

FAMILY RESOURCES SURVEY
INTERVIEWER'S GUIDE
TO
CHANGES

April 2002

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1 SUMMARY

Welcome to another year of the 'Family Resources Survey'. This is the second year of the current 3-year FRS contract.

This booklet describes changes made to the questionnaire for April 2002. We hope that these changes are helpful and constitute an improvement to the survey. Many changes directly meet our client's (DWP) changing needs for information, whilst others are in response to comments made by interviewers throughout the year and in the Field Report.

We are aware that we have not been able to implement all suggestions for change. Typically the reason is that the suggestions concerned harmonised questions which need to remain consistent across surveys. Sometimes the DWP did not agree with all suggestions, there were technical problems or unanticipated knock-on effects.

What's Gone and What's Back?

Two sections of the survey - Consumer Durables and Vehicle Ownership - have been 'rotated off' (ie: removed for 2002/03), and two sections - NHS and Travel to Work questions - have been re-introduced for this year (see Section 2).

What's New?

There are also a small number of new questions this year on topics such as income from investments, water and sewerage and disability. There is a new set of questions regarding payments made **to** absent partners to complement the questions currently asked about those made **from** absent partners and new questions to record more details about usual pay.

What's Changed?

There are relatively few changes to existing questions this year. In June 2001 the DSS changed its name to The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). This is now reflected in the questionnaire. There has been a reordering of the Water and Sewerage, Council Tax and Accommodation Charge Blocks. The benefit categories at Ben5Q have been restructured so that only benefits with a six month reference period are included here. Together the Social Fund and Winter Fuel categories form a new question, Ben4Q, with a twelve month reference period.

Showcards

You will receive a new set of Showcards this year. These have been updated to reflect changes to the program.

Benefit Rates' Checks

The benefit amounts in the 'checks' have been amended in line with the new amounts starting in April 2002. However, some do not come in until after the fieldwork has begun, so at the beginning of the month, you may find yourself being 'checked' erroneously. If this occurs, suppress the check and continue. We will have a program update in May to fix these discrepancies.

Note

This booklet describes only changes which have a significant impact on interviewers. There are other changes, such as new derived variables, minor amendments, and technical fixes, which are not covered here.

'SOFT CHECK' = 'SIGNAL' both here and in the Interviewer Instructions

'HARD CHECK' = 'ERROR' both here and in the Interviewer Instructions

2 'ROTATION' OF QUESTION BLOCKS

'Rotated' sections of the questionnaire are asked every *other* year. This yields enough data for useful analysis, whilst reducing the burden on respondents and interviewers. FRS users have agreed to rotate off two sections this year, and to reinstate two sections from the previous year.

Rotated Off: Household Durables

(Block: QModCons)

The questions covering household durables will be rotated off for 2002/03. The exception is that questions about both Black and White and Colour Television sets (ConTV[1], ConTV[2]) and also Concessionary TV licences (TVLic) remain on route.

Name	Question	
ConTV[1]	Does your household have ... a colour TV set? 1: 1 only 2: more than one 3: none	Remain On
ConTV[2]	And does your household have a black and white TV set? 1: 1 only 2: more than one 3: none	Remain On
TVLic	Do you claim a concessionary television licence? 1: Yes 2: No	Remain On
ModCons	Does your household have any of the following items? ... 'TV satellite receiver - not digital' ... 'TV cable receiver - not digital ' ... 'Digital TV receiver (terrestrial, cable or satellite)' ... 'video recorder/player' ... 'deep freeze or fridge freezer' ... 'washing machine' ... 'tumble dryer' ... 'dishwasher' ... 'microwave oven' ... 'fixed telephone' ... 'mobile telephone' ... 'compact disc (CD) player' ... 'home computer' ... 'internet access'	Rotated Off
CentHeat	Do you have central heating in this accommodation... this may include storage heaters?	Rotated Off
CentFuel	What fuel does it use?	Rotated Off

Rotated Off: Vehicle Ownership Questions

(Block: QTVehic)

Questions concerning vehicle ownership are rotated off for 2002/03.

Name	Question	
UseVcl (Jump10)	SHOWCARD L How many motor vehicles do you at present own or have continuous use of? INCLUDE COMPANY CARS - UNLESS NO PRIVATE USE ALLOWED	Rotated Off Showcard removed for 2002/03
TypeVcl	I would now like to ask about the [first/second etc] vehicle. Is it...?	Rotated Off
PrivVcl	Is the vehicle... 1. privately owned, 2. or is it a company vehicle?	Rotated Off
AnyMore	Do (any of) you at present own or have continuous use of any more motor vehicles?	Rotated Off

Reinstated : National Health Treatment Questions

(Block: QWelfare)

Questions concerning National Health Services and Free prescriptions are reinstated for this year. The questions covering free welfare milk and free school meals (FreeItem and MLIntro) will be retained for 2002/03.

Name	Question	
NHS	"In the past 4 weeks, have any of you..READ OUT...CODE ALL THAT APPLY... 1:received something on prescription, 2:visited the dentist for an NHS examination or treatment, 3:had an eyesight test, 4:purchased glasses or contact lenses, 5:or been to hospital for NHS treatment? 6: (None of these)	Reinstated
Per	Who received the items on prescription? Who visited the dentist? Who had the eyesight test? Who purchased the glasses or contact lenses? Who went to hospital?	Reinstated
PrIt	"How many items did <name> receive during the past 4 weeks?"	Reinstated
Free	"Were the items free of charge or did [name] have to pay for them?" 1: Free of Charge 2: Had to Pay	Reinstated

Free	Was the examination or treatment free of charge or did [name] have to pay? 1: Free of charge 2: Had to pay.	Reinstated
Free	Was the sight test free of charge or did [name] have to pay? 1: Free of charge 2: Had to pay	Reinstated
WhyFree	What are the main reasons for that being free of charge? 1: Entitled through a social security benefit (IS, JSA, WFTC, DPTC) 2: Because they have a charges certificate HC2 3: Due to a medical condition (or a relative's medical condition) 4: Because they required strong 'complex' lenses 5: Expecting a baby 6: Other reason	Reinstated
Voucher	For the glasses/contact lenses, was an NHS voucher used to help with the cost? 1: Yes 2: No	Reinstated
Trav	Did [name] get any money back at the hospital , for travel costs?	Reinstated
WhyTrav	"What were the main reasons for getting money back for travel costs?" 1: Entitled through a social security benefit (IS, JSA, WFTC, DPTC) 2: Because they have a charges certificate HC2 3: Due to a medical condition (or a relative's medical condition) 4: Because they required strong 'complex' lenses 5: Expecting a baby 6: Other reason	Reinstated
Xintro	"Has anyone else had anything on prescription... Has anyone else visited the dentist... Has anyone else had an eyesight test... Has anyone else purchased glasses or contact lenses... ...during the past 4 weeks?	Reinstated

Reinstated: Travel to Work Questions

(Block: QTravel)

We also welcome back the Travel to Work questions for this year.

Name	Question	
TtWFar	"About how far do you have to travel to your usual place of work?"	Reinstated
TtWFrq	"On how many days of the week do you usually travel to your usual place of work?"	Reinstated
TtWMod	"How do you usually travel to work?"	Reinstated
TtWPss	"Do you have a season ticket, bus pass or travelcard?"	Reinstated
PssAmt	"How much does the season ticket/bus pass/travelcard cost?"	Reinstated
PssDate	"And how long is it valid for?"	Reinstated
OthDate	"Please specify...?"	Reinstated
Fare	"How much does the journey by bus/train/tube or works bus/company transport cost each time?"	Reinstated
OneWay	"Is that the one way or return fare?"	Reinstated
TtWPay	"Do you pay for ALL, SOME or NONE of the costs of taking the [vehicle] to work?"	Reinstated
TtWCode	INTERVIEWER: PROBE AND CODE... 1: Respondent is passenger and contributes money to others 2: Respondent is driver and receives money from passengers/employer etc 3: Some other arrangement (neither of the above)	Reinstated
TtWCost	"How much do you pay per week?"	Reinstated
TtWRec	"How much do you receive per week?"	Reinstated

HOUSEHOLD SCHEDULE

Coding sex in the Household Grid

(HHG)

To resolve confusion over whose sex one is coding, the household grid now includes a textfill for name at the question for coding sex.

Sex	INTERVIEWER: CODE ^NAME'S SEX. 1. Male 2. Female
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Educational Establishments

(HHG)

The categories that are used to determine which educational establishment a child is currently attending have been changed to bring them into line with DfES surveys.

This incorporates a split for Primary and Nursery, the inclusion of Middle schools – deemed-Primary or Secondary, the clarification of Independent schools in the Private category and the inclusion of City Technology Colleges in the Private school example to avoid these being recorded within Non-advanced education. A help screen providing details about Middle schools has also been added. The changes are shown in bold.

Type Ed	<p>"What type of school or college does ^He/She attend?"</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nursery school/ nursery class/ playgroup/pre-school 2. State run primary (including reception classes) 3. Special school state run (e.g. for children with disabilities and special educational needs) 4. Middle-deemed primary school (state run or assisted) 5. Middle-deemed secondary school (state run or assisted) 6. Secondary school (state run or assisted) 7. Non-advanced further education/ 6th form/tertiary/further education college 8. Any PRIVATE/Independent school (prep, primary, secondary, City Technology Colleges) 9. University/polytechnic/any other <i>higher</i> education <p>HELP <F9> "Age ranges for Middle-deemed Primary 8-12 9-12 9-13</p>
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	<p>Age ranges for Middle-deemed Secondary</p> <p>9-13</p> <p>10-13</p> <p>10-14"</p> <p>Please note that although these categories overlap, the Department for Education and Skills have advised us that parents will be aware of the classification of their child's school.</p>
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Mortgages

(Block: QOwner)

The number and type of mortgages available have diversified over recent years. To provide background and guidance as to what should be recorded, and where, a help screen has been included at MortFlex.

MortFlex	<p>HELP <F9></p> <p>There are two types of flexible mortgage. In the first it is just a mortgage but the borrower can vary the timing or amount of payments. In the second, the mortgage is combined with a current or savings account and so all the money in the account goes to pay off the mortgage, but money which has already been used to pay off the mortgage can be withdrawn at a later date.</p> <p>If the respondent is unsure how to answer the last mortgage payment, for example, they regularly make flexible payments, then they should record the <u>basic monthly repayment</u> on the flexible mortgage account. That is, the <u>minimum</u> they have to pay each month to pay off the mortgage within the term initially agreed with the lender.</p> <p>IF THE FLEXIBLE MORTGAGE IS COMBINED WITH A CURRENT/SAVING ACCOUNT THEN WHEN RECORDING INFORMATION ON CURRENT ACCOUNTS AND/OR SAVINGS THESE SHOULD BE ADJUSTED TO REMOVE THE MORTGAGE ELEMENT.</p>
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Water and Sewerage

a) Reordering of blocks

(Block: QWaterSew)

Interviewers have commented that water and sewerage questions flow logically from the Council Tax questions and people often keep all those documents together.

However, questions about property charges stood in between these two blocks. Thus the WaterSew and AccomCharge blocks have swapped positions to improve the flow of the questionnaire.

The order of blocks in England and Wales is now as follows:

QCounTax – Council Tax questions

QWaterSew – water and sewerage charges

QAccomCharge – property charges

b) Introduction of new water and sewerage questions

(Block: QWaterSew)

The increased use of water meters and widening variety of charging methods employed by water companies has necessitated a review of the water and sewerage questions. Additional questions concerning the annual bill (WatAnul, SewAnul, WsewAnul) are now asked after the questions about the last bill (WatTime, SewTime and WsewTime). This is asked because bills may be variable and therefore it is not possible to compute an annual bill.

WatAnul, SewAnul, WsewAnul	How much is your annual bill?
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There is a signal to make sure that the annual amount is roughly equivalent to the instalments paid. This signal is associated with both the separate water and sewerage charges and also the combined charges.

SIGNAL

INTERVIEWER: The Annual Payment for water and sewerage rates/charges (WsewAnul) is very different from the total for individual payments (WsewTime x WsewAmt). Please check these figures

There is also a new question asked only of those who have metered charges that asks whether respondents are eligible for assistance under the Water Industry Act 1999 (WatRb). This assistance is to protect vulnerable groups from high water charges. Interviewer guidance has also been included here.

To qualify for assistance the Household must be metered. The Claimant must also be eligible to receive certain benefits or tax credits (such as Income Support, Working Families Tax Credit, Disabled Persons Tax Credit or JobSeekers Allowance) and fulfil one of the following criteria:

They hold responsibility for three or more children under 16.

Or

They suffer from a specified medical condition which causes the household to use significantly more water (desquamation, a weeping skin disease, incontinence, abdominal stomas, renal failure requiring home dialysis).

Or

They have a child with a medical condition outlined above.

WatRb	<p>Are you receiving a rebate for your water or sewerage charges?</p> <p>HELP <F9></p> <p>The vast majority of people have to pay the full water and sewerage charges but there are also a few metered who are eligible for assistance under the Vulnerable Groups Scheme (Water Industry Act 1999). Under this scheme people who qualify receive a bill capped at the average charge for their region and do not have to pay the measured charge reflecting their genuine water consumption.</p>
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Property Charges

(Block: QAccomCharge)

Until now, respondents were asked to provide separate total amounts for various property charges. However, some respondents were unsure of the separate amounts, guessed the division and provided inaccurate values. Interviewers have also raised the point that ground rent, service charges or maintenance charges are often not itemised separately.

In response, an additional category has been inserted to allow a combined amount to be recorded for ground rent, service charge and maintenance charge. Please use this category instead of 1, 4 or 5 if they are collected together and the respondent only knows the total.

