

ESDS Government Newsletter

Renewed funding for ESDS

ESDS has been awarded funding for a further five years. ESRC Council decided at its February meeting to endorse the earlier recommendation of the ESRC Research and Resources Board (RRB) to extend support for a further five years to October 2012. The new funding will allow ESDS to continue in its present form and structure, as a distributed service, based on a collaboration between four key centres of expertise: UK Data Archive (UKDA), Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER), both based at the University of Essex; Manchester Information and Associated Services (MIMAS) and Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research (CCSR), both located at the University of Manchester.

The decision to renew funding for ESDS comes after a lengthy process of review and evaluation which started with the writing and submission by ESDS staff of a 150 page report in May 2005. This review document, which assessed and summarised the work of ESDS to date, was produced to inform the review panel set up by the ESRC/JISC and chaired by Dr Jeremy Harbison. The review panel deliberated over the summer of 2005 and conducted site visits of ESDS in September, delivering its recommendations to RRB in November 2005. During 2006 the lengthy process of budget preparation took place, with RRB eventually agreeing the budget and sending it to Council for final agreement in November 2006.

All those at ESDS are delighted with this news. The renewed funding will enable the continued delivery of a world-class data discovery, delivery and support service to the social science community for the foreseeable future. Well done to all those who have collectively contributed to making ESDS a success story!

Update on the Integrated Household Survey

New developments on the Integrated Household Survey (IHS) were discussed at the IHS consultation meeting held on 29 March.

The IHS aims to provide a harmonised, high quality dataset that can provide estimates of core topics at regional and sub-regional levels. The original surveys that will be included - the Labour Force Survey (and annual boosts), the Longitudinal General Household Survey, the Expenditure and Food Survey and the Omnibus survey - will now be augmented by the English Housing Survey, which will merge the Survey of English Housing and the English House Condition Survey.

The IHS core modules will contain common concepts and question wording but there will not be a strict adherence to a common core module of questions at the start of each interview. This is due to concerns about interview flow and the need to return to topics. Some topic-specific questions will be interwoven with core questions in order to improve the flow of the interview, reduce the interview length and to minimise potential for discontinuities in key time series. The core module topics still have to be confirmed with the IHS steering group; this information will be available soon from the ONS website.

The potential of the IHS for secondary analysts was also discussed at the meeting. The IHS has a number of benefits such as the large sample size of the core module and improvements to the accuracy of estimates due to the unclustered sample design. However there are a number of issues which ONS will need to clarify when the data becomes available for secondary analysts, such as the potential for combining topic modules in order to increase sample size and the ability to pool previous survey data with the new IHS data.

Other issues that were discussed at the meeting included the plans for weighting, the new timetable and access to the data. For presentations from the meeting go to www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/events/2007-03-29/ihs/. For general information about the IHS go to www.esds.ac.uk/government/cps/

Contents

User profile.....	2
Focus on a researcher.....	2
Upgrade to new version of Nesstar.....	2
Survey news.....	2
Dataset news.....	3
Families Youth, Community, and Justice: New survey datasets for social research.....	3
Forthcoming events from ESDS	
Government.....	4
Events held in the past six months.....	4
ESDS Government resources.....	4
Join our mailing lists.....	4

User profile

Dr Joanne Lindley, Senior Lecturer in Economics, University of Sheffield
(j.lindley@sheffield.ac.uk)

Joanne Lindley has used the Quarterly Labour Force Survey for secondary statistical analysis to investigate a number of contemporary labour economics issues. These have included ethnic labour market disadvantage and immigrant performance, as well as various topics within education economics.

Her research shows that comparing the Quarterly Labour Force Survey for 1992-1995 to 2000-2003 indicates clear evidence that employment levels have significantly increased for all women except Black Caribbean/Other women. Furthermore qualifications were shown to play an increasingly important role whereby there has been an increase in the polarisation between graduate and non-graduate female employment levels, where this is especially large for Pakistani/Bangladeshi women.

The data are also used to demonstrate an increase in the unexplained discriminatory component for the employment differences of most minority ethnic women compared to their white counterparts, where this is especially large for South Asian women. Differences in white and non-white skills and socio-economic characteristics explain less of the difference in employment in 2000-3 compared with 1993-5.

