

# Welcome



Economic and Social Data Service

# Today

- Objective
- Overview of data and resources (ESDS)
  - Introduce some key data resources for labour market research
- Focus on the Labour Force Survey (ONS)
  - The production process and data quality issues
- Hands-on sessions
  - Navigate through the documentation
  - Basics of SPSS
  - Examples of how the data can be used in SPSS



# ESDS Large Scale Government Microdata for Employment & Labour Market Research

**An overview of available  
resources and  
potential uses**

Pierre Walthery  
ESDS Government



Economic and Social Data Service

# Plan of the presentation

1. Large scale Government Surveys
2. ESDS Government
3. The Labour Force Survey
4. Examples
  1. Health
  2. Resources and benefits
  3. Small groups and geographies
5. Special License & Secure Data Service



# Large Scale Government Surveys

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

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## ESDS Government



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### ESDS Government Surveys

The surveys that ESDS Government supports are:

- [Annual Population Survey](#)
- [British Social Attitudes](#)
- [Continuous Household Survey \(Northern Ireland\)](#)
- [Crime Survey for England and Wales \(formerly the British Crime Survey\)](#)
- [English Housing Survey](#)
- [European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions](#)
- [Family Expenditure Survey](#)
- [Family Resources Survey](#)
- [FRS Individual Income Series](#)
- [General Lifestyle Survey \(formerly the General Household Survey\)](#)
- [Health Survey for England](#)
- [Households Below Average Income](#)
- [Integrated Household Survey](#)
- [Labour Force Surveys](#)
- [Life Opportunities Survey](#)
- [Living Costs and Food Survey \(formerly the Expenditure and Food Survey\)](#)
- [Living in Wales Survey](#)
- [National Food Survey](#)
- [National Survey for Wales](#)
- [National Travel Survey](#)
- [Northern Ireland Family Expenditure Survey](#)
- [Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey](#)
- [Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey \(and the former Northern Ireland Social Attitudes\)](#)
- [Opinions and Lifestyle Survey \(formerly the ONS Opinions Survey and ONS Omnibus Survey\)](#)
- [Scottish Crime and Justice Survey \(and the former Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey and Scottish Crime Survey\)](#)
- [Scottish Health Survey \(SHeS\)](#)
- [Scottish Social Attitudes](#)

#### Latest News

[STAT-JR workshop](#)

[Health surveys user meeting](#)

[IPS workshop](#)

[FRS user meeting](#)

[Employment guide updated](#)

[Small Area Estimation guide updated](#)

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# Why Large Scale government surveys?

## Because the data are...

- Cost effective: free of charge to not for profit researchers
  - Saves time: no need to conduct survey
- High quality, well documented data
- Nationally representative - allows generalisation to population
- Allows historical and geographical comparisons to be made
- ESRC funded data support services



# Government Surveys

- Conducted by:
  - Office for National Statistics (ONS)
  - NatCen
  - or similar...
- Collected face to face
  - CAPI (and CASI)
- Household Surveys
  - Typically exclude communal establishments
  - May include one, all or some residents
- Often narrow in scope but deep in coverage



# Did you say "Microdata"?

Individual cases are maintained – each record contains a wide range of characteristics

