interview to improve reliability.</p>	Publications created from the survey can be obtained freely from the Visit Britain website (http://www.tourismtrade.org.uk/MarketIntelligenceResearch/DomesticTourismStatistics/UKTS/UKTS.asp).

6.7 Longitudinal Surveys and Cohort Studies

Survey Name	Frequency	Description	Accessibility
British Household Panel Survey (BHPS)/UK Household Longitudinal Study (UKHLS)	The survey is carried out annually.	<p>The British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) began in 1991 and is a multi-purpose study whose unique value resides in a number of factors: it follows the same representative sample of individuals - the panel - over a period of years; it is household-based, interviewing every adult member of sampled households; and it contains sufficient cases for meaningful analysis of certain groups such as the elderly or lone parent families.</p> <p>From 2009, the sample of the BHPS will be incorporated in to the new UK Household and Longitudinal Study (UKHLS). The UKHLS is a major new household panel study commissioned by the Economic and Social Research Council. (ESRC). With a total target sample size of 40,000 households/100,000 individuals, incorporating an ethnic minority booster sample of over 3,000 households, the UKHLS will be the largest study of its type in the world.</p>	<p>Accessible through the <i>UK Data Archive</i> with an Athens/UK Federation Account.</p> <p>Archive SN: 5151</p> <p>A more detailed version of the BHPS was also deposited in the SDS. This was the first data set to be deposited in the SDS during the initial pilot phase of the SDS.</p>
Cohort Studies: 1958 National Child Development Study (NCDS), 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS), Millennium Cohort Study (MCS).	Various sweeps of original cohorts conducted at different intervals.	<p>The Cohort Studies involve multiple surveys of large numbers of individuals from birth and throughout their lives. They have collected information on education and employment, family and parenting, physical and mental health, and social attitudes. Because they are longitudinal studies that follow the same groups of people throughout their lives, they show how histories of health, wealth, education, family and employment are interwoven for individuals, vary between them and affect outcomes and achievements in later life.</p>	<p>Data from the studies is available from the <i>UK Data Archive</i>. The Centre for Longitudinal Studies (CLS) provides support and facilities for those using data from the three studies.</p> <p>NCDS Archive SN: 33004 BCS Archive SN: 33229 MCS Archive SN: 33359</p>
Youth Cohort Study	First conducted in 1985. Sweeps generally carried out at annual or bi-annual	<p>The <i>Youth Cohort Study (YCS)</i> is a major programme of longitudinal research designed to monitor the behaviour and decisions of representative samples of young people aged sixteen upwards as they make the transition from compulsory education to further or higher education, or to the labour market. It tries to identify and explain the factors which influence post-16 transitions, for example, educational attainment, training</p>	<p>Data from the studies is available from the <i>UK Data Archive</i>.</p>

Survey Name	Frequency	Description	Accessibility
	intervals.	opportunities, and experiences at school. To date the YCS covers thirteen cohorts and 40 surveys. The methodology of cohort 13 sweep 1 (2005/6) changed to allow linking up with the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England (see below). This sweep was also conducted using a face-to-face methodology in order to address falling response rates on recent YCS cohorts.	
Longitudinal Study of Young People in England	Annual panel study first conducted in 2004.	The <i>Longitudinal Study of Young People in England</i> (LSYPE), also known as <i>Next Steps</i> , commissioned by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) is a panel study of young people. The study began in 2004, when its sample was aged between 13 and 14. Annual interviews obtain information from the young person and additional information from a main and second parent interview. The data have been supplemented by linkage to administrative records from the <i>National Pupil Database</i> (NPD), although NPD data is not available from the Data Archive.	Data from the studies is available from the <i>UK Data Archive</i> . Waves 1-3 Archive SN: 5545
English Longitudinal Study of Ageing	Baseline data from HSE 1998-2000. Subsequent waves 2002/3, 2004/5 and 2006/7.	The ELSA study is a longitudinal survey of ageing and quality of life among older people that explores the dynamic relationships between health and functioning, social networks and participation, and economic position as people plan for, move into and progress beyond retirement. The ELSA sample was selected from three survey years of the HSE (1998, 1999 and 2001). Households were included in ELSA if they contained at least one adult of 50 years or older in the household who had agreed to be recontacted at some time in the future when participating in the HSE. The HSE data is referred to as Wave 0. Three subsequent waves were conducted during 2002-07.	Data from the studies is available from the <i>UK Data Archive</i> . Waves 0 and 1-3 Archive SN: 5050
ONS Longitudinal Study (ONS LS)	Census data every 10 years. Vital events data updated annually.	The ONS Longitudinal Study (LS) contains linked census and vital event data for one per cent of the population of England and Wales. Information from the 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001 Censuses has been linked together, along with information on events such as births, deaths and cancer registrations. The LS was set up in the 1970s to meet the need for better data on mortality and fertility. Since then it has been used to address	Due to its highly sensitive nature, access to the LS data is only available on site at ONS offices through the VML. Due to the complex nature of the data, ESRC supports a specialist user support function for the LS - Centre for