Charge	<p>SHOW CARD I.</p> <p>In connection with this accommodation do you pay any of the charges shown on this card?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ground rent 2. Feu Duty 3. Chief Rent 4. Service Charge 5. Compulsory or regular maintenance charges 6. Site rent (caravans) 7. Factoring (payments to a land Steward) 8. Any other regular payments 9. Combined ground rent, service charge and maintenance charge 10. None of these <p>HELP <F9></p> <p>Use the combined charge category when it is not possible for respondents to split out separate amounts for ground rent, service charge and maintenance charge. If you record a combined amount, do not record the separate amounts as well.</p>
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To ensure that information from separate ground rent, service charges and maintenance charges is not double counted at combined amount there is a signal.

SIGNAL

If Charge=9 and 1 and 4 and 5

"Only code combined charges instead of the separate ground rent, service charge and maintenance charges"

School related Childcare

(Block: QChCare)

The question relating to types of childcare used by the respondent has been amended to determine the prevalence of school related childcare (ChLook). The nursery category has been extended to include School and there is an additional category covering After School Childcare and Holiday Play Schemes.

ChLook	<p>"Who looks after ^ChName/ @ /PROBE: Anyone else?"</p> <p>CODE ALL THAT APPLY</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Close relative2. Other Relative3. Friend/Neighbour4. Childminder5. Nursery/School/Playgroup6. Creche7. Employer provided nursery8. Nanny/ AuPair9. After School or holiday play Scheme10. Other
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Certificate of Eligibility

(Block: QChCare)

When parents were asked about paying for childcare, one of the categories was a certificate of eligibility or voucher. As these do not exist any more that category has been removed and the question now reads as follows.

ChPay	<p>"Do you make any other payment in kind, or other form of compensation?"</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Payment in kind2. Exchange basis3. Other4. No (other) cost or payment of any kind
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3 BENEFIT UNIT SCHEDULE

Disability

(Block: QHealth)

A new question concerning disability has been introduced for this year to capture the extent to which health problems and disabilities affect areas of the respondents' lives. This question is asked of all dependent children aged 16-18 years as well as adult respondents. For this reason, please exclude all difficulties that are to be expected of a child of that age.

DisDif	SHOWCARD O "Does this health problem(s) or disability(ies) mean that you have significant difficulties with any of these areas of your life? PROBE: Which others?": 1. Mobility (moving about) 2. Ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects 3. Manual dexterity (using your hands to carry out everyday tasks) 4. Continence (bladder control) 5. Communication (through speaking, listening, reading or writing) 6. Memory or ability to concentrate, learn or understand 7. Understanding when you are in physical danger 8. Other area of life 9. None of these
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Education Maintenance Allowance

(Block QChInc)

Educational Maintenance Allowance is available for young people aged up to 19 years old, however at present the instructions for EMA questions in FRS are only for those up to age 18.

In order to capture these cases, new questions have been introduced for those who are receiving education and are aged 19. These questions are to be asked to adults themselves, unlike those for 16-18 year olds which are asked to parents about their children. The questions are located between AdEduc and Grant.

EMA	"Do you receive an Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) as part of the new Government pilot scheme?"
EMAmt	"How much did you receive last time?"
EMAPd	"How long did that cover?"

Gross wage

(Block: QEmpJob)

Gross Wage (GrWage) is now collected from all those asked about pay, not just those for whom a pay slip has been consulted.

There is also a signal to ensure that Tax Credits are recorded in the correct manner at both HowTax (which asks how Tax Credits are received) and InclPay (which asks what is included in net pay).

SIGNAL

If HowTax=1 and InclPay<>6 (tax credit)
Respondent is receiving tax credit through their pay but they did not record a tax credit as an element of their net pay at InclPay. Please check and amend.

Tax credits in wages

(Block: QEmpJob)

Some interviewers expressed concern as to whether including Working Families Tax Credit in net pay at PayAmt double counts the Information recorded at WFTCAmt. The rule for treatment of tax credits is to include them in PayAmt and UNett (net pay) but not in GrWage or UGross (gross pay). To clarify this, the wording of PayAmt, GrWage, UNett and UGross has been altered.

PayAmt	What was your last take home pay, overtime, bonus, commission, tips or other payments such as tax credits?
GrWage	What was the GROSS wage/salary - i.e. the TOTAL, BEFORE ANY DEDUCTIONS but excluding any tax credit payments? INTERVIEWER NOTE: ANY TAX CREDITS RECEIVED SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE FIGURE GIVEN HERE.
UNett	What do/did you usually receive AFTER all deductions but including other payments such as Tax Credits?
UGross	What do/did you usually receive BEFORE all deductions but excluding any tax credit payments?

To ensure tax credits have been included in the amount given for take home pay, there is also a signal. This signal appears if the respondent says that they receive their Tax Credit through their wages/pay packet (Category 1 at HowTax), yet their take home pay (PayAmt) plus all deductions, PAYE and National Insurance contributions is equal to their Gross Wage (Grwage). This is because the Tax Credit has either not been included at Pay Amt or has been included at GrWage.

SIGNAL

If the respondent receives tax credit through their pay this should have been included in the figure they have for net pay. Please check that the respondent included the amount received for the tax credit in their net pay and that they did not include it in the amount they gave for gross pay. Please also check for any deductions which have not been reported and that the amounts reported for tax and national insurance are correct

Recording usual pay

(Block: QEmpJob)

a) What is usual pay?

There has been some confusion in the past about whether pay should be considered usual if it has just changed. Usual Pay is the amount that the respondent usually expects to receive. If the respondent's last pay was the first time that they had received a change in salary, or new payments or deductions began, and the respondent will be receiving this amount from this point on, then the last pay is treated as usual. For example, if the respondent has just received the first month of a new salary then they should say that it is usual even if it is the first time they have received it.

If the last pay amount contains unusual or one-off payments or deductions then it is not usual. Also, if the respondents salary has changed but they have not yet received the new amount then the pay they just received is not usual. At the usual questions they should record the amount they will receive next time.

In order to explore this we have introduced a question about why pay has changed (WhyNoUs1). If the answer is 'Other' please collect verbatim answers. However, replies will go to DWP so do not include personal data, such as the name of employers etc.

Changed or new questions are shown in bold.

PayUs1	Your wage/salary after all deductions was ^vpayamt. Is this the amount you usually receive? 1. Yes 2. No 3. No such thing as usual amount
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WhyNoUs1	Why was your last pay not usual – CODE ALL THAT APPLY. 1. Included a Tax rebate 2. I am currently being emergency taxed 3. Inclusion of one-off bonus/profit/performance-related payment 4. Inclusion of back pay 5. Unusual payment of deductions/expenses 6. New tax year 7. Just started or finished receiving tax credits/SSP/SMP or change in amount. 8. Wage/salary change 9. Change of job 10. Other (please code) If WhyNoUs1 = Other
Nousuoth	Please explain in a note why last pay not usual.

b) More details about usual pay

A number of new questions have been added so that as much information as is collected for last pay can also be collected for usual pay.

Changed or new questions are shown in bold.

UNett	What do/did you usually receive AFTER all deductions but including other payments such as Tax Credits?
UGross	What do/did you usually receive BEFORE all deductions but excluding any tax credit payments?
Upd	How often ^are/were you usually paid?
InclPay & InclPay1	SHOW CARD T Did/Does your usual wage/salary include any of the items on this card? CODE ALL THAT APPLY 1. Statutory Sick Pay 2. Statutory Maternity Pay 3. Income Tax refund 4. Mileage allowance or fixed allowance for motoring 5. Motoring expenses refund 6. Tax Credit 7. None of these
OthDed1	Which of these are deductions are from your usual wage/salary?

	<p>READ OUT: PROMPT EACH ITEM INDIVIDUALLY...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pension or superannuation? HELP <F9> 2. AVC's (Additional Voluntary Contributions)? 3. Union fees? 4. Friendly societies? 5. sports clubs or specialised pastimes? 6. repayment of a loan from your employer? 7. Private medical insurance? 8. Charities? 9. any other deductions we have not mentioned so far? 10. None of these
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There are a number of follow up questions which are asked only if certain codes have been selected at InclPay, InclPay1 and OthDeduc1 and if certain answers have been given at WhyNoUs1. These are outlined below.

USSPAmt	How much was included for Statutory Sick Pay in usual pay? INTERVIEWER: THIS SHOULD BE SHOWN ON THE PAYSリップ. IF NOT, ENTER 'DON'T KNOW'.
USMPAmt	How much was included for Statutory Maternity Pay in usual pay? INTERVIEWER: THIS SHOULD BE SHOWN ON THE PAYSリップ. IF NOT, ENTER 'DON'T KNOW'."
UtaxAmt	How much was included as Income Tax refund in usual pay?
UmileAmt	How much was included for mileage allowance in usual pay?
UmotAmt	How much was included for motoring expenses in usual pay?
Udeduc	How much was usually deducted for 'Deduction' (mentioned at OthDed1)?
UdedOth	OPEN A NOTE AND DESCRIBE THESE 'OTHER' DEDUCTIONS, WITH AMOUNTS. THEN ADD THEM UP AND ENTER THE TOTAL AT THIS QUESTION.

Statutory Maternity Pay

(Block: QEmpJob)

Currently in the last pay section at InclPay we ask whether this amount included Statutory Maternity Pay. We then ask how much was included for SMP (SMPAmt). If the response is D/K the follow up question SMPRate appears which asks whether the respondent knows whether they receive the higher rate or the lower rate. To make it clear what the lower and higher rates of Statutory Maternity Pay are, a help screen has been added at SMPRate and USMPRate.

SMPRate & USMPRate	<p>HELP <F9></p> <p>Statutory Maternity Pay has an 18 week duration. The first six weeks are paid at 90 per cent of the respondents average weekly earnings (normally based on two months' earnings). This is the higher rate. The remaining 12 weeks are paid at £75.00 a week which is the lower rate. If 90 per cent of the respondent's average earnings is less than £75.00 then they receive £75.00 throughout (code as lower rate).</p>
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Working Families Tax Credit

(Block: QTaxCred)

In response to suggestions from interviewers a soft check has been inserted if respondents report receiving WFTC but there are no children recorded in the household grid.

SIGNAL

Working Families' Tax Credit is normally only paid if there is a child in the household. Did you have a child in the household who was under 16 in April 2002 or do you have a child who normally stays with you but is not here at present?
INTERVIEWER: IF NO CHILD BUT RECEIVED WFTC SUPPRESS AND MAKE A NOTE.

Travel to Work

(Block: QTravel)

The categories at the Travel to work question (TTWMod) have been amended. Changes are presented in bold.

TTWMod	<p>How do you usually travel to work?</p> <p>PROBE FOR MAIN METHOD</p> <p>1: car/van (include minibus/works van)</p> <p>2: motorbike/moped/scooter</p> <p>3: bicycle</p> <p>4: bus (include coach, private bus)</p> <p>5: railway train</p> <p>6: London underground train</p> <p>7: light railway/tram</p> <p>8: walk</p> <p>9: taxi</p> <p>10: other</p>
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Travelcard/ Season Ticket

(Block: QTravel)

A soft check at £80pw has been introduced on the amount paid for a travelcard or season ticket (PSSAmt).

SIGNAL

This amount is much larger than the amounts usually given at this question. Please check
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Stakeholder Pensions

(Block: QPens)

a) New help screen

Stakeholder pensions were introduced by the government in April 2001. Interviewers indicated that some were not very familiar with them and nor were respondents. Additional information about Stakeholder pensions is now provided for interviewers on a help screen at StakeP and EmpPay.

StakeP	HELP <F9>
EmpPay	Stakeholder pensions became available from 6 April 2001 and are intended to provide a low charge, privately funded, supplement to the basic state pension. Many people can pay into them even if they have an existing occupational pension. You can pay in up to £3,600 each year. Contributions can be made direct to pension providers or, often, through an employer. Tax relief is usually given on contributions. The schemes are regulated so that a limit is set on the amount providers can charge for servicing the pension.

b) Additional question

Stakeholder pensions can be taken out by the respondent either for themselves or someone else. To reflect this a new question has been added.

SpWho	Is this Stakeholder pension being taken out for yourself or someone else? 1. Myself 2. Someone else
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State second pension

(Block: QPens)

April 2002 sees SERPS replaced with the State Second Pension. Thus, references to SERPS and contracting out of SERPS have been replaced with State Second Pension.

PPDSS, SPDSS, Ben1Q	Note changes to guidance wording at these questions.
PPReb	Some people have a personal pension that is opted out of the State Second Pension (formerly SERPS) . This type of pension receives a contribution paid in once a year, from the Inland Revenue. Have you ever had a pension of this type?

Benefit questions

(Block: QBenefit)

Some respondents receive many different benefits. In order to avoid confusion, the name of each benefit received by the respondent has been incorporated into the questions that ask details about these benefits. This mainly affects HowBen (how the benefit is paid to the respondent) and BenAmt (how much they got last time).

Social fund and winter fuel payment

(Block: QBenefit)

DWP want to ask about Social Fund payments over a 12 month reference period rather than the existing 6 month period. The benefit categories at Ben5Q have been restructured so that only benefits with a six month reference period are included here. The categories referring to Social Fund grants have been removed from Ben5Q. The solitary Winter Fuel Payment question has also been removed from the questionnaire. Together the Social Fund and Winter Fuel categories form a new question Ben4Q with a twelve month reference period.