\*hse08ai.sav [DataSet1] - SPSS Data Editor

	origin	eqv5	eqvinc	hhdtypeb	hhsiz	marstatc	topqual2
1	White - Bri...	Middle Quintil...	24700.00	2 adults, 1 or both aged 60+, no children	2	Married	NVQ2/GCE C
2	White - Bri...	Middle Quintil...	24700.00	2 adults, 1 or both aged 60+, no children	2	Married	No qualificat
3	White - Bri...	Second highe...	28057.55	Small family	4	Item not applica...	Item not app
4	White - Bri...	Second highe...	28057.55	Small family	4	Item not applica...	Item not app
5	White - Bri...	Lowest Quintil...	10655.74	1 adult, aged 60+, no children	1	Widowed	No qualificat
6	White - Bri...	Middle Quintil...	27300.00	2 adults, 1 or both aged 60+, no children	2	Married	NVQ4/NVQ5
7	White - Bri...	Middle Quintil...	27300.00	2 adults, 1 or both aged 60+, no children	2	Married	No qualificat
8	White - Bri...	Item not appli...	Item not appli...	2 adults, both 16-59, no children	2	Married	NVQ2/GCE C
9	Any other (...)	Middle Quintil...	23442.62	1 adult aged 16-59, no children	1	Separated	No qualificat
10	White - Bri...	Item not appli...	Item not appli...	Large adult household	4	Married	NVQ4/NVQ5
11	Any other ...	Item not appli...	Item not appli...	Large adult household	4	Married	NVQ4/NVQ5
12	White - Bri...	Item not appli...	Item not appli...	Large adult household	4	Item not applica...	Item not app
13	White - Bri...	Highest Quinti...	55147.06	Large adult household	3	Married	NVQ4/NVQ5
14	White - Bri...	Highest Quinti...	55147.06	Large adult household	3	Married	NVQ4/NVQ5
15	Any other ...	Highest Quinti...	55147.06	Large adult household	3	Single	FT Stud
16	White - Bri...	Second lowes...	12061.86	2 adults, both 16-59, no children	2	Single	NVQ2/GCE C
17	White - Bri...	Second lowes...	12061.86	2 adults, both 16-59, no children	2	Single	FT Stud
18	Any other ...	Highest Quinti...	49400.00	2 adults, both 16-59, no children	2	Cohabitees	NVQ4/NVQ5
19	White - Bri...	Highest Quinti...	49400.00	2 adults, both 16-59, no children	2	Cohabitees	NVQ4/NVQ5

# What are they like?

- **Sample data**
- **Snapshot data (“cross-sectional”)**
- **Long-running series (ie the LFS)**
- **Large (between 10 and 500,000)**
- **Flexible**

# ESDS Government

- Supports major UK data series
  - Large surveys commissioned by government departments E.g.:
    - Labour Force Survey
    - Living Cost and Food Survey
    - British Crime Survey
    - Health Survey for England
  - Repeated cross-sections, some longitudinal
  - Important, widely used microdata
- Joint service
  - Team at Data Archive receive and archive data
  - Team at Manchester deal with users
  - User registration managed by ESDS centrally



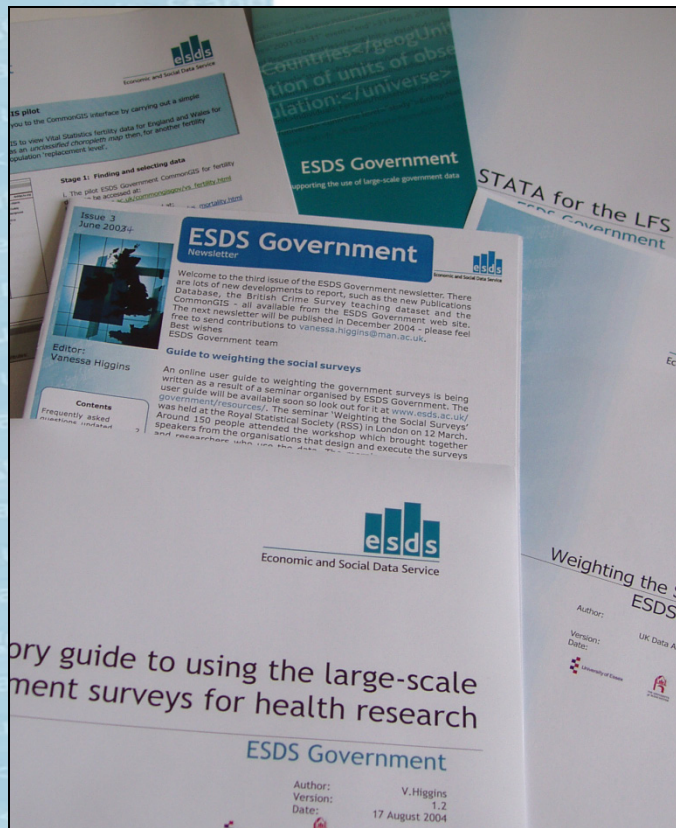
# Our role

- Promoting the use of the data
- Helping users find the *right* materials
- Creating additional materials to help users discover datasets and supporting materials
- Encouraging good practice
- Bridging the gap between data collector and users