In addition, the Quarterly Labour Force Survey 1993-2003 was used to show that immigrants and ethnic minority workers are more likely to be employed in an occupation for which they have over the average level of schooling, compared to native born white workers. Although there is some indication of assimilation for immigrants, there is clear evidence of disadvantage with a lower return to schooling for immigrants and non-white natives, compared to their native born white counterparts.

Focus on a researcher

Would you like to be featured in our next newsletter to report the research you are carrying out using one or more of the ESDS Government surveys? If so, please send an email to vanessa.higgins@manchester.ac.uk.

Upgrade to new version of Nesstar

ESDS is pleased to announce the upgrade to a new version of Nesstar. Nesstar version 3.5 has improved branding and layout with the catalogue separated into two areas, datasets for research and datasets for teaching. Nesstar 3.5 offers the following new features:

- the ability to compute/recode variables
- calculations can now be performed on categories within tables
- the ability to perform correlation analyses
- bookmarks can now contain descriptive information



The ESDS Nesstar Catalogue allows users to view frequencies, conduct simple online tabulations, produce graphs and subsets for a selection of key economic and social data. Non-commercial users can analyse data online and all users can obtain frequencies.

Survey news

- The British Crime Survey User Meeting was held in December 2006 at the Royal Statistical Society in London. A report of the meeting can be found at www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/events/2006-12-05/index.shtml. Following the recent reviews of crime statistics the Home Office is undergoing development work to look at the possibility of extending the British Crime Survey to include under 16s and group residences. They are also looking into the possibility of conducting a regular Commercial Victimization Survey.
- The first EU-SILC General Household Survey dataset (2005-06) is now available from ESDS at www.esds.ac.uk/findingData/snDescription.asp?sn=5640. This is the first wave of the new longitudinal survey.
- The first Family Resources Survey User Meeting was held in April in London. It was a useful and well-attended meeting and it is hoped that it will become an annual event. Slides are available from www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/events/2007-04-23/.

Dataset news

General Household Survey Time Series Dataset 1972- 2004 (GHS TSD)

ONS have compiled a GHS Time Series Dataset from 1972 to 2004. The dataset contains around 80 variables (including demographic, household, education, employment, health and smoking) and approximately 0.8million individuals and 0.3million households. The data has been deposited with ESDS and should be available for download in July. ONS and ESDS Government hope to hold a short seminar to launch the dataset in London in late August (date to be confirmed).

QLFS Eurostat datasets

Quarterly Labour Force Survey Eurostat datasets are now available from ESDS. Eurostat co-ordinates information from labour force surveys in the European Union (EU) member states in order to assist the EU in such matters as the allocation of the Social Fund. The Quarterly Labour Force Survey Eurostat Datasets form the UK component of the European Union Labour Force Survey (EULFS), and consist of a subset of core variables from the UK QLFS alongside primary and secondary derived variables computed by Eurostat from the core variables supplied. Data is available for a number of quarters.

Other new datasets available

- Annual Population Survey, Oct 2005-Sept 2006
- Annual Population Survey, Oct 2005-Sept 2006: Special Licence Access
- British Social Attitudes Survey, 2005
- General Household Survey 2005
- Labour Force Survey Five-Quarter Longitudinal Dataset, Oct 2005-Dec 2006
- Labour Force Survey Two-Quarter Longitudinal Dataset, July - Dec 2006
- ONS Omnibus Survey, September 2004
- ONS Omnibus Survey, October 2004
- ONS Omnibus Survey, November 2004
- ONS Omnibus Survey, Time Use Module, Feb, June, Sept and Nov 2005
- ONS Omnibus Survey, November 2005
- Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Oct-Dec 2006
- Quarterly Labour Force Survey Household Dataset, Oct-Dec, 2006
- Scottish Social Attitudes Survey, 2005

New Editions

- SN 4786 British Crime Survey, 2001
- SN 5543 British Crime Survey, 2005-2006

Other datasets of interest

In addition to the government surveys officially supported by ESDS government there are numerous other surveys which may be of interest to readers. For example the European Working Conditions Surveys, the new cleaned and reformatted editions of the major longitudinal series, National Child Development Study and the British Cohort Study.