Ben4Q	<p>SHOWCARD DD</p> <p>"In the last 12 months, have you received any of the things shown on this card, in your own right?"</p> <p>1: A grant from the Social Fund for funeral expenses</p> <p>2: Grant from Social Fund for maternity expenses/Sure Start Maternity Grant</p> <p>3: A Social Fund loan or Community Care grant</p> <p>4: Winter Fuel Payment</p> <p>5: None of these</p>
Ben5Q	<p>SHOWCARD EE</p> <p>"In the last 6 months, have you received any of the things shown on this card, in your own right?"</p> <p>1: A Back to Work Bonus</p> <p>2: 'Extended payment' of Housing Benefit/rent rebate, or Council Tax Benefit (4 week payment only)</p> <p>3: Widows Payment or Bereavement Payment- paid in lump sum</p> <p>4: Child Maintenance Bonus</p> <p>5: Lone Parent's Benefit Run-On</p> <p>6: Any National Insurance or State benefit not mentioned earlier</p> <p>7: None of these</p>

Removed WintFuel	"In the last 12 months, have you received 'winter fuel payment in your own right?'"
-----------------------------	--

Minimum Income Guarantee

(Block: QBenefit)

For those aged 60 or over the benefit they receive is called Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) rather than Income Support. This is now reflected in the questionnaire, along with a help screen for guidance.

Ben3Q & B3Qfut	At category 2 there is a new textfill in place so that: For those over 60 it reads "Income Support/Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG)", and for those aged 16-59 it reads "Income Support" only. HELP <F9> "Income Support is for people aged 16 or over whose income is below a certain level. MIG is a new, higher income threshold delivered through income support for those aged 60 or over"
-------------------------------	---

Back to Work bonus

(Block: QBenefit)

To clarify the situation with Back to Work bonuses the following information has been included at BTWACC if BTWAMT is answered.

BTWACC	'INTERVIEWER NOTE: ELIGIBLE RESPONDENTS WILL EITHER BE ACCRUING A BACK TO WORK BONUS OR HAVE RECEIVED IT ONCE THEY COME OFF BENEFITS. THE BONUS IS PAID THROUGH THE FINAL BENEFIT PAYMENT AND SO THERE MAY BE CASES WHERE SOMEONE IS STILL ON BENEFITS, AND SO WILL BE ASKED IF THEY ARE ACCRUING, BUT HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED THEIR BONUS. WE WOULD EXPECT THE RESPONSE TO BTWACC TO BE NO.'
---------------	---

Transfer of income between respondent and absent partner

(Block: QOincB)

A new question block about allowances paid **to** an absent partner has been inserted to complement the block about allowances paid **from** an absent partner to the respondent. The following questions appear only if the respondent is married and the partner is absent or if they are married and separated.

AbsIntro	THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW ARE ABOUT ALLOWANCES MADE TO AN ABSENT PARTNER.
OtAbsPar	Have you paid any allowances to your husband/wife while he/she has been away?

OtApAmt	How much in total have you paid to your husband/wife while he/she has been away?
OtApPd	How long did this cover?

With-profit and Distribution bonds

(Block: QAdInt)

An interviewer has pointed out that at OtInvA the list of investments does not include “with profit” or “distribution” bonds.

With Profit bonds are life assurance policies that invest in the With Profit Fund of a life assurance company and have no fixed maturity date. An investor in a With Profits fund benefits from the profits made by the With Profits fund. The fund comprises of equities i.e. shares, gilts, property and corporate bonds. Profits are distributed to policyholders in the form of Annual Bonuses. Distribution Bonds are lump sum investments which have a small amount of life cover. They invest in a fund which pays out the dividends and yields from investments held instead of reinvesting them within the Fund.

This question covers government saving plans and so would not include either the ‘with-profit’ or ‘distribution bonds. Rather, these should be recorded at Invests under option three (3: Stocks, shares, bonds, debentures, other securities). A help screen has been included at Invests and a further screen has been added at OthInc.

Invests	HELP <F9> “With Profit Bonds and Distribution Bonds should be included under code 3 (stocks, shares, bonds, debentures, other securities)”
OthInc	“With Profit Bonds and Distribution Bonds should not be included at this question. They should be recorded at the previous question about investments as code 3 (stocks, shares, bonds, debentures, other securities)”

Total investments income

(Block: QAdInt)

A new question has been introduced to capture the overall amount of income received from investments. Some respondents (particularly older people who are living on interest) have a variety of investments about which they do not know the individual interest amounts but they do know the overall amount. This question is asked of everybody. However, it should not be considered as an alternative to collecting information about individual amounts and investments. This is an additional source of information about interest and dividends and is intended to validate the individual amounts given.

TotInt	Over the last 12 months, what was the overall amount of interest and dividends you received AFTER TAX from investments and savings?
---------------	---

Interest and re-investment

(Block: Qadint)

Interviewers pointed out that when asked about interest from investments, some respondents who had re-invested this and would not get the money until the investment matured said “nothing”. To clarify this situation a help screen has been added.

Accint	HELP <F9> “Interest which has been re-invested should also be included here”
---------------	---

Income Changes

(Block: QSave)

At IncChange respondents are asked whether their present income is higher, lower or the same as their income of three months ago. Up until now, if their present income was lower they were asked how much lower (IncLowr) but if their present income was higher, they were not asked how much higher. The question IncLowr has become IncHiLow and covers both.

IncHiLow	<p>“ About how much higher/lower per week is your PRESENT income, compared to 3 months ago?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Up to £50 pw higher/lower 2. From £51 up to £100 pw higher/lower 3. £101 - £150 pw higher/lower 4. £151 - £200 pw higher/lower 5. £201 or more pw higher/lower
-----------------	---

4 ASSETS QUESTIONS

Structure

In order to make the questionnaire more efficient and easy to use, the Assets questions will now not be asked as a separate block but as part of the Benefit Unit.

This does not mean that the assets questions will be asked of everyone. The routing will remain the same and the assets questions will appear automatically for the same people as before. The questions will be asked of each individual adult within each BU.

Changes in National Savings

FIRST Option Bonds were replaced with Fixed Rate Savings Bonds in October 1999. Fixed Rate Savings Bonds can be purchased with the interest guaranteed for 1 year, 3 years or 5 years. Interest can be credited annually or monthly and is paid into a bank or building society account. The minimum holding is £500 and the maximum holding is £1,000,000.

People who held First Option Bonds from before October 1999 can keep them and receive interest at the rate for a one year Fixed Rate Savings Bond.

We have introduced a new category at OtInvA to capture Fixed Rate Savings Bonds. Anyone who has these can choose to either receive a monthly income or to have the interest added to the bond. Since the option you choose affects the interest rate and the value of the bond we need to know this. For these reasons there are a number of follow-up questions so that all the relevant information about these bonds can be recorded.

OtInv A	Category 11: Fixed Rate Savings Bonds Category 12: None of these If OtinvA=11 (Fixed Rate Savings Bonds) ask the following questions in the assets section after PREM.
Intro	Now I'd like to ask you about your Fixed Rate Savings Bonds, dealing with each issue in turn.. INTERVIEWER CODE 1: To Continue 2: This code not used 3: Does not wish to give details of such assets
Issue	"What is the [first/next] issue that you hold?" 1..20
BondDat	"In which month and year did you acquire that issue?" ENTER DATE, USING '15 TH ' FOR DAY OF MONTH"

BondVal	"What was the original value of the bond?" 500...1000000
BondPd	"What is the period of your Fixed Rate Savings Bond?" 1 One year 2 Three years 3 Five years
BondType	"Do you receive a monthly income from the bond or is the interest added to the bond?" 1 Monthly income 2 Interest added to bond value

Recording Gilts

More information is required about Gilts. Therefore an extra question has been added after the value of the Gilt holding has been determined (HowHold).

PIPeriod	"What is the period of the plan? WAR LOANS SHOULD BE CODED AS UNDATED (4)": (1 "Up to 5 years (shorts)", 2 "5-15 years (mediums)", 3 "Over 15 years (longs)", 4 "Undated"
-----------------	--

Capital Bonds

The questions asked about Capital Bonds have been restructured. CapDep is now asked between Intro and BondDat. The wording of BondVal has changed to make it clear that it is the original value of the bond that is required rather than the current value. Also, a new question has been introduced to determine the series number of the Capital Bond. These changes are detailed below.

New Question order:

Intro
CapDep
BondDat
BondVal
BondSer

BondVal	"What was the original value of the bond?"
BondSer	"What is the series number of the bond?": 0..97

Deposit Bonds

Deposit bonds were withdrawn from sale in 1988. There is now a signal if a deposit bond is recorded and the date of acquisition is 1989 or later.

SIGNAL

"Deposit bonds were withdrawn from sale in 1988. Please check that the date has been entered correctly and that the correct type of bond has been entered".

For all interviews from July 2002 onwards, there will be a further check as all Deposit bonds will have been redeemed in June 2002.

SIGNAL

"Deposit bonds were all redeemed in June 2002. Please check that the correct type of bond has been entered".

Save As You Earn

National Savings SAYE were withdrawn in 1994. Since then building societies have provided them. There are also some current SAYE schemes which exist for people to save money to purchase share options tax free. Under these new SAYES you agree to pay a fixed amount each month over 3, 5, or 7 years (min £5, max £250 per month). The interest is fixed whichever bank or building society you have the scheme with.

Since the period of the scheme determines the interest rates, which in turn affects the precise value of SAYE's, a new question has been added to determine the time period of the scheme. This question comes after SAYEDat and before Amount.

SAYEPd	<p>"What is the period of your SAYE Scheme?"</p> <p>1...40</p> <p>Help <F9></p> <p>Interviewers: Under the current SAYE schemes savers can choose a 3, 5, or 7 year period. So on recent SAYE scheme (since 1998) you would only expect answers of 3, 5 or 7"</p>
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5 ADMIN

Multi-households

From work conducted over the last 2 years concerning multi-household weighting, we have noticed that in a small number of cases addresses have been mistakenly classified as multi-household. To make things clearer, a help screen has been added at FindHH.

FindHH	HELP<F9> “The term “Multi-household address” refers to an address with accommodation for more than one household. This might occur when the sampled address is divided into flats which are not separately listed on the PAF”
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Routing Changes (NatCen only)

For the National Centre there are some changes to the Routing of the Admin Block. Full details of these changes can be found in the Admin instructions.

6 DSS NAME CHANGE

To reflect the latest structural changes made to the government departments all references to the Department for Social Security (DSS) have been replaced with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

There is a short explanation alerting respondents to this transition within the Benefit Unit of the Questionnaire. At PersDisp the interviewer should read out:

“INTERVIEWER READ OUT: The Department for Work and Pensions, for whom we are carrying out this survey, was formerly called the Department for Social Security or DSS. I will to refer to it as the DWP during this interview.”

7 SHOW CARD AMENDMENTS IN DETAIL

The table below shows the changes to show cards this year. Almost every card has a different letter compared to that in the 2001-2002 survey year (this is shown in the first column of the table). The main changes include the removal of the Council Tax Showcard, and new cards about New Deal types (R) and Disabilities(O).

2002-2003	2001-2002	Question name	AMENDMENT (in bold)
A	B	NatId	SWAP ORDER WITH LAST YEAR (A and B)
B	A	Ethgrp	SWAP ORDER WITH LAST YEAR (A and B)
C	C	Tenure	Unchanged
D	D	Landlord	Unchanged
E	E	OthWay	Unchanged
F	F	SerInc	Unchanged
G	G	RMPur, OthPur, OthPur3	Unchanged
	H	CTBand	DROPPED
H	I	CTDisc Check at CT25D50D	Unchanged
I	J	Charge	Unchanged
J	K	Premium, NumPols, PolMore	Unchanged
	L	UseVcl	DROPPED
K	M	NeedHelp, GiveHelp	Unchanged
L	N	Hour	Unchanged

2002-2003	2001-2002	Question name	AMENDMENT (in bold)
M		DisDif	NEW SHOWCARD FOR QUESTION ABOUT DISABILITIES 1. Mobility (moving about) 2. Ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects 3. Manual dexterity (using your hands to carry out everyday tasks) 4. Continence (bladder control) 5. Communication (through speaking, listening, reading or writing) 6. Memory or ability to concentrate, learn or understand 7. Understanding when you are in physical danger 8. Other area of life
N	O	Rstrct	Unchanged
O	P	Train	Unchanged
P		NewDType	NEW SHOWCARD SHOWING NEW DEAL TYPES: 1. The Gateway 2. Employment option 3. Full time education or training 4. Voluntary Sector 5. Environmental task force
Q	Q	RetReas	Unchanged
R	R	Etype	Unchanged
S	S	WatDid	Unchanged
T	T	InclPay, InclPay1	AMENDED There is an additional Tax Credit category.
U	U	HHInc	Unchanged
V	V	InKind	Unchanged
W	W	OwnSum	Unchanged
X	X	TaxCred, TaxFut	Unchanged
Y	Y	EmpPay	Unchanged

2002-2003	2001-2002	Question name	AMENDMENT (in bold)
Z	Z	EpType	Unchanged
AA	AA	Ben1Q	Unchanged
BB	BB	Ben2Q, Ben2QFut	Unchanged
CC	CC	Ben3Q, Ben3QFut	AMENDED There is new wording for category 2. Income Support/ Minimum Income Guarantee
DD		Ben4Q	NEW SHOWCARD 1: A grant from the Social Fund for funeral expenses 2: Grant from Social Fund for maternity expenses/Sure Start Maternity Grant 3: A Social Fund loan or Community Care grant 4: Winter Fuel Payment 5: None of these
EE	DD	Ben5Q	AMENDED The Social Fund categories have been removed from the Showcard. 1: A Back to Work Bonus 2: 'Extended payment' of Housing Benefit/rent rebate, or Council Tax Benefit (4 week payment only) 3: Bereavement Payment- paid in lump sum 4: Child Maintenance Bonus 5: Lone Parent's Benefit Run-On 6: Any National Insurance or State benefit not mentioned earlier 7: None of these
FF	EE	GovPay	Unchanged
GG	FF	Ben7Q	Unchanged
HH	GG	AnyPen	Unchanged
II	HH	Royal	Unchanged
JJ	II	PropRent	Unchanged
KK	JJ	Allow	Unchanged

2002-2003	2001-2002	Question name	AMENDMENT (in bold)
LL	KK	OddJob	Unchanged
MM	LL	Accounts	Unchanged
NN	MM	Invests	Unchanged
OO	NN	OtlInvA	AMENDED There is an additional Fixed Rate Savings Bond Category.
PP	OO	TotSav, Totsave	Unchanged
QQ	PP	IncChnge	Unchanged
RR	QQ	NSAmt	Unchanged

FAMILY RESOURCES SURVEY 2002-2003

OCTOBER UPDATE

An October update to the FRS program is being issued. This note is to let you know about that update and about a change to Invalid Care Allowance.