Survey Name	Frequency	Description	Accessibility
		<p>research questions including studies of social mobility, ageing and migration.</p> <p>Separate Longitudinal Studies of similar design are conducted in Northern Ireland and Scotland. The Scottish Longitudinal Study (SLS) contains commenced in 1991 whilst the Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study (NILS) began in 2001. These studies are characterised by higher sampling fractions (SLS=5.3%, NILS=28%).</p> <p>NILS: http://www.nisra.gov.uk/nils SLS: http://www.lscs.ac.uk/</p>	<p>Longitudinal Study Information & User Support (CeLSIUS), based within the Centre for Population Studies at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (http://www.celsius.lshtm.ac.uk/).</p>

6.8 Surveys Specific to Wales

Survey Name	Frequency	Description	Accessibility
Living in Wales (LiW)	Annual household survey from 2004. Property survey conducted in 2004 and 2008.	Living in Wales (LiW) is the main source of information on households and the condition of homes in Wales. The survey is made up of an interview with the household reference person or another appropriate adult, and for some respondents, a follow-up visit by a qualified surveyor to undertake a statistical property assessment of their home. Approximately 12,000 addresses are surveyed each year for the Household Surveys; and 2,500 addresses for the Property Survey.	Will be available on the <i>UK Data Archive</i> shortly
Welsh Health Survey (WHS)	Annual since 2003. Replaces former Welsh Health Survey (1995/98) and the Health Survey in Wales (every 2/3 years between 1985 and 1996).	The Welsh Health Survey (WHS) is a largely self-completion survey of health in Wales. It is a major source of information about the health of people in Wales, the way the NHS is used, and the things that can affect people's health. The survey includes questions about people's use of health services, illnesses, general health and well-being, smoking, alcohol, fruit and vegetables, exercise, carers and questions about themselves (e.g. age, sex, weight, height, etc).	A copy of the anonymised dataset is deposited at the <i>UK Data Archive</i> . Group Archive SN: 33371
Beaufort Welsh Omnibus Surveys:	Welsh Omnibus Survey (1986-, 4 times a year), Omnibus Survey of Welsh Speakers (1993-, twice yearly), Welsh Children's Omnibus (2006-, twice yearly),	Beaufort Research is an independent market research company based in Cardiff that undertakes four Omnibus surveys that cover a variety of topics: The Welsh Omnibus Survey; the Omnibus Survey of Welsh Speakers; Welsh Children's Omnibus; and CWMNIBUS: the Omnibus Survey of Welsh SME businesses.	To obtain the data, requests must be made to Beaufort regarding specific areas of interest. Beaufort will then analyse the data themselves and send out the output. This output must then be purchased via subscription to the service. Institutions can undertake their own non-standard analyses of the datasets at an additional cost to the subscription.

Survey Name	Frequency	Description	Accessibility
	Cwmnibus (2001-, twice yearly)		
Future Skills Wales Survey (FSW)	1998, 2003, 2005	<p>The Future Skills Wales (FSW) 2005 Sector Skills Survey was a survey of 6,700 employers across all business activities in Wales. The main aim of FSW 2005 was to provide reliable information on the skill deficiencies which employers in Wales experience; information which can be used to inform skills development policy and planning. Whereas the two previous FSW employer surveys dealt solely with generic skills, the 2005 survey also asked about practical and technical skills.</p> <p>The 2003 and 1998 Generic Skills Surveys consisted of surveys to 6,000 employers and individuals. The surveys of employers collected information on the drivers of future skill needs, details of the current workforce, recruitment practices and difficulties, skills shortages and skills gaps and the current and future importance of skills and learning to business in Wales. A household survey run at the same time collected information from 6,000 individuals chosen randomly across Wales, on employment status and attitudes to employment, skills use and the current and future importance of skills and training/learning.</p>	<p>Key data from the surveys can be accessed freely at the statistics Wales website (http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk)</p> <p>No access to micro-data</p>
Citizenship After the Nation State (CANS)	2009 Onwards	Citizenship After the Nation State (CANS) is a multi-national study of public attitudes, conducted at the regional scale. It explores how far citizen understandings and practices of political participation and social solidarity are regionalized, rather than nationalized, at the scale of the nation-state. Through mass survey research it explores and compares regional public attitudes in 14 regions in five European states, Austria, France, Germany, Spain and the UK. Scotland and Wales are included as regions in the UK study.	Data for the survey is expected to be available by the end of Spring 2009.
Sport and Physical Activity Participation Survey	Surveys have taken place since 2003.	This Sport and Physical Activity Participation Survey is undertaken by the Sports Council for Wales and looks to examine the level of participation in sport and physical activity by people in	Some data in the form of publications is available from the Sports Council Website