# Useful resources

- Thematic Guides:
  - labour market analysis
- Methodological Guides
  - SPSS, Stata,R
  - Guide to weighting
  - Analysing change over time
- Links to other web resources  
<http://www.esds.ac.uk/government/resources>



# Large Scale Government Surveys

- Labour Force Survey
- Other surveys with labour market variables
  - Family Resources Survey
    - Household income & Benefit
  - Health Surveys
    - General health + thematic issues
  - (Living Costs and Food Survey)
    - Consumption patterns
- One off / occasional surveys
  - Work-life balance, commuting: Time Use Survey
- Limited availability at ESDS *Government*:
  - Working conditions
  - Longitudinal data



# The Labour Force Surveys

- Largest and most widely used in the UK
- Quarterly sample:
  - 25,000 households, 105,000 individuals
- Person vs family vs household estimates
- Rotating panel design
- Several flavours
  - Quarterly LFS 1992-
  - Annual LFS 1975-1991
  - Household dataset 1992-
  - Local Area LFS 1992-2005
  - Five / two quarter Longitudinal LFS
  - Eurostat *Yearly* datasets
  - Annual population Survey



# The Labour Force Surveys(2)

- Stratified random sample -> robustness
- Variables
  - Earnings
  - Hours: actual, overtime, flexible
  - Temporary absence: sickness, leave
  - Unemployment, non employment, job search
  - Education, incl training schemes
  - SIC/SOC industry/occupation 1/3/4 digits
  - Retrospective employment information
  - Health, religion (generic)
- Weights regularly updated
- Stata, SPSS, SAS, Nesstar (online)



# **Large scale government surveys in labour market research**

## **A few examples of data uses**



# 1. Employment and Health



# Health Survey for England (1)

- Yearly since 1991
- Individual + household file
- Sample size: 14,000 (2010)
- Core questions + one thematic issue
  - Questionnaire-based answers
  - Physical measurements ie blood samples, blood pressure, height and weight
  - Nurse measured
  - Smoking, drinking
- General health questions are covered every year

# Health Survey for England (2)

- Information about children aged 2-15
- Also: Scottish, Welsh Health Survey, Northern Ireland Health and Social Wellbeing Survey
- Variables:
  - Highest Educational Qualification
  - NS-SEC 8/5/3 categories social class,
  - SOC 2000 occupation
  - Whether full-time or part-time
  - Household income (banded)
  - Time since last employed
  - Workplace size
  - ILO employment + self employment



# Family Resources Survey (1)

- Income & resources of households in the UK
- 43,000 observations (2010), 25,000 households
- Clustered design
- Yearly from 1992-
- Individual/Household/Benefit unit
- Variables
  - Income and State Support Receipt
  - Tenure
  - Savings and Investments
  - Carers and Disability



# Family Resources Survey (2)

- Employment variables
  - Standardised ILO variables
  - Years in full/part-time work
  - Looking for full time/part-time job
  - Working-time
- Feeds into EU-SILC
  - Comparability
  - Longitudinal component (4 yearly waves)
  - UK contribution to EU-SILC
- More information:
  - <http://esds.ac.uk/government/frs/>
  - <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/>

# Large samples & small groups

Increasing need for accurate data for

- specific groups
- small areas
- both
- Cost of dedicated surveys vs pooling of existing resources
- Two `surveys`
  - Annual Population Survey
    - In effect, a yearly LFS
  - Integrated Household Survey
    - Outcome of harmonisation of government surveys