Tax Credits

From April 2003, the current tax credits (WFTC, DPTC and CTC) will be replaced by a New Tax Credits system, for families with children (the Child Tax Credit) and those in low-income employment (the Working Tax Credit).

From September 2002, people will be entitled to submit in advance applications for the new tax credits (though they cannot start to receive the new tax credits until April 2003). Potential recipients will receive one claim form for New Tax Credits. Applicants give information on all their personal circumstances and Inland Revenue then decide whether they are entitled to one or both of the New Tax Credits. Therefore the question (TaxFut) about whether the respondent is awaiting the outcome of a claim for tax credits will be amended from October to incorporate the new tax credits which some people may already have made claims for. The new tax credits form one category because at the point of making the claim the respondent will not know which one they are claiming; that will be decided by the Inland Revenue.

The new question is shown below. Note that the New Tax Credits form category one, WFTC is now category 2 and so on. None of these is category 6.

You will receive a new showcard (showcard XB) which reflects these changes and should be used at the question TaxFut from October onwards in place of the current showcard X.

Showcard XB should however only be used at the question TaxFut - Showcard X should continue to be used at the question TaxCred.

The reason for the change is to accommodate the future introduction of the new tax credits.

Note that respondents may be awaiting a claim for WFTC, DPTC or CTC to run **until** April 2003 and a claim for the New Tax Credits to run **from** April 2003.

TaxFut

Are you awaiting the outcome of a claim for any of the Tax Credits shown on this card – please note that Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit are payable from April 2003, and replace the previous three tax credits, but can be applied for now?

- 1: New Tax Credits (either Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, or both, payable from April 2003)
- 2: Working Families' Tax Credit
- 3: Disabled Person's Tax Credit
- 4: Children's Tax Credit
- 5: DO NOT USE
- 6: (none of these)

Children's savings

An error in the questionnaire routing for children's savings which created spurious records (explained in a previous note), is corrected in the October update.

Invalid Care Allowance

The rules for claiming Invalid Care Allowance are changing from October 2003. This does not affect the questionnaire but guidance is provided below so that you know the new rules:

Invalid Care Allowance is a weekly paid benefit to those spending at least 35 hours a week caring for a severely disabled person. They must not earn more than £50 per week after deduction of allowable expenses, or be in full-time education. It should be coded to the person doing the caring.

Before 28 October 2002 carers aged 65 or over could not claim ICA (although if they qualify before that age they could continue to receive ICA after they reach age 65, even if they have ceased to be a carer or have earnings above the ICA earnings limits). From 28 October 2002, this upper age barrier for ICA will be abolished to provide all carers with fair and equal access to the benefit.

Until 28 October 2002, entitlement to ICA ended when the disabled person being cared for dies. This will change for all ages from 28 October 2002, when entitlement to ICA will continue for up to 8 weeks after the disabled person dies.

INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS DIRECTORATE
INCOME ANALYSIS 1

FAMILY RESOURCES SURVEY 2002-03

DATASET AND CHANGES

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INTRODUCTION

This report accompanies the release of the 2002-03 Family Resources Survey (FRS) and provides detailed information on proposed changes to:

- Dataset structure
- Variables
- Processing (validation, editing and derivation of variables)
- Methodology

The information provided in this report should be used in conjunction with the standard FRS documentation available through the FRS documentation.

In particular the following documents should be consulted:

- The Interviewer's Guide to Changes
- Changes Metadata

A [summary report](#) providing an overview of changes and timings for the period of user testing is also available.

If at any point you would like to discuss any issues or require clarification then please contact one of the FRS team.

DATA STRUCTURE

Northern Ireland

From April 2002, the FRS survey has been extended to include Northern Ireland (NI) and so has become a United Kingdom (UK) series.

These data are included within the dataset and stored in the same structure as for Great Britain (GB). There has been no expansion in the scope of the survey and so in most cases the NI information is the same, or equivalent, to that of GB. There are two exceptions; questions on religion are asked in Northern Ireland only and two qualitative questions on take-up of free school meals in NI were included for the Northern Ireland Health department.

Where the information collected is equivalent, but not the same, the NI data are presented using a different variable and all GB records will be shown as skipped, and vice versa. See 'FRS 2002-03 Release' documentation for a mapping of NI to GB variables.

Scottish Boost

From April 2002, the FRS survey has been extended to include a 100% boost of the Scottish sample.

This will increase the sample size available for analysis at a Scottish level and have been controlled for through the FRS grossing regime.

OVERVIEW OF VARIABLE CHANGES

The variable changes are listed below with reference to the page in the **‘Interviewer’s Guide to Changes’** that provides more details.

Changes in the FRS data and the structure in which it is held can affect three main areas of processing; editing, derived variables and imputation.

The tables below summarise for each change in the dataset for 2002-03 which areas have been affected. Further details on how these changes have been catered for are provided in the ‘Further details on changes’ section of this report.

QUESTIONS ROTATED OFF FOR 2002-03 (PAGE 3)

Vehicle ownership and Consumer Durables are rotated off

QUESTIONS ROTATED ON FOR 2002-03 (PAGE 4)

National Health Services and Travel to Work are rotated on

		Editing	DVs	Imputation
Travel to Work	Rotated on		✓	✓
NHS questions	Rotated on			✓
Consumer Durables	Rotated off			✓
Vehicle Ownership	Rotated off			✓

DROPPED VARIABLES

Information is provided on the employment status of each job. This information is provided in two formats; a employed/self-employed split and a type of employment split. The derivation of the employed/self-employed split is not consistent with the ILO employment status definition and has caused confusion with users. We are proposing to drop this from the dataset.

		Editing	DVs	Imputation
EMPEE	Drop			

EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT (PAGE 7)

The categories that are used to determine which educational establishment a child is currently attending have been changed to harmonise these with education surveys.

The change incorporates a split for Primary and Nursery, the inclusion of Middle schools deemed Primary or Secondary, the clarification of Independent schools in the Private category and the inclusion of City Technology Colleges as Private schools.

New Variables		Editing	DVs	Imputation
TYPEED	Type of school or college attended	✓	✓	

INTRODUCTION OF NEW WATER AND SEWERAGE QUESTIONS (PAGE 8/9)

With the increased use of water meters and annual charging, alternative questions have been included to allow recording of information on this basis. Further questions have been added to record water rebates.

New Variables		Editing	DVs	Imputation
WATANUL, SEWANUL, WSEWANUL	How much is your annual bill?.		✓	✓
WATRB	Whether receive water rebate		✓	

PROPERTY CHARGES (PAGE 10)

An additional category has been inserted to allow a combined amount to be recorded for ground rent, service charge and maintenance charge.

New Variables		Editing	DVs	Imputation
CHARGE9	Whether pay combined ground rent, service and maintenance.		✓	✓
CHARGAMT9	Amount paid by combined services		✓	✓

SCHOOL RELATED CHILDCARE (PAGE 11)

The question relating to types of childcare used by the respondent has been amended to determine the prevalence of school related childcare. The nursery category has been extended to include School and there is an additional category covering After School Childcare and Holiday Play Schemes.

New Variables		Editing	DVs	Imputation
CHLOOK 5/9	After School or holiday play scheme			✓

CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY (PAGE 11)

When parents were asked about paying for childcare, one of the categories was a certificate of eligibility or voucher. As these do not exist any more that category has been removed.

Dropped Variables		Editing	DVs	Imputation
CHPAY4	Certificate of Eligibility			✓

DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT (DDA) DEFINITION OF DISABILITY (PAGE 12)

A new question, in line with DDA definition, has been introduced to capture the extent to which health problems and disabilities affect areas of a respondent's life.

New Variables		Editing	DVs	Imputation
DISDIF	Type of disability difficulties.			

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (PAGE 12)

The routing of EMA questions have been extended to cover those who are receiving education and are aged 19.

New Variables		Editing	DVs	Imputation
ADEMA	Whether Adult EMA Earnings.		✓	✓
ADEMAAMT	Amount of Adult EMA amounts		✓	✓
ADEMAPD	Pcode		✓	✓

GROSS WAGE (PAGE 13)

Gross Wage is now collected from all those asked about pay, not just for those who have consulted a payslip.

New Variables		Editing	DVs	Imputation
GRWAGE	Gross Wage		✓	

RECORDING USUAL PAY (PAGE 14)

There has been some confusion in the past about whether pay should be considered usual if it has just changed. In order to explore this, we have introduced a question about why pay has changed. This information can allow us to choose when it is appropriate to use the Usual Pay amount or Last Pay amount.

New Variables		Editing	DVs	Imputation
WHYNOUSL1-10	Why last pay not usual		✓	✓

A number of new questions have also been added so that as much information as is collected for last pay is also collected for usual pay.

New Variables		Editing	DVs	Imputation
UDEDUC1-10	Amount deducted		✓	✓
UOTHDED1-9	Whether deducted		✓	✓
UOTHDTOT	Total Amount of other deductions		✓	✓
USMPAMT	Amount included in usual wage for SMP		✓	✓
USSPAMT	Amount included in usual wage for SSP		✓	✓
USMPRATE	Higher/lower rate of SMP			✓
UMILEAMT	Usual amount included for milage/motorin			✓
UMOTAMT	Usual amount for motoring expenses			✓
UTAXAMT	Usual amount of refund of income tax			✓
INCLPAY6	Last pay includes Tax credit			✓`
UINCPAY6	Usual pay includes Tax Credit			✓

STAKEHOLDER PENSION (PAGE 18)

Information is now provided on whether a stakeholder pension has been taken out for the respondent or by the respondent for someone else.

New Variables		Editing	DVs	Imputation
SPWHO	Is this Stakeholder pension being taken out for yourself or someone else			

SOCIAL FUND AND WINTER FUEL PAYMENT (PAGE 19)

The benefit categories, and as such the variable names, have been restructured so that benefits with a six-month reference period are asked in one block and those with a twelve-month reference period are asked in a separate block.

New Variables		Editing	DVs	Imputation
BEN4QX	12 month benefits	✓		
BEN5QX	6 month benefits	✓		

TRANSFER OF INCOME BETWEEN RESPONDANT AND ABSENT PARTNER (PAGE 20)

A new question block about allowances paid to an absent partner from the respondent has been inserted to complement the block about allowances paid from an absent partner to the respondent. The questions are only asked if the respondent is married and the partner is absent or if they are married and separated.

New Variables		Editing	DVs	Imputation
OTABSPAR	Have you paid any allowances to your husband/wife while he/she has been away?			
OTAPAMT	How much in total have you paid to your husband/wife while he/she has been away?			
OTAPPD	How long did this cover?			

TOTAL INVESTMENTS INCOME (PAGE 21)

A new question has been added to record the overall amount of income received from investments. Comparison work to compare responses to this question with that of our current total income DV, which is derived from each investment, has shown that the response to this question is low, 25% 'don't know or refuse' and it is not suitable for use.

New Variables		Editing	DVs	Imputation
TOTINT	Over the last 12 months, what was the overall amount of interest and dividends you received AFTER TAX from investments and savings?			

INCOME CHANGES (PAGE 22)

Respondents are asked whether their present income is higher, lower or the same as their income of three months ago. Previously, if their present income was lower, they were asked how much lower, but if their present income was higher, they were not asked how much higher. This information has now been extended to record income in both situations.

New Variable		Editing	DVs	Imputation
INCHILOW	About how much higher/lower per week is your PRESENT income, compared to 3 months ago?			

CHANGES IN NATIONAL SAVINGS (PAGE 23)

New issues of FIRST Option Bonds have been replaced with Fixed Rate Savings Bonds.

New Variable		Editing	DVs	Imputation
OTINVA (Account Type=25)	Fixed Rate Savings Bonds		✓	✓

NORTHERN IRELAND VARIABLES

There have been a number of new variables introduced now that Northern Ireland have joined the survey.