Survey Name	Frequency	Description	Accessibility
		<p>Wales, allowing the council to ascertain the part these activities play within Welsh communities.</p> <p>At the time of writing, the survey has been undertaken 3 times across 3 different groups: children (aged 7-11 years); young people (aged 11- 16 years); and adults (16+ years).</p>	<p>(http://www.sports-council-wales.org.uk/researchandinformation/services/research/large-sample-surveys). Accessibility of micro-data being investigated.</p>
Surveys of Rural Wales		<p>A number of surveys relating to rural Wales have been undertaken by the Wales Rural Observatory (http://www.walesruralobservatory.org.uk/). The surveys focus on a number of themes including: Rural Economy and Employment; Environment, Sustainability and Land-use Planning; Social Inclusion and Exclusion; Housing and Service Provision; and Society and Community. These themes are treated fairly broadly and cover the majority of aspects of life in rural Wales.</p>	<p>Publications are available from the Wales Rural Observatory website.</p> <p>http://www.walesruralobservatory.org.uk/eng/data-e.html</p> <p>Accessibility of micro-data being investigated.</p>

6.9 International Surveys

Survey Name	Frequency	Description	Accessibility
European Union Labour Force Survey (EULFS)	Data collection began to be collected on an annual basis from 1983 up until 1998 when quarterly results have been supplied.	The European Union Labour Force Survey (EULFS) is a large household sample survey providing quarterly results on labour participation of people aged 15 and over as well as on persons outside the labour force. In all of the countries providing quarterly data, the quarterly sample is spread uniformly over all weeks of the quarter.	<p>Access is only granted to the anonymised micro data to institutions and organisations with research contracts.</p> <p>The cost depends on what type of data is needed. E.g. longitudinal or cross sectional or the number of years required.</p> <p>To obtain these datasets an official request needs to be made by email to Eurostat, outlining the details of the proposed research and the credentials of the researcher(s) proposing to carry out the study.</p> <p>http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1913,47567825,1913_47567846&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL</p>
European Working Conditions Survey (EWCS)	The survey has been carried in 1990, 1996, 2000 2001/02 and 2005. During 2005, the EWCS was carried out in all EU27 countries (plus Turkey,	Every five years, the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound) conducts a survey of working conditions in Europe. The survey questionnaire has expanded from twenty questions in the first edition to nearly one hundred questions and sub-questions in 2005. Topics covered in the survey include working time, work organization, pay, work-related health risks and health outcomes, and access to training. The first survey in 1990 was a prototype and was based on a core questionnaire of only twenty questions.	Surveys available for download from http://www.esds.ac.uk/ with an Athens/UK Federation password.

Survey Name	Frequency	Description	Accessibility
	Croatia, Norway and Switzerland).		
Euro-barometer	Annually carried out across the EU since 1973.	These are annual surveys with topics repeated at regular intervals using the same questions and methodology. The same survey covers a number of different subjects – hence, it is an omnibus survey. Each subject area is sponsored by different Directorates of the EC who then take on ownership of that module of questions (referred to as special surveys). Questions are asked of representative samples of resident members of Member States who are 15 years old and above. The regular British sample is around 1,000.	Most of the data available free of charge from ZACAT http://zocat.gesis.org/webview/index.jsp . Special products from the database can also be ordered online through GESIS.
International Social Survey Programme (ISSP)	The ISSP has been carried out annually since 1984.	The International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) is a continuing, annual programme of cross-national collaboration. It brings together pre-existing social science projects and coordinates research goals, thereby adding a cross-national perspective to the individual, national studies. The annual topics for ISSP are developed over several years by a sub-committee and pre-tested in various countries. Previous modules have included: work orientations; social inequality; and family and changing gender roles. The British survey is known as the British Social Attitudes Survey (see above).	ISSP data available free of charge from ZACAT (http://zocat.gesis.org/webview/index.js). Documentation for the data can be found at http://www.issp.org/data.shtml
European Social Survey (ESS)	It is carried out biennially. The first survey was carried out in 2002/2003, the second in 2004/2005, the third in 2006/2007 and the fourth in 2008/2009.	The European Social Survey (the ESS) is an academically-driven social survey designed to chart and explain the interaction between Europe's changing institutions and the attitudes, beliefs and behaviour patterns of its diverse populations. Now in its fourth round, the survey covers over 30 nations.	Data is free from the <i>ESS Data Archive</i> http://ess.nsd.uib.no/ upon registration.
European Community Household Panel	1994-2001	The European Community Household Panel survey (ECHP) began in 1994 with the objective of interviewing a representative	Access is only granted to the anonymised micro data to