Families Youth, Community, and Justice: New survey datasets for social research

In May 2007, ESDS hosted a one-day event showcasing a number of key datasets which have recently been acquired by the UK Data Archive. The morning session saw presentations on the Home Office Citizenship Survey (HOCS), and the Crime and Justice Survey (CJS). Using the HOCS, Lucinda Platt (Essex University) examined ways of measuring social participation across different ethnic groups. Steve Pudney (Essex University) gave an overview of work on the accuracy of self-reported data on offending in the Crime and Justice Survey. Presentations were also given on methodological aspects of these surveys, from the Department for Communities and Local Government, and the Home Office.

The afternoon session focussed on the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England (LYPSE), and the Families and Children Study (FACS). Both of these surveys contain panel data elements. Presenting research on the topic of ethnicity, sex, class, and educational progress in early secondary school, Steve Strand (Warwick University) demonstrated the powerful capacity of the LYPSE for the analysis of patterns of educational development. Mark Tomlinson and Robert Walker (Oxford University) in contrast presented research using the FACS to create multi-dimensional measures of poverty using structural equation modelling.

The presentations on the day fully demonstrated the powerful research potential of these exciting and newly acquired datasets, which are now available from the UK Data Archive. Further details of this event can be found at www.esds.ac.uk/news/esdspastevents.asp.

Forthcoming events from ESDS Government

Health Surveys User Meeting, Tuesday 3 July 2007, London

Working with survey files: linking, matching and using hierarchy, September 07, Manchester

ESDS Government Research Conference 2007, Thursday 1 November 2007, London

Introduction to government microdata: focus on consumption, 7 November 2007, Belfast

CCSR short courses

05/09/2007	Measuring Diversity, Segregation and Integration
06/09/2007	Monitoring Population Change with an Ethnic Group Dimension
17/09/2007	Introduction to Data Mining
19/09/2007	Starting SPSS
20/09/2007	Introduction to Data Analysis Part 1

The complete list of short courses is available at www.ccsr.ac.uk/courses/.

Other dates for your diary

New online courses in social research, The Institute of Education, University of London
Are you looking to improve your understanding of social research? Or even, a qualification that proves your knowledge and skills? Find out more at www.londonexternal.ac.uk/omres

Royal Statistical Society Conference 2007, Statistics and public policy-making: hope vs. reality, 16-20 July, University of York

Survey Research in the 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities, 24 October, Royal Statistical Society, London

Events held in the past six months

Introduction to ESDS Government: focus on the Omnibus Survey, Friday 11 May 2007, Cardiff

Family Resources Survey user meeting, Monday 23 April 2007, London

Starting SPSS, Monday 2 April 2007, Manchester

General Household Survey user meeting, Thursday 29 March 2007, London

Integrated Household Survey meeting, Thursday 29 March 2007, London

Introduction to STATA, Friday 19 January 2007, Manchester

Labour Force Survey User Meeting, Thursday 18 January 2007, London

Slides from these events are available from our 'past events' pages at www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/events/past.shtml

ESDS Government resources

New resources from ESDS Government

Derived variables over time: education for the Labour Force Survey

Updated/extended resources from ESDS Government

Guide to Data Sources for Northern Ireland

Frequently Asked Questions

Guide to Data Sources for Scotland

Employment and the Labour Market: Introductory User Guide

Introductory Guide to Using the Large-scale Government Surveys for Health Research

Guide to Weighting the Social Surveys

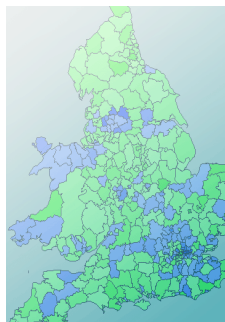
All of these resources are available at www.esds.ac.uk/government/resources/

Join our mailing lists

If you do not currently receive this newsletter and you want to register for paper copies please go to www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/join/. If you include your email address you will receive the latest news on ESDS Government, including new resources and events.

Join the ESDS Government Surveys JISCMail list

To join the ESDS-govsurveys JISCMail list for discussion and updates go to www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/esds-govsurveys



ESDS Government

Email:
govsurveys@esds.ac.uk

Telephone:
+44 (0)161 275 1980

Fax:
+44 (0)161 275 4722

ESDS Government
CCSR
2nd Floor, Crawford
House
University of Manchester
Manchester
M13 9PL