New Variable		Editing	DVs	Imputation
BILLRATE	Do you get bill for rates on this accomm			
ESTRTANN	Amount Total Rate paid after deduction			
NICOUN	District Council Code			
NINRV	Net Rateable Value Of Property			
NIRATE	Amount of District Council Rate			
NIRATEPD	Pcode: District Council Code			
NORATE	Why no rate bill			
PAYRATE	Does someone in household pay rates bill			
RTANNUAL	Weeklyised total amount paid after deduc			
RTCHECK	Weeklyised amount of Annual rates paid			
RTCONDOC	Whether Rate statement consulted			
RTDEDUC	Was deduction from last rates payment		✓	
RTINSTAL	Whether PayRate from annual total			✓

	or ins			
RTREB	Whether allowed a Rates Rebate		✓	✓
RTREBAMT	Amount of Rate Rebate allowed		✓	✓
RTREBPD	Pcode: Rate Rebate Period		✓	
RTTIME	Pcode: Rate Instalment Period			
NIETHGRP	NI Ethnic Group		✓	✓
NIEXTHBB	Rcpt last 6 month Extended HB paid.	✓	✓	
NINATID1	Whether British National Identity			
NINATID2	Whether Irish National Identity			
NINATID3	Whether Ulster National Identity			
NINATID4	Whether Northern Irish National Identity			
NINATID5	Whether English National Identity			
NINATID6	Whether Scottish National Identity			
NINATID7	Whether Welsh National Identity			
NINATID8	Whether Other answer National Identity			
NIREL	Religious Denomination			
NITRAIN	Whether on Govt. training scheme			
FSMAPPLY	Whether knows how to apply for FSM	Northern Ireland only.		
FSMTKUP	Reason for non application of F.S.M.			

Note to users: Unfortunately due to a problem with the Northern Ireland questionnaire information on travel to work costs for cars and motorbikes have not been collected for the 2002-03 survey year.

FURTHER DETAILS ON CHANGES

The sections below provide specific details on the changes in four areas;

- **Non-Benefit Editing**
- **Benefit Editing**
- **Derived Variables**
- **Imputation**

NON-BENEFIT EDITING

A new check has been implemented to ensure that annual amounts recorded for water and sewerage charges are consistent with the amounts last paid.

BENEFIT EDITING

NONE

DERIVED VARIABLES

The tables below provide further details on all the variable changes that have led to a change in our derived variables.

Rotated Variables

Base variable change		DV changes
Travel to Work	Rotated on	Reinstated: TTWCOSTS and TWMOD with inclusion of Northern Ireland variables.

Dropped Variables

Base variable change		DV changes

New Variables

Base variable change		DV changes
ADEMA ADEMAAMT ADEMAPD	Whether Adult EMA earnings Amount of Adult EMA earnings	Amended INRINC to include adult EMA

	Pcode: Adult EMA earnings	
NIETHGRP	NI Ethnic Group	Amended BUETHGRP, HHETHGRP to include NI White Irish category.
NITRAIN	Whether on Govt. training scheme	Amended TAXPAYER, EMPSTATI, EMPSTATC, EMPSTATB, DEPDED to include training categories for NI
CHARGE9 CHRGAMT9 CHRGPD9	Whether pay: combined services Amount paid for combined services Pcode: amount paid for combined services	Amended GBHSCOST, MORTCOST
SEWANUL	Annual sewerage rate	Amended WATSEWRT, TUWATSEW
WATANUL	Amount of Annual water rate	Amended WATSEWRT, TUWATSEW
WSEWANUL	Amount of Annual water/sewerage rate	Amended WATSEWRT, TUWATSEW
UDEDUC1-10	Amount deducted	Amended UGRSPAY, NINEARNS TAXPAYER (UDEDUC1-2)
UOTHDED1-9	Whether deducted	Amended UGRSPAY, NINEARNS
UOTHDTOT	Total Amount of other deductions	Amended UGRSPAY, NINEARNS
USMPAMT	Amount included in usual wage for SMP	Amended SMPADJ
USSPAMT	Amount included in usual wage for SSP	Amended SSPADJ
WHYNOU01-1-0	Various reasons Why last pay not usual	Amended UGRSPAY, NINEARNS, SSPADJ, SMPADJ, TAXPAYER
NIEXTHBB NI Var	Rcpt last 6 month Extended HB paid	Amended INOTHBEN, INIRBEN Added a note to state now includes NI
RTREB NI Var	Whether allowed a Rates Rebate	Amended INIRBEN, HBINDBU, HBINDHH, INOTHBEN to include RTREB
RTREBAMT NI Var	Amount of Rate Rebate allowed	Amended INIRBEN, INOTHBEN to include RTREBAMT
RTREBPD NI Var	Pcode: Rate Rebate Period	Amended INIRBEN, INOTHBEN to include RTREBPD
RTDEDUC NI Var	Was deduction from last rates payment	Amended INIRBEN, INOTHBEN to include RTDEDUC

Category Changes

Base variable change		DV changes
ACCOUNT (on Accounts and Assets tables)	Fixed Rate Savings Bonds New account type=25	Created new DVs FSBNDCTI, FSBNDCTB, FSBNDCTH
ALLOW3 ALLPAY3 ALLPD3	Regular Allowance: LA/SS (foster child) Amount of allowance: LA/SS (foster child)	Amended INRINC Labels for NI
ALLOW4 ALLPAY4 ALLPD4	Regular Allowance: LA/SS (adoption) Amount of allowance: LA/SS (adoption) Pcode: allowance from LA/SS (adoption)	Amended INRINC Labels for NI
BEN3Q2	In receipt: Income Support/MIG	Amended HBINDBU, HBINDHH Labels to include MIG
HBOTHAMT	Amount of Housing Benefit/Rent Rebate/Rent Allowance	Amended BOARDER, LODGER, BURENT, HHRENT, INIRBEN, INDISBEN Labels for NI
LAREG (on Adult and Child tables)	Whether registered disabled (LA/SS)	Amended SICK, ECSTATBU Labels for NI
MNTAMT2 MNTPD2	Amt received: maintenance paid via DWP Pcode: amount maintenance paid via DWP	Amended INRINC Labels for department name change
SPCREG1	Whether registered blind with LA/SS	Amended TAXPAYER, NDDISHC, NDDHC_CT Labels for NI
ASSETYPE	Fixed Rate Savings Bonds	Created new DVs FSBNDCTI, FSBNDCTB, FSBNDCTH
BENEFIT (on Benefits and Penamt tables)	Benefit=65 and Benefit= 66 DWP direct payments – ISA/JSA	Amended INOTHBEN, INIRBEN, INNIRBEN Labels for department name change
TYPEED (on Adult and Child Tables)	Types of education: 3 new categories: Typeed=1Nursery/Playgroup/ Pre-school (state Run) Typeed=8 Any PRIVATE school (prep or secondary) Typeed=9 University/polytechnic/higher education	Amended EMPSTATB, DEPDEDS to include the new categories

GVTREGN	GVTREGN=13, Northern Ireland	Amended GROSSCT, WATSEWRT, TUWATSEW, DEPBAND to be GB only DVs.
STDREGN	STDREGN=12, Northern Ireland	Amended STDREGN, COUNTRY to include NI category (just formats in DVMeta.xls)
GRWAGE	Gross wage/salary. Now collecting information for all employees – previously only asked of those with payslips	Amended: UGRSPAY , to use GRWAGE rather than PAYAMT .
OUTSPAY	Outside contributor to mortgage/loan	Amended INRINC Labels for department name change
ACCPAY	Who makes contribution to rent	Amended INRINC, HHRENT Labels for department name change
LANDLORD	LA/Council/New Town/Scottish Homes/NiHE	Amended TENTYPE, PTENTYPE Labels for NI
RENTPD	Pcode: full rent before HB/rent rebate/rates rebate	Amended BURENT, HHRENT Labels for NI

IMPUTATION

The tables below provide further details on all the variable changes that have led to a change in our three imputation methods:

- Bulk Edits
- Algorithms
- Hotdecks

Bulk Edits

Rotated Variables

Base variable change		Editing Change
DENTIST	Last 4 weeks: whether visited dentist	Edit rotated back on.
EYETEST	Last 4 wks: whether had eye test	Edit rotated back on.
PRSCRPT	Last 4 weeks: whether NHS prescriptions	Edit rotated back on.
SPECS	Last 4 wks: whether bought specs/lenses	Edit rotated back on.
TTWCODE1	Respondent is passenger and contributes	Edit rotated back on.
TTWCODE2	Respondent is driver and receives money	Edit rotated back on.
TTWCODE3	Some other arrangement(neither of above)	Edit rotated back on.
TTWFAR	Distance travelled to work	Edit rotated back on.
TTWMOD	Usual method of travel to work	Edit rotated back on.
TTWPAY	Whether pays all/some of travel costs	Edit rotated back on.
TTWPSS	Whether has season ticket/travelcard	Edit rotated back on.
VOUCHER	NHS Voucher for Glasses/Contact Lenses	Edit rotated back on.
DENTIST	Last 4 weeks: whether visited dentist	Edit rotated back on.
EYETEST	Last 4 wks: whether had eye test	Edit rotated back on.
HOSP	Last 4 weeks: whether been to hospital	Edit rotated back on.
PRSCRPT	Last 4 weeks: whether NHS prescriptions	Edit rotated back on.
SPECS	Last 4 wks: whether bought specs/lenses	Edit rotated back on.

VOUCHER	NHS Voucher for Glasses/Contact Lenses	Edit rotated back on.
CENTFUEL	Type of fuel used by central heating	Edit rotated off.
CENTHEAT	Whether accomodation has central heating	Edit rotated off.
MODCON01	Whether TV satellite receiver	Edit rotated off.
MODCON02	Whether TV cable receiver	Edit rotated off.
MODCON03	Whether digital TV receiver	Edit rotated off.
MODCON04	Whether video recorder/player	Edit rotated off.
MODCON05	Whether deep freeze or fridge freezer	Edit rotated off.
MODCON06	Whether washing machine	Edit rotated off.
MODCON07	Whether tumble drier	Edit rotated off.
MODCON08	Whether dishwasher	Edit rotated off.
MODCON09	Whether microwave oven	Edit rotated off.
MODCON10	Whether fixed telephone	Edit rotated off.
MODCON11	Whether one or more mobile phones	Edit rotated off.
MODCON12	Whether compact disc (CD) player	Edit rotated off.
MODCON13	Whether home computer	Edit rotated off.
MODCON14	Whether internet access	Edit rotated off.
VEHIC	Type of vehicle	Edit rotated off.
VEHOWN	Whether own vehicle	Edit rotated off.

Dropped Variables

Base variable change		Editing Change
BEN5Q01	Rcpt last 6 months SF grant(funeral)	Replaced by ben4Q1
BEN5Q02	Rcpt last 6 months Sure start mat. grant	Replaced by ben4Q2
BEN5Q03	Rcpt last 6 months SF Loan or CC Grant	Replaced by ben4Q3
BEN5Q04	Rcpt last 6 months Back to Work bonus	Replaced by ben5Q1
BEN5Q05	Rcpt last 6 months: Extended HB/CTB	Replaced by ben5Q2
BEN5Q06	Rcpt last 6m: Widows/Bereavement Payment	Replaced by ben5Q3
BEN5Q07	Rcpt last 6 months Child Maint. Bonus	Replaced by ben5Q4
BEN5Q08	Rcpt last 6 months Lone Parent's Run-On	Replaced by ben5Q5
BEN5Q09	Not used - replaced with WINTFUEL	Replaced by ben4Q4
BEN5Q10	Rcpt last 6m: any other NI/State benefit	Replaced by ben5Q6
DSSPIS	DSS paying direct for 1 or	Replaced by GOVPIS

	more IS items	
DSSPJSA	DSS paying direct for 1 or more JSAitems	Replaced by GOVPJSA
MNTDSS1	Maintenance paid to self	Replaced by MntGov1
MNTDSS2	Maintenance paid via DSS/CSA	Replaced by MntGov2
PPREBDSS	Whether DSS paid contribution to Pen	Replaced by PPRebGov
WINTFUEL	In receipt: WFP in last 12m (modelled)	Replaced by ben4Q4
CHLOOK1	Childcare from: close relative	Replaced by chlook01
CHLOOK2	Childcare from: other relative	Replaced by chlook02
CHLOOK3	Childcare from: friend/neighbour	Replaced by chlook03
CHLOOK4	Childcare from: childminder	Replaced by chlook04
CHLOOK5	Childcare from: nursery/playgroup	Replaced by chlook05
CHLOOK6	Childcare from: creche	Replaced by chlook06
CHLOOK7	Childcare from: employer provide nursery	Replaced by chlook07
CHLOOK8	Childcare from: nanny/au pair	Replaced by chlook08
CHLOOK9	Childcare from: other	Replaced by chlook10
CHPAY4	Whether Payment made by "Other"	Replaced by chpay3
PENDSS	Whether money paid into Pen by DSS	Replaced by PENGOV
PPHELP	Whether emp. arranged pension	Replaced by PENHELP
PPNUMC	Number of Pensions contributed to	Dropped from PENPROV table only, is still on ADULT.