Survey Name	Frequency	Description	Accessibility
Survey (ECHP)		<p>panel of households at annual intervals within a framework that was comparable across countries. The ECHP covers a wide range of topics including income, health, education, housing, demographics and employment characteristic, etc. The total duration of the ECHP was 8 years, running from 1994 to 2001. In the first wave, i.e. in 1994, a sample of some 60,500 nationally represented households – approximately 130,000 adults aged 16 years and over – were interviewed in the then 12 Member States.</p>	<p>institutions and organisations with research contracts.</p> <p>The cost depends on what type of data is needed. E.g. longitudinal or cross sectional or the number of years required.</p> <p>To obtain these datasets an official request needs to be made by email to Eurostat, outlining the details of the proposed research and the credentials of the researcher(s) proposing to carry out the study.</p> <p>http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1913,47567825,1913_47567846&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL</p>
European Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC)	<p>2003 onwards.</p> <p>2003 Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg and Austria as well as in Norway.</p> <p>2004 EU-15 (excl below)</p> <p>2005 Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom and</p>	<p>The European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) is an instrument aiming at collecting timely and comparable cross-sectional and longitudinal multidimensional micro data on income, poverty, social exclusion and living conditions. This instrument is anchored in the European Statistical System (ESS). The instrument aims to provide two types of data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cross-sectional data pertaining to a given time or a certain time period with variables on income, poverty, social exclusion and other living conditions - Longitudinal data pertaining to individual-level changes over time, observed periodically over, typically, a four year period. <p>Social exclusion and housing condition information is collected at household level while labour, education and health information is</p>	<p>Access is only granted to the anonymised micro data to institutions and organisations with research contracts.</p> <p>The cost depends on what type of data is needed. E.g. longitudinal or cross sectional or the number of years required.</p> <p>To obtain these datasets an official request needs to be made by email to Eurostat, outlining the details of the proposed research and the</p>

Survey Name	Frequency	Description	Accessibility
	10 new member states. 2007 Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Switzerland	obtained for persons aged 16 and over. The core of the instrument, income at very detailed component level, is mainly collected at personal level but a few components are included in the household part of SILC.	credentials of the researcher(s) proposing to carry out the study. http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1913,47567825,1913_47567846&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL
World Values Survey (WVS)	1981, 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2005.	The World Values Survey is a worldwide investigation of socio-cultural and political change. It is conducted by a network of social scientists at leading universities around world. Interviews have been carried out with nationally representative samples in more than 80 countries across the world.	Datasets for 2005, 2000 and 1995 can be obtained from the World Values Survey website (http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org) A 4 wave integrated file can also be downloaded, covering 1981-2005.

6.10 Selected Administrative Sources

Survey Name	Frequency	Description	Accessibility
National Pupil Database (NPD)	Updated annually - in excess of 8 million individual pupil records are added to the database each year,	The National Pupil Dataset (NPD) is a new dataset, first coming into existence in 2002, containing linked individual pupil records for all children in the state school system. It includes a range of variables such as pupil age, gender, ethnicity, special educational needs, free school meal entitlement, key stage assessments and public examination results, home postcode and school attended. The NPD dataset combines information on pupil and school characteristics data from the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) dataset with information on pupil attainment, as well as incorporating reference data on schools and Local Education Authorities (LEAs).	<p>England: Access to NPD data is now available through a central gateway via the PLASC/NPD User Group (PLUG). Potential users must complete a request form, which contains fields relating to contact details and the nature of the data required and invites the researcher to outline the nature of the proposed research.</p> <p>In the event of the request for access being successful the DfES provide the researcher with an anonymised flat data file (<i>i.e.</i> without a supporting database structure) containing all the relevant requested variables.</p> <p>Wales: NPD data for Wales can be found at http://www.lgdu-wales.gov.uk/.</p> <p>To access the Welsh dataset an email application needs to be sent to WAG, as outlined on their website.</p>