# Annual Population Survey

- Made of:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> & 5th quarters of the LFS
  - Boosters for England, Wales, & NI
- Large sample: 314,000 individuals (2011)
- Experimental well-being variables
- Special License version includes
  - NUTS2-3 areas:
    - Unitary Authorities (England);
    - Local Authority Districts
  - 4 digits industry and occupation
  - Place of work vs residence
  - Education: number/name of subjects



# Longitudinal data

- Following people over time
- Transitions important for labour market analysis
  - Ex return to work, mothers of young children
- Longitudinal Labour Force Survey
- Two flavours:
  - 5 quarter 15 months/2 quarters 6 months
  - Reduced sample size may be pooled

# Three layers of access

- End User License:
  - Most of our data is (suits most needs)
  - Registration needed
  - Access if affiliated with UK higher education
  - Others need to apply (incl from abroad)
    - <http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/sign-up/credentials-application>
  - Quick + FREE (not for profit users)
- Special Licence
  - Application for `Approved researchers` status
  - Need to provide description of project
  - <http://www.esds.ac.uk/orderingdata/specialLicence.asp#onssl>
  - May take several weeks
- Secure Data Access



# Secure Data Service



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# Labour and Employment Data in SDS

Quarterly Labour Force Survey, 1992-2010

Annual Population Survey, 2004-2010

Detailed geography, education and training , household and family characteristics , employment , unemployment and job hunting , nationality, national identity and country of birth , occurrence of learning difficulty or disability , benefits,

Scottish Employer Skills Survey, 2008

Scottish Register of Employment, 1950-1993

Business Data

ARD

ASHE

WERS

MWSS

# A FOUR-STEP APPLICATION PROCESS

- 1. Find the dataset you wish to use**
- 2. Apply using the ESDS registration service**
- 3. Complete an Approved/Accredited Researcher application form**
- 4. Attend a half-day training seminar**

# The Concept.....

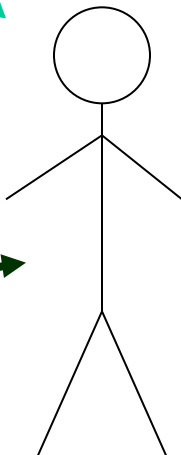
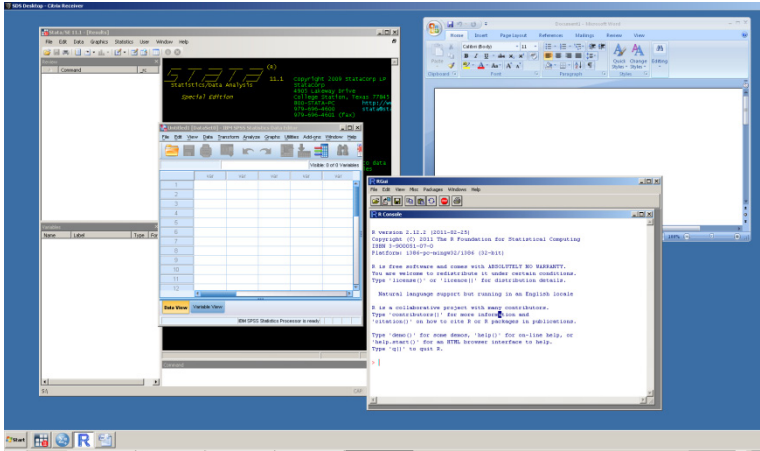
- **SDS Security Model**
- **Research Data Centre - 'remote'**
- **Access via your institution desktop based on your IP address**
- **Access is available on 24/7 basis**
  - **No internet access within the Secure Area/ data traffic**
  - **SDS team only one able to upload/download**
  - **Software defined by the service**
  - **Output checking for SDC**

# HOW A VIRTUAL RDC WORKS

Researcher



queries  
feedback  
comments



- Send files to upload
- Receive cleared results back



Thank you for your attention

**Any questions?**



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