New Variables

Base variable change		Editing Change
ADEMA	Whether Adult EMA earnings	Closing down route
BEN4Q1	Rcpt last 12 months SF grant (funeral)	Replaces BEN5Q01 - Closing down route
BEN4Q2	Rcpt last 12 months Sure start mat.Grant	Replaces BEN5Q02 - Closing down route
BEN4Q3	Rcpt last 12 months SF Loan or CC Grant	Replaces BEN5Q03 - Closing down route
BEN5Q4	Rcpt last 6 months Child Maint. Bonus	Replaces BEN5Q07 – Closing down route
BEN5Q5	Rcpt last 6 months Lone Parent's Run-On	Replaces BEN5Q08 – Closing down route
BEN5Q6	Rcpt last 6m: any other NI/State benefit	Replaces BEN5Q10 – Closing down route
MNTGOV2	Maintenance paid via DWP/CSA/SSA	Closing down route
BEN4Q4	Rcpt last 12 m. Winter Fuel Payment	Replaces WINTFUEL - Closing down route
CHARGE9	Whether pay: combined ground rent, service and maintenance	Closing down route

INCLPAY6	Last pay includes Tax credit	Closing down route
UINCPAY6	Usual pay includes Tax Credit	Closing down route
UOTHDED1	Whether deducted: pension/superannuation	Closing down route
UOTHDED2	Whether deducted: AVC's	Closing down route
UOTHDED3	Whether deducted: Union Fees	Closing down route
UOTHDED4	Whether deducted: friendly societies	Closing down route
UOTHDED5	Whether deducted: sports/social clubs	Closing down route
UOTHDED6	Whether deducted: repayment of loan	Closing down route
UOTHDED7	Whether deducted: medical insurance	Closing down route
UOTHDED8	Whether deducted: charities	Closing down route
UOTHDED9	Whether deducted: other	Closing down route
ADEMAPD	Pcode: Adult EMA earnings	Setting to mode
CHLOOK01	Childcare from: close relative	Setting to mode
CHLOOK02	Childcare from: other relative	Setting to mode
CHLOOK03	Childcare from: friend/neighbour	Setting to mode
CHLOOK04	Childcare from: childminder	Setting to mode
CHLOOK05	Childcare from: nursery/school/playgroup	Setting to mode
CHLOOK06	Childcare from: creche	Setting to mode
CHLOOK07	Childcare from: employer provide nursery	Setting to mode
CHLOOK08	Childcare from: nanny/au pair	Setting to mode
CHLOOK09	Childcare from: after school or holiday play scheme	Setting to mode
CHLOOK10	Childcare from: other	Setting to mode
NIETHGRP		Simple algorithm, setting to 'Other'.
WHYNOU01	Why last pay not usual: tax rebate	Simple algorithm, setting to No
WHYNOU02	Why last pay not usual: tax	Simple algorithm, setting to No
WHYNOU03	Why last pay not usual: one-off payment	Simple algorithm, setting to No
WHYNOU04	Why last pay not usual: back pay	Simple algorithm, setting to No
WHYNOU05	Why last pay not usual: unusual deduction/expenses	Simple algorithm, setting to No
WHYNOU06	Why last pay not usual: new tax year	Simple algorithm, setting to No
WHYNOU07	Why last pay not usual: tax credits/SSP/SMP	Simple algorithm, setting to No
WHYNOU08	Why last pay not usual: wage/salary change	Simple algorithm, setting to No
WHYNOU09	Why last pay not usual: change of job	Simple algorithm, setting to No
WHYNOU10	Why last pay not usual: other	Simple algorithm, setting to Yes.
NITRAIN	Whether on Govt. training scheme	Simple algorithm, setting to None of these
RTREBPD	Pcode: Rate Rebate Period	Period code mop up

Category Changes

Base variable change		Editing Change
TAXFUT3	Awaiting outcome of claim: CTC	Variable not used last year but is now. Bulk edit is closing down route.
CHPAY3	Whether Payment made by "Other"	Certificate of eligibility or voucher' option removed as no longer in existence. CHPAY3 is now what was CHPAY4.

Algorithms

New Variables

Base variable change		Editing Change
USMPAMT	Amount included in usual wage for SMP	Treated the same as SMPAMT (set to standard higher rate).
USMPRATE	Higher/lower rate of SMP	Treated the same as SMPRATE (change to 1, higher rate).

Hotdecks

Rotated Variables

Base variable change		Editing Change
FARE	Cost of journey (where no pass)	Edit rotated back on.
ONEWAY	Whether one-way or return fare	Edit rotated back on.
PSSAMT	Cost of season ticket/travel pass	Edit rotated back on.
TTWCOST	Cost of weekly travel to work	Edit rotated back on.
TTWFAR	Distance travelled to work	Edit rotated back on.
TTWFRQ	Frequency of journey to work	Edit rotated back on.
TTWMOD	Usual method of travel to work	Edit rotated back on.
TTWREC	Travel costs: passengers' contributions	Edit rotated back on.

New Variables

Base variable change		Editing Change
ADEMAAMT	Amount of Adult EMA earnings	Hotdecked using any available value of ADEMAAMT as a potential donor – same as how CHEMAAMT is imputed.
CHRGAMT9	Amount paid for combined services	Hotdecked using same factors as the existing hotdeck for CHRGAMT1~8. These are HDHHINC, GVTREGN and either CTBAND or NINRV depending on whether it is a GB or NI case. (This is also a methodological change, see NINRV.)
RTREBAMT	Amount of Rate Rebate allowed	Hotdecked using any available value as is only asked in a few cases.

SEWANUL	Annual sewerage rate	Hotdecked using SEWAMT as a factor. If SEWAMT missing as well then ROOMS (CTBAND OR NINRV) TYPEACC LAC SSTRTREG GVTREGN used as factors.
WATANUL	Amount of Annual water rate	Hotdecked using WATAMT as a factor. If WATAMT missing as well then ROOMS (CTBAND OR NINRV) TYPEACC LAC SSTRTREG GVTREGN used as factors.
WSEWANUL	Amount of Annual water/sewerage rate	Hotdecked using WSEWAMT as a factor. If WSEWAMT missing as well then ROOMS (CTBAND OR NINRV) TYPEACC LAC SSTRTREG GVTREGN used as factors.
UDEDUC1	Amount deducted: pension	Hotdecked using UNETT NSSEC SIC.
UDEDUC2	Amount deducted: AVCs	Hotdecked using UNETT NSSEC SIC.
UDEDUC3	Amount deducted: Union fees	Hotdecked using UNETT NSSEC SIC.
UDEDUC4	Amount deducted: friendly socs	Hotdecked using UNETT NSSEC SIC.
UDEDUC5	Amount deducted: sports/social	Hotdecked using UNETT NSSEC SIC.
UDEDUC6	Amount deducted: loan repayment	Hotdecked using UNETT NSSEC SIC.
UDEDUC7	Amount deducted: Medical Ins	Hotdecked using UNETT NSSEC SIC.
UDEDUC8	Amount deducted: Charities	Hotdecked using UNETT NSSEC SIC.
UMILEAMT	Usual amount included for milage/motoring	Hotdecked using the same factors as MILEAMT – PAYAMT, NSSEC, SIC and UNETT.
UMOTAMT	Usual amount for motoring expenses	Hotdecked using PAYAMT NSSEC SIC.
UOTHDTOT	Total Amount of other deductions	Hotdecked using UNETT NSSEC SIC.
USSPAMT	Amount included in usual wage for SSP	Hotdecked using same factors as the hotdeck for SSPAMT.
UTAXAMT	Usual amount of refund of income tax	Was imputed manually as there were not enough cases to hotdeck with.

METHODOLOGY CHANGES

The changes that have been outlined so far are due to changes in the dataset variables and structure. We have also made changes to some of our methodology. These are shown below:

The changes that have been outlined so far are due to changes in the information collected and structure. Most of these changes can be treated by extended our current methodologies, information on these is provided in the 'Further details on changes' section of this report. However, in some cases the new information will require changes in methodology and in addition we are proposing some further methodological changes unrelated to the specific 2002-03 survey. Details on these are shown below divided between the areas for which they are most applicable: Derived Variables, Non-Benefit editing, Benefit Editing and Imputation.

For derived variables the proposed changes have been divided between those that are a result of changes in the information collected by the survey and those that are improvements to the current methodology.

NON-BENEFIT EDITING

The editing of cases where the mortgage left is exceeded by either the amount borrowed or the re-mortgage amount, which are highlighted through a credibility check, has been improved so that fewer cases are left unedited. This has been achieved by considering whether the re-mortgage amount could plausibly be the addition amount borrowed, as opposed to the full amount owing after the re-mortgage.

The method used to edit cases that have been highlighted as having the potential for chrgamt4 or chrgamt9 (service charges) and stramt1 or stramt2 (insurance premiums) to be both including the same insurance payment has been refined.

More Scottish council tax charges than usual have been highlighted as not including council water and sewerage charges. As a result of this, editing instructions for the 2003-04 data have been made more specific.

The set type variables emppay1-3 have been edited in the same way as in release B of the 2001-02 FRS full year data. For those respondents who could plausibly have an occupational or personal pension, emppay1-3 is a conventional set type, however if the respondent is only likely to be eligible for a stakeholder pension, and has therefore been asked the question stakep, emppay3 is a yes/no variable and emppay1-2 are set to skips.

BENEFIT EDITING

1. Combined Benefits

After separation of combined benefits, COMBAMT and COMBPD now edited to skipped. The edited COMBPD values are now transferred to BENPD for each previously combined benefit. Users wishing to reference whether a combined benefit is received can use the variable BENAMTDK

2. Review of FRS Benefit Editing

A paper entitled 'Modelling Take-up of Income Support among pensioners and the quality of social security benefit data in the British Family Resources Survey' (Ruth Hancock and Geraldine Barker) was produced for the Nuffield Community Studies Unit at the University of Leicester.

This paper used the 1997-98 and 1998-99 Family Resources Survey datasets to estimate the take-up of Income Support (IS) by pensioners, to estimate logistic regression take-up models and use these models to make illustrative predictions of take-up responses to simple changes in IS rates. An additional aim was to scrutinise the quality of the FRS data on the state benefits received by pensioners.

The paper identified a number of inconsistencies in the FRS benefit data and suggests desirable improvements. Whilst these inconsistencies did not have large effects on estimated take-up, it was concluded that they suggested that non take-up may be marginally less serious than the uncorrected data imply, particularly in terms of the ratio of the size of the average unclaimed to claimed entitlement.

There have been a number of improvements in the processing of the FRS dataset since the 1998-99 series was produced and these have addressed many of the issues raised. However, this paper has both identified areas for which we were not aware and also raised the issue of how historical datasets should be dealt with when improvements are made in the processing methodologies for more recent years.

The areas identified have been divided between IS and other benefits and the FRS team have looked into this and made some adjustments to the benefit editing for 2002-03.

See Paper ['IS take-up and FRS data quality'](#) for more details.

DERIVED VARIABLES

1. Income from Earnings - UGRSPAY, NINEARNS, SSPADJ/SMPADJ

Due to changes in the collection of information for Last pay and Usual Pay, various changes have been made to the derived variable programs for UGRSPAY, NINEARNS, SSPADJ/SMPADJ

GROSS EARNINGS FROM EMPLOYMENT (UGRSPAY)

Previous method (2001-02) - summary

For adults who are currently working as an employee, gross earnings are calculated from usual gross pay if it exists, otherwise we use last take home pay, national insurance, and PAYE along with other tax deductions.

Final adjustments are made for bonuses and deductions for SMP/SSP.

The exception is for those cases where last pay includes Working Families or Disabled Persons Tax Credit. In these cases we always use last take home pay even if usual gross pay exists.

New method (as used in 2002-03) - summary

For adults who are currently working as an employee, gross earnings are calculated from usual gross pay if it exists *and is deemed as usual for our purposes* ^(A) otherwise we use *last gross wage*. ^(A)

Allowances such as for mileage, tax refunds and money from work accounts are deducted from last gross wage ^(A). *Deductions for pensions/superannuations and union fees are added onto usual gross wage* ^(D).

Final adjustments are made for bonuses and *deductions for SMP/SSP* ^(E).

There is no exception made for recipients of tax credits. ^(B)

Note: Superscripts, ^(A), refer to points in the 'Proposed New method – details' section on the next page.

New method (as used in 2002-03) – details

(A) Information about last gross earnings (GRWAGE) is now collected from all those asked about last pay so this can now be used instead of deriving it from last net pay (PAYAMT) and deductions. It is still necessary to take some deductions from gross pay.

Note to users: Historically on the FRS net and gross pay responses, even when a payslip is consulted, do not reconcile in all cases. In the raw data for the 2002-03 survey, in approximately ten per cent of cases there is an imbalance of more than £5 between last gross pay and the components making up the figure. This is lower than in the previous two survey years, where in about 13 per cent of cases last gross wage and its components did not balance. However, because last gross wage details are now being collected from all asked about last pay, there is a growth in the absolute number

of cases where last gross wage and its components do not balance. We have raised this with the data providers, and further checks have been added to the questionnaire in 2003-04 to improve the situation, however for this survey year the problem continues.

Moving the methodology from using last net pay to gross net pay, means that the Gross Earnings DV is now in some cases derived from different variables to the Net Earnings DV and so there are some cases where the two derived variables do not reconcile. This issue has been further complicated by the imputation methodology that is used in imputing components of pay - *See 'Methodology Changes: Imputation' for details*. We will be looking further into this issue, but would appreciate comments from users regarding the impact on their processes of the fact that in a small proportion of cases, gross earnings and net earnings do not reconcile

See Paper ['Imputation and Editing of components of pay'](#) for more details

(B) For the last two years, there has been some uncertainty about whether or not tax credits are included in usual pay. For this reason we included the condition that if tax credits are included in the pay, then use the last pay in all cases. From 2002-03, the usual pay questions explicitly reference tax credits and therefore there is no longer a need for this condition.

(C) The introduction of a question on why last pay was not usual has been used to determine the reason for this. This information can allow us to choose when it is appropriate to use the Usual Pay amount or Last Pay amount. There are ten possible reasons given for the pay being unusual and these are:

(WHYNOUSL) Why was your last pay not usual

1. Included a Tax rebate
2. I am currently being emergency taxed
3. Inclusion of one-off bonus/profit/performance-related payment
4. Inclusion of back pay
5. Unusual payment of deductions/expenses
6. New tax year
7. Just started or finished receiving tax credits/SSP/SMP or change in amount.
8. Wage/salary change
9. Change of job
10. Other (please code)

Reasons 2, 6, 8, and 9 have been deemed as being invalid reasons for our purpose of using usual pay and so in these instances the responses to last pay questions have been used in deriving usual gross pay.