Survey Name	Frequency	Description	Accessibility
<p>Higher Education Statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Census of students; • Census of staff; • Destinations of Leavers from HE; • Financial aspects of HE institutions. 	Data collected on an annual basis, related to an academic year.	<p>HESA data is collected from all publicly funded Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the UK, plus the University of Buckingham, which is a non-publicly-funded institution. The 2006/07 data covers 169 HEIs (133 in England, 12 in Wales, 20 in Scotland and 4 in Northern Ireland). The HESA Student Record contains information about individual enrolments. The staff record provides data relating to the characteristics of members of all academic and non-academic staff employed under a contract of employment by a higher education institution in the UK. Destinations data provides information on the activities of students after leaving a higher education institution.</p>	<p>HESA does not allow general access to micro data, <i>i.e.</i> relating to individual students or staff, although access to student level data has been granted exceptionally where this has been negotiated directly with the head of the organisation.</p> <p>However, it produces a range of annual publications and offers a data request service for aggregated data</p>
Lifetime Labour Market Database (LLMDB2)	Continually	<p>The Lifetime Labour Market Database (LLMDB2) is a 1 percent sample (based on National Insurance Numbers ending in the digits 14) of all people in the UK and abroad (paying voluntary NICs) appearing on the National Insurance Recording System (NIRS) between 1977/8 and 1995/6 and its replacement NIRS2 system from 1996/97 to the present. The database provides an historical view of the labour market and is a well established longitudinal resource for studying labour market transitions over this period with little or no sample attrition rate and without many of the problems of bias encountered in other longitudinal studies.</p>	Being investigated
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES)		<p>The Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) is an episode level dataset which records all patient contacts with NHS in England. Contacts are recorded through the Patient Administration System (PAS). It contains clinical information relating to treatments received as well as demographic and geographical information relating to patients. These includes clinical information on diagnoses and operations, dates of admission and treatment, administrative information regarding the timing and duration of the episode, details relating to the individual and the NHS organisation, as well geographical information about the location of treatment and where the patient lived.</p>	<p>Access to HES micro data (<i>i.e.</i> at episode level) is closely controlled. Requests are made via the NHS Information Centre. Access may be given only with the permission of the Security and Confidentiality Advisory Group. Aggregated HES data is available online at www.hesonline.nhs.uk – England only</p>

Survey Name	Frequency	Description	Accessibility
Unemployed Claimant Count	Administrative records on claimants are collected continuously and published monthly	The Unemployment Claimant Count and flows data are amongst the data sets most widely used by local labour market analysts, providing up-to-date information on numbers of claimants disaggregated to the micro area level. The claimant count is a by-product of administrative records of people who are claiming unemployment-related benefits.	Data can be accessed online from NOMIS ().
Jobcentre Vacancies	Administrative records on vacancies are collected continuously and published monthly	Jobcentre Vacancy statistics relate to vacancies notified to Employment Service (ES) Jobcentres (now Jobcentre plus). There is no requirement for vacancies to be notified to Jobcentres; hence the vacancy statistics provide a partial measure of vacancies in the economy. Notified vacancies are disproportionately those relating to unskilled, semi-skilled and manual occupations.	The full vacancy series can be accessed through Nomis ().

A1. Training Providers

The Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research

<http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/courses/>

Courses run from introductory to advanced and cover all aspects of the research process, including research design, data collection and data analysis. Most courses are one day in duration, although a number run over two or three days. The format of courses typically includes a combination of lectures and/or demonstrations, supported by a substantial practical component. To help participants select training of an appropriate level, courses are listed under the headings introductory, intermediate or advanced.

Courses in Applied Social Surveys

<http://www.s3ri.soton.ac.uk/cass/index.php>

CASS is a programme of short courses in applied social surveys run by the Southampton Statistical Sciences Research Institute (S3RI) at the University of Southampton. The programme is coordinated with the ESRC National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM) programme of training. CASS provides short courses for academic social scientists and applied researchers in government, market research and the independent and voluntary sectors. The programme covers topics in survey design and implementation, survey sampling, data collection and data analysis methods.