An invalid reason is where the last pay was felt to be not usual because of a change in circumstances. For the purposes of FRS income we are interested in retrospective information rather than future income.

(D) The introduction of questions, based on responses to the 'why last pay not usual' question, now record usual deductions where these were not usual in last pay. This allows the usual deductions, if required, to be included in the derivation of gross wage.

(E) As with usual deductions, usual payments of SSP and SMP can now be identified.

New method (as used in 2002-03) – effect of change

The effect of this change in methodology affects only a small number of cases and initial investigations have shown the impact on estimates is minimal. The FRS and HBAI teams are looking into this further and will be making the results of this available.

2. NET EARNINGS FROM EMPLOYMENT – (NINEARNS)

Equivalent changes to (B), (C), (D) and (E) in the Gross derivation have been made to the derivation of net earnings from employment.

3. Housing Costs (HSCOSTHH)

Total Housing Costs are currently derived on the FRS using mortgage interest/household rent, water and sewerage rates, structural insurance and service charges. For Northern Ireland, the water and sewerage rates are included in the NI Rates and it is not possible to separately identify these costs.

From 2002-03, it is proposed that the Total Housing costs derived variable is split to cover GB and NI separately. The NI version (NIHSCOST) will have the same components as the GB equivalent (GBHSCOST), except that there will be no inclusion of water and sewerage costs.

Changes in treatment

1. GROSS income from Employment (correction of UGRSPAY)

In the FRS gross income from employment is derived from last take home pay or, if this is not usual, from usual gross pay.

Please note that from 2002-03 it is proposed that last gross pay will replace last take home pay.

An error has been identified in the derivation regarding treatment of deductions when deriving gross income from usual gross before deductions (UGROSS). An overview of the methodology is shown below.

FRS

Derivation of Gross earnings (UGRSPAY) from Last take home pay (PAYAMT):

adds DEDUC1 to DEDUC8 and DEDOTH.

Derivation of Gross earnings (UGRSPAY) from Usual Gross Pay (UGROSS):

adds DEDUC1 to DEDUC8 and DEDOTH.

Where

DEDUC1	Amount deducted:pensions/superannuation
DEDUC2	Amount deducted: AVCs
DEDUC3	Amount deducted: Union fees
DEDUC4	Amount deducted: friendly societies
DEDUC5	Amount deducted: sports/social clubs
DEDUC6	Amount deducted: repayment of loan
DEDUC7	Amount deducted: Medical insurance
DEDUC8	Amount deducted: Charities
DEDOTH	Total of other deductions

Problem

Double counting of deductions in UGRSPAY when derived from Usual Gross Pay.

UGROSS, as collected in the FRS, is the amount before deductions have been removed. In the cases where this is used in the derivation of UGRSPAY the derived variable is adding deductions onto this amount and so double counting.

This has been happening on the FRS since 1999-2000.

Change

Derivation to be amended to not add deductions when deriving from gross pay.

2. Northern Ireland variables

Where equivalent NI variables are available, the DV programs are modified to incorporate them. In other cases, it has been necessary to modify the programs such that they are GB only. The following three DVs have been modified

GROSSCT (gross council tax band)

WATSEWRT (water and sewerage charge for England and Wales)

DEPBAND (LA deprivation rank)

3. Travel to Work costs variables (TTWCOSTS)

The derived variable TTWCOSTS calculates the weekly costs for travelling to work, using different modes of transport. A similar variable is derived by the Individual Incomes section, and it has been brought to our attention that the methodology we use is slightly different.

This difference is in the cost per mile of using a car as the mode of transport.

There are two rates in the standard departmental travelling expenses. For annual mileage of under 6000 miles, the rate is 40p per mile and for mileage over 6000 miles the rate is 25p.

The Individual Income section use the above two rates, depending on the annual mileage, whereas the FRS team uses only one rate, 40p per mile, regardless of the total mileage travelled.

To be consistent, and to avoid over inflated travelling costs, we have modified our derived variable of travel costs to use the dual rates.

The constant mileage rate has been applied since the derivation of costs was introduced in 1999-00.

4. Definition of Family Type (FAMTHBHAI)

The definition of Pensioner Couple, in the derived variable for HBAI Family Type held on the FRS, has been changed to “either partner being of state pension age”, to be in line with HBAI definition. (Previously this was defined to depend on when the male was over pension age). HBAI and FRS are now consistent from 1996-97.

5. Deprivation Rank

The deprivation rank DV DEPBAND has been revised so that there is a rank for English authorities only. The program was previously allocating a rank for Scottish and Welsh authorities based on the value of their Local Authority Code. This appears to have been an error in the derivation and has been amended for all past years.

6. Treatment of Back to Work Bonus and Child Maintenance Bonus

Following a review of treatment of income, changes made to INIRBEN and INOTHBEN in 2000-01 to removed benefit types 26 and 51 (Back to Work Bonus and child maintenance bonus) have been reversed and are now included within benefit income. This amendment is in line with HBAI treatment

IMPUTATION

1. Net Rateable Value Of Property, for Northern Ireland Only

For Northern Ireland the Net Rateable Value of Property has been used as an equivalent to Council Tax Band in Great Britain. We have therefore constructed a distribution of net rateable values that is similar to that of Council Tax Bands for Great Britain.

2. Imputation of Components of income

As was mentioned earlier, the question on last gross pay is now asked of everyone who has been asked about last pay, not just those respondents consulting a payslip. It is therefore being used for the first time in a derived variable, and thus we have employed imputation of this variable for the first time. We have imputed last gross wage in conjunction with last net pay, national insurance contributions and PAYE income tax to try to ensure that last gross and last net pay are consistent. By using rounded amounts of those components of pay a respondent has given and taking all missing values from the same respondent, we have tried to ensure that consistent figures are imputed.

Users should be aware of the fact that last gross wage and components making up this wage do not always reconcile. In about ten per cent of cases there is a difference of at least £5 per week, and in two per cent of cases the difference is more than £50 per week. These figures are similar or lower than figures corresponding with earlier survey years. If we hotdeck a missing value based on a donor case where the components of income do not balance, then it is likely that the components of the hotdecked case will not reconcile either.

A further complication is that we match missing values on any components of wages actually given, i.e. last gross wage, last net pay, national insurance or PAYE income tax, but do not look at matching on deductions, i.e. those asked at the question DEDUC, including union fees, charities and AVCs. This will also contribute to possible imbalance between last gross pay and the sum of components making up the pay, with a donor case's deductions being different from the deductions for the hotdecked case.

See Paper [Imputation and Editing of components of pay](#) for more details

INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS DIRECTORATE
INCOME ANALYSIS 1

FAMILY RESOURCES SURVEY

2002-03

DATASET AND CHANGES SUMMARY

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INTRODUCTION

This summary report is produced in conjunction with the release of the 2002-03 Family Resources Survey (FRS) to provide users with an overview of the changes in information collected and any changes in the treatment of this information.

Further detailed information on all changes, and accompanying documentation and metadata for the 2002-03 survey, is available through the FRS documentation.

If at any point you would like to discuss any issues or require clarification then please contact me, or one of the FRS team.

Thanks,

Steve

FRS Team, Income Analysis Division

Summary of Changes

DATA STRUCTURE

Northern Ireland

From April 2002, the FRS survey has been extended to include Northern Ireland (NI) and so has become a United Kingdom (UK) series.

These data are included within the dataset and stored in the same structure as for Great Britain (GB). There has been no expansion in the scope of the survey and so in most cases the NI information is the same, or equivalent, to that of GB. There are two exceptions; questions on religion are asked in Northern Ireland only and two qualitative questions on take-up of free school meals in NI were included for the Northern Ireland Health department.

Where the information collected is equivalent, but not the same, the NI data are presented using a different variable and all GB records will be shown as skipped, and vice versa.

Scottish Boost

From April 2002, the FRS survey has been extended to include a 100% boost of the Scottish sample.

This will increase the sample size available for analysis at a Scottish level and has been controlled for through the FRS grossing regime.

CHANGES IN QUESTIONS AND VARIABLES

1. NORTHERN IRELAND VARIABLES

Most of the NI specific information has a GB equivalent. The exception is that NI has housing rates, which include water and sewerage, compared to the charges in GB for council tax and water/sewerage, which can be separated.

See 'Methodology Changes: Derived Variables' for details on proposed treatment

Note to users: Unfortunately due to a problem with the Northern Ireland questionnaire information on travel to work costs for cars and motorbikes have not been collected for the 2002-03 survey year.

Income

2. RECORDING USUAL PAY

There has been some confusion in the past about whether pay should be considered usual if it has just changed. In order to explore this, we have introduced a question about why pay has changed. This information can allow us to choose when it is appropriate to use the Usual Pay amount or Last Pay amount.

A number of new questions have also been added so that as much information as is collected for last pay is collected for usual pay.

See 'Methodology Changes: Derived Variables' for details on proposed treatment

3. GROSS WAGE

Gross Wage is now collected from all those asked about pay, not just for those who have consulted a payslip.

See 'Methodology Changes: Derived Variables' for details on proposed treatment

4. INCOME CHANGES

Respondents are asked whether their present income is higher, lower or the same as their income of three months ago. Previously, if their present income was lower, they were asked how much lower, but if their present income was higher, they were not asked how much higher. This information has now been extended to record income in both situations.

5. TRANSFER OF INCOME BETWEEN RESPONDENT AND ABSENT PARTNER

A new question block about allowances paid to an absent partner from the respondent has been inserted to complement the block about allowances paid from an absent partner to the

respondent. The questions are only asked if the respondent is married and the partner is absent or if they are married and separated.

6. CHANGES IN NATIONAL SAVINGS

New issues of FIRST Option Bonds have been replaced with Fixed Rate Savings Bonds.

7. TOTAL INVESTMENTS INCOME

A new question has been added to record the overall amount of income received from investments. Comparison work to compare responses to this question with that of our current total income DV, which is derived from each investment, has shown that the response to this question is low, with 25% of responses being 'don't know or refuse' and so has not been used as an alternative method to our current methodology.

8. SOCIAL FUND AND WINTER FUEL PAYMENT

The benefit categories, and as such the variable names, have been restructured so that benefits with a six-month reference period are asked in one block and those with a twelve-month reference period are asked in a separate block.

Housing Costs

9. NEW WATER AND SEWERAGE QUESTIONS

With the increased use of water meters, and annual charging, alternative questions have been included to allow recording of information on this basis. Further questions have been added to record water rebates.

10. PROPERTY CHARGES

An additional category has been inserted to allow a combined amount to be recorded for ground rent, service charge and maintenance charge.

Childcare and Education

11. EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT

The categories that are used to determine which educational establishment a child is currently attending have been changed to harmonise these with education surveys.

The change incorporates a split for Primary and Nursery, the inclusion of Middle schools, deemed Primary or Secondary, the clarification of Independent schools in the Private category and the inclusion of City Technology Colleges as Private schools.

12. SCHOOL RELATED CHILDCARE

The question relating to types of childcare used by the respondent has been amended to determine the prevalence of school related childcare. The nursery category has been extended to include School and there is an additional category covering After School Childcare and Holiday Play Schemes.

13. EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA)

The routing of EMA questions have been extended to cover those who are receiving education and are aged 19.

14. CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY

When parents were asked about paying for childcare, one of the categories was a certificate of eligibility or voucher. As these do not exist any more, that category has been removed.

Disability

15. DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT (DDA) DEFINITION OF DISABILITY

A new question, in line with DDA definition, has been introduced to capture the extent to which health problems and disabilities affect areas of a respondent's life.

Contribution to Pension Schemes

16. STAKEHOLDER PENSION

Information is now provided on whether a stakeholder pension has been taken out for the respondent or by the respondent for someone else.

Dropped Variables

17. Employment status (job record)

Information is provided on the employment status of each job. This information is provided in two formats; a employed/self-employed split and a type of employment split. The derivation of the employed/self-employed split is not consistent with the ILO employment status definition and has caused confusion amongst users.

Rotated Questions

18. QUESTIONS ROTATED OFF FOR 2002-03

Vehicle ownership and Consumer Durables blocks are rotated off.

19. QUESTIONS ROTATED ON FOR 2002-03

National Health Services and Travel to Work blocks are rotated on.

METHODOLOGY CHANGES

The changes that have been outlined so far are due to changes in the information collected and the structure of that information. Most of these changes can be treated by extending our current methodologies. Information on such changes is not provided in this summary, but is given in the more detailed [annual test release documentation](#). However, in some cases the new information will require a change in methodology. In addition, we have made further methodological changes. Details on these are shown below under the area for which they are most applicable: Derived Variables, Non-Benefit Editing, Benefit Editing and Imputation.

For derived variables, the proposed changes have been divided between those that are a result of changes in the information collected by the survey and those that are deemed as improvements to the current methodology.

DERIVED VARIABLES

Changes due to new information on survey

1. Gross Earnings from Employment

Previous method (2001-02) - summary

For adults who are currently working as an employee, gross earnings are calculated from usual gross pay if it exists, otherwise we use last take home pay, national insurance, and PAYE along with other tax deductions.

Final adjustments are made for bonuses and deductions for SMP/SSP.

The exception is for those cases where last pay includes Working Families or Disabled Persons Tax Credit. In these cases we always use last take home pay even if usual gross pay exists.

Proposed New method (as used in 2002-03) - summary

For adults who are currently working as an employee, gross earnings are calculated from usual gross pay if it exists ***and is deemed as usual for our purposes*** ^(C) otherwise we use ***last gross wage***. ^(A)

Allowances such as for mileage, tax refunds and money from work accounts are deducted from last gross wage ^(A). Deductions for pensions/superannuations and union fees are added onto usual gross wage ^(D).

Final adjustments are made for bonuses and ***deductions for SMP/SSP*** ^(E).

There is no exception made for recipients of tax credits. ^(B)

Note: Superscripts, ^(A), refer to points in the 'Proposed New method – details' section on the next page.

Proposed New method (as used in 2002-03) – details

(A) Information about last gross earnings is now collected from all those asked about last pay so this can now be used instead of deriving it from last net pay and deductions. It is still necessary to take some deductions from gross pay.

Note to users: Historically on the FRS net and gross pay responses, even when a payslip is consulted, do not reconcile in all cases. In the raw data for the 2002-03 survey, in approximately ten per cent of cases there is an imbalance of more than £5 between last gross pay and the components making up the figure. This is lower than in the previous two survey years, where in about 13 per cent of cases last gross wage and its components did not balance. However, because last gross wage details are now being collected from all asked about last pay, there is a growth in the absolute number of cases where last gross wage and its components do not balance. We have raised this with the data providers, and further checks have been added to the questionnaire in 2003-04 to improve the situation, however for this survey year the problem continues.

Moving the methodology from using last net pay to gross net pay, means that the Gross Earnings DV is now in some cases derived from different variables to the Net Earnings DV and so there are some cases where the two derived variables do not reconcile. This issue has been further complicated by the imputation methodology that is used in imputing components of pay - *See 'Methodology Changes: Imputation' for details.*

See Paper ['Imputation and Editing of components of pay'](#) for more details

(B) For the last two years, there has been some uncertainty about whether or not tax credits are included in usual pay. For this reason, we included the condition that if tax credits are included in the pay, then we use the last pay in all cases. From 2002-03, the usual pay questions explicitly reference tax credits and therefore there is no longer a need for this condition.

(C) The introduction of a question on why last pay was not usual has been used to determine the reason for this. This information can allow us to choose when it is appropriate to use the Usual Pay amount or Last Pay amount. There are ten possible reasons given for the pay being unusual and these are:

Why was your last pay not usual

1. Included a Tax rebate
2. I am currently being emergency taxed
3. Inclusion of one-off bonus/profit/performance-related payment
4. Inclusion of back pay
5. Unusual payment of deductions/expenses
6. New tax year
7. Just started or finished receiving tax credits/SSP/SMP or change in amount.
8. Wage/salary change
9. Change of job
10. Other (please code)

Reasons 2, 6, 8, and 9 have been deemed as being invalid reasons for our purpose of using usual pay and so in these instances the responses to last pay questions have been used in deriving usual gross pay.

An invalid reason is where the last pay was felt to be not usual because of a change in circumstances. For the purposes of FRS income we are interested in retrospective information rather than future income.

(D) The introduction of questions, based on responses to the ‘why last pay not usual’ question, now record usual deductions where these were not usual in last pay. This allows the usual deductions, if required, to be included in the derivation of gross wage.

(E) As with usual deductions, usual payments of SSP and SMP can now be identified.

New method (as used in 2002-03) – effect of change

The effect of this change in methodology affects only a small number of cases and initial investigations have shown the impact on estimates is minimal. The FRS and HBAI teams are looking into this further and will be making the results of this available.

2. Net Earnings for Employment

Equivalent changes to (B), (C), (D) and (E) in the Gross derivation have been made to the derivation of net earnings from employment.

3. Housing Costs

Total Housing Costs are currently derived on the FRS using mortgage interest/household rent, water and sewerage rates, structural insurance and service charges. For Northern Ireland, the water and sewerage rates are included in the NI Rates and it is not possible to separately identify these costs.

From 2002-03, the Total Housing costs derived variable is split to cover GB and NI separately. The NI version will have the same components as the GB equivalent, except that there will be no inclusion of water and sewerage costs.

Changes in treatment

1. GROSS income from Employment (correction)

An error has been identified in the derivation regarding treatment of deductions when deriving gross income from usual gross before deductions (UGROSS). An overview of the methodology is shown below.

FRS

Derivation of Gross earnings (UGRSPAY) from Last take home pay (PAYAMT):

adds DEDUC1 to DEDUC8 and DEDOTH.

Derivation of Gross earnings (UGRSPAY) from Usual Gross Pay (UGROSS):

adds DEDUC1 to DEDUC8 and DEDOTH, where;

DEDUC1	Amount deducted:pensions/superannuation
DEDUC2	Amount deducted: AVCs
DEDUC3	Amount deducted: Union fees
DEDUC4	Amount deducted: friendly societies
DEDUC5	Amount deducted: sports/social clubs
DEDUC6	Amount deducted: repayment of loan
DEDUC7	Amount deducted: Medical insurance
DEDUC8	Amount deducted: Charities
DEDOTH	Total of other deductions

Problem

Double counting of deductions in UGRSPAY when derived from Usual Gross Pay.

UGROSS, as collected in the FRS, is the amount before deductions have been removed. In the cases where this is used in the derivation of UGRSPAY the derived variable is adding deductions onto this amount and so double counting.

This has been happening on the FRS since 1999-2000.

Change

Derivation to be amended to not add deductions when deriving from gross pay.

2. Travel to Work costs

The derived variable that calculates the weekly costs for travelling to work, using different modes of transport has been modified. The Individual Incomes section derives a similar variable, and it has been brought to our attention that the methodology we use is slightly different.

This difference is in the cost per mile of using a car as the mode of transport.

There are two rates in the standard departmental travelling expenses. For annual mileage of less than 6000 miles, the rate is 40p per mile and for mileage over 6000 miles the rate is 25p.

The Individual Income section use the above two rates, depending on the annual mileage, whereas the FRS team uses only one rate, 40p per mile, regardless of the total mileage travelled.

To be consistent, and to avoid over inflated travelling costs, we have modified our derived variable of travel costs to use the dual rates.

The constant mileage rate has been applied since the derivation of costs was introduced in 1996-97.

3. Definition of Family Type

The definition of Pensioner Couple, in the derived variable for HBAI Family Type held on the FRS, has been changed to “either partner being of state pension age”, to be in line with HBAI definition. (Previously this was defined to depend on when the male was over pension age). HBAI and FRS are now consistent from 1996-97.

4. Deprivation Rank

The deprivation rank DV DEPBAND has been revised so that there is a rank for English authorities only. The program was previously allocating a rank for Scottish and Welsh authorities based on the value of their Local Authority Code. This appears to have been an error in the derivation and has been amended for all past years.

5. Treatment of Back to Work Bonus and Child Maintenance Bonus

Following a review of treatment of income, changes made to INIRBEN and INOTHBEN in 2000-01 to removed benefit types 26 and 51 (Back to Work Bonus and child maintenance bonus) have been reversed and are now included within benefit income. This amendment is in line with HBAI treatment

NON-BENEFIT EDITING

1. Amount of Mortgage Remaining

The editing of cases where the mortgage left is exceeded by either the amount borrowed or the re-mortgage amount has been improved so that fewer cases are left unedited. This has been achieved by considering whether the re-mortgage amount could plausibly be the additional amount borrowed, as opposed to the full amount owing after the re-mortgage.

2. Editing service charge and insurance premiums

The method used to edit cases that have been highlighted as having the potential for service charges and insurance premiums to be both including the same insurance payment has been refined.

3. Scottish Council Tax charges

More Scottish council tax charges than usual have been highlighted as not including council water and sewerage charges. As a result of this, editing instructions for ONS and NatCen for the 2003-04 data have been made more specific.

4. Water and sewerage charges

A new check has been implemented to ensure that annual amounts recorded for water and sewerage charges are consistent with the amounts last paid.

BENEFIT EDITING

1. Combined Benefits

After separation of combined benefits during our benefit editing, the variables showing whether the payment is combined have now been edited to 'skipped'. Users wishing to ascertain whether a combined benefit received was recorded can still determine this through alternate variables.

2. Review of FRS Benefit Editing

A paper entitled 'Modelling Take-up of Income Support among pensioners and the quality of social security benefit data in the British Family Resources Survey' (Ruth Hancock and Geraldine Barker) was produced for the Nuffield Community Studies Unit at the University of Leicester.

This paper used the 1997-98 and 1998-99 Family Resources Survey datasets to estimate the take-up of Income Support (IS) by pensioners, to estimate logistic regression take-up models and use these models to make illustrative predictions of take-up responses to simple changes in IS rates. An additional aim was to scrutinise the quality of the FRS data on the state benefits received by pensioners.

The paper identified a number of inconsistencies in the FRS benefit data and suggests desirable improvements. Whilst these inconsistencies did not have large effects on estimated take-up, it was concluded that they suggested that non take-up may be marginally less serious than the uncorrected data imply, particularly in terms of the ratio of the size of the average unclaimed to claimed entitlement.

There have been a number of improvements in the processing of the FRS dataset since the 1998-99 series was produced and these have addressed many of the issues raised. However, this paper has both identified areas for which we were not aware and also raised the issue of how historical datasets should be dealt with when improvements are made in the processing methodologies for more recent years.

The areas identified have been divided between IS and other benefits and the FRS team have looked into this and made some adjustments to the benefit editing for 2002-03.

See Paper [‘IS take-up and FRS data quality’](#) for more details

IMPUTATION

1. Net Rateable Value Of Property, for Northern Ireland Only

For Northern Ireland the Net Rateable Value of Property has been used as an equivalent to Council Tax Band in Great Britain. We have therefore constructed a distribution of net rateable values that is similar to that of Council Tax Bands for Great Britain.

2. Imputation of Components of income

As was mentioned earlier, the question on last gross pay is now asked of everyone who has been asked about last pay, not just those respondents consulting a payslip. It is therefore being used for the first time in a derived variable, and thus we have employed imputation of this variable for the first time. We have imputed last gross wage in conjunction with last net pay, national insurance contributions and PAYE income tax to try to ensure that last gross and last net pay are consistent. By using rounded amounts of those components of pay a respondent has given and taking all missing values from the same respondent, we have tried to ensure that consistent figures are imputed.

Users should be aware of the fact that last gross wage and components making up this wage do not always reconcile. In about ten per cent of cases there is a difference of at least £5 per week, and in two per cent of cases the difference is more than £50 per week. These figures are similar or lower than figures corresponding with earlier survey years. If we hotdeck a missing value based on a donor case where the components of income do not balance, then it is likely that the components of the hotdecked case will not reconcile either.

A further complication is that we match missing values on any components of wages actually given, i.e. last gross wage, last net pay, national insurance or PAYE income tax, but do not look at matching on deductions, i.e. those asked at the question DEDUC, including union fees, charities and AVCs. This will also contribute to possible imbalance between last gross pay and the sum of components making up the pay, with a donor case’s deductions being different from the deductions for the hotdecked case.

See Paper [Imputation and Editing of components of pay](#) for more details

IMPUTATION

The tables below provide further details on all the variable changes that have led to a change in our three imputation methods:

- Bulk Edits
- Algorithms
- Hotdecks

Bulk Edits

Rotated Variables

Base variable change		Editing Change
DENTIST	Last 4 weeks: whether visited dentist	Edit rotated back on.
EYETEST	Last 4 wks: whether had eye test	Edit rotated back on.
PRSCRPT	Last 4 weeks: whether NHS prescriptions	Edit rotated back on.
SPECS	Last 4 wks: whether bought specs/lenses	Edit rotated back on.
TTWCODE1	Respondent is passenger and contributes	Edit rotated back on.
TTWCODE2	Respondent is driver and receives money	Edit rotated back on.
TTWCODE3	Some other arrangement(neither of above)	Edit rotated back on.
TTWFAR	Distance travelled to work	Edit rotated back on.
TTWMOD	Usual method of travel to work	Edit rotated back on.
TTWPAY	Whether pays all/some of travel costs	Edit rotated back on.
TTWPSS	Whether has season ticket/travelcard	Edit rotated back on.
VOUCHER	NHS Voucher for Glasses/Contact Lenses	Edit rotated back on.
DENTIST	Last 4 weeks: whether visited dentist	Edit rotated back on.
EYETEST	Last 4 wks: whether had eye test	Edit rotated back on.
HOSP	Last 4 weeks: whether been to hospital	Edit rotated back on.
PRSCRPT	Last 4 weeks: whether NHS prescriptions	Edit rotated back on.
SPECS	Last 4 wks: whether bought specs/lenses	Edit rotated back on.

VOUCHER	NHS Voucher for Glasses/Contact Lenses	Edit rotated back on.
CENTFUEL	Type of fuel used by central heating	Edit rotated off.
CENTHEAT	Whether accomodation has central heating	Edit rotated off.
MODCON01	Whether TV satellite receiver	Edit rotated off.
MODCON02	Whether TV cable receiver	Edit rotated off.
MODCON03	Whether digital TV receiver	Edit rotated off.
MODCON04	Whether video recorder/player	Edit rotated off.
MODCON05	Whether deep freeze or fridge freezer	Edit rotated off.
MODCON06	Whether washing machine	Edit rotated off.
MODCON07	Whether tumble drier	Edit rotated off.
MODCON08	Whether dishwasher	Edit rotated off.
MODCON09	Whether microwave oven	Edit rotated off.
MODCON10	Whether fixed telephone	Edit rotated off.
MODCON11	Whether one or more mobile phones	Edit rotated off.
MODCON12	Whether compact disc (CD) player	Edit rotated off.
MODCON13	Whether home computer	Edit rotated off.
MODCON14	Whether internet access	Edit rotated off.
VEHIC	Type of vehicle	Edit rotated off.
VEHOWN	Whether own vehicle	