Centre for Micro-data Methods and Practice - CEMMAP

<http://www.cemmap.ac.uk/courses.php>

Cemmap training courses run over two or three consecutive days at the Department of Economics, University College London. The courses are designed to be of particular benefit to economists and social scientists in the public and private sectors wanting to know how to use micro econometrics and micro-data to inform policy making. A limited number of subsidised places on each course are available for delegates from Higher Education institutions through funding from the ESRC Researcher Development Initiative (see above). Cemmap also runs a series of master classes, with accompanying materials often available to download.

Department of Social Medicine, University of Bristol

<http://www.epi.bris.ac.uk/shortc/shortc.htm>

The short course programme is designed to offer training in the basic disciplines of epidemiology and health services research for healthcare practitioners and researchers. However, a number of courses are of general interest, including introductory courses in statistical packages and questionnaire design. Course fees are £180 per day, with courses generally running over a couple of days.

Essex Summer School in Social Data Analysis and Collection

<http://www.essex.ac.uk/methods/aboutus/aboutindex.shtm>

The Essex Summer School consists of a variety of courses run over a period of one or two weeks. The courses consist of lectures and practical sessions, and generally deal with techniques of data collection, analysis, and model building. The Summer School also offers some courses on non-statistical but innovative approaches to social science. Besides classroom instruction and daily laboratory work, there are evening seminars on research topics of special interest.

Imperial College – Statistical Advisory Service

<http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/stathelp/courses>

These hands-on, computer-based, training courses are designed for people who need to perform data or statistical analysis using SPSS, STATA. Examples are taken from medical and health related research but are not of a specialised nature. The courses are aimed at participants from any subject area. Course outlines are available to download. An online course for Introductory Statistics Using SPSS is also available.

University of Lancaster: Postgraduate Statistics

<http://psc.maths.lancs.ac.uk/shortCourses/>

The Postgraduate Statistics Centre Short Course Programme at Lancaster University is presenting a series of short courses in using statistical methods and software. Courses include Mathematics for Statistics, Excel for Statistics, Questionnaire Design, and Visual C++. Questionnaire Design, Generalized Linear Models, Structural Equation Modeling and Longitudinal Data Analysis. A wide range of course materials are available free to download.

Nat Cen Learning:

<http://www.natcen.ac.uk/natcenlearning/index.htm>

NatCen Learning offers formal training, facilitated workshops and can provide tailored training, advice and guidance around specific research issues to organisations and individuals. Each year NatCen Learning runs a series of open training modules focused on key aspects of qualitative and quantitative research methods, including interviewing skills, focus groups, questionnaire design and sampling for surveys.

Oxford Spring School in Quantitative Methods for Social Research

<http://springschool.politics.ox.ac.uk/>

The Oxford Spring School, hosted by the Centre for Research Methods in the Social Sciences (ReMiSS) within the Department of Politics and International Relations at Oxford University, is a week of events targeted at Political and Social Science researchers, who already have training in and experience of quantitative research, and are seeking to extend and broaden their skills. They also provide other short courses during the year, which introduce social science researchers to quantitative methods, statistical software packages and relevant datasets.

Realities – National Centre for Research Methods

<http://www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/realities/events/training/>

Realities are part of the ESRC National Centre for Research Methods and run a programme of one day training workshops in the use of 'real life' qualitative and multidimensional research and data. Workshops are usually at an intermediate or advanced level and last one day. Topics include real life ethics, memory methods and sensory methods.

Royal Statistical Society Professional Development Centre

The Professional Development Centre provides courses for statisticians and users of statistics. Courses are aimed at a variety of levels, from presenting data and introduction to statistical packages through to questionnaire design and multi-level modelling.

Social Research Association

<http://www.the-sra.org.uk/training.htm>

The Social Research Association (SRA) runs an extensive training programme which includes courses on: sampling; questionnaire design; quantitative analysis; qualitative methods; qualitative analysis; report writing and presentations; commissioning and managing research.

Statistical Services Centre: Reading University

http://www.reading.ac.uk/ssc/about_us.html

The SSC is a self-financing consultancy group based at the University of Reading, UK. The Statistical Services Centre offers training to a range of audiences - from relatively inexperienced users of statistics through to experienced statisticians. In addition to training courses a series of guides on good statistical practice are freely available.

Day courses in Social Research, University of Surrey

<http://www.fahs.surrey.ac.uk/daycourses/>

These are one-day courses for social researchers, including practical exercises, discussion and instruction. Courses include introductions to quantitative and qualitative software, focus groups, qualitative data analysis and research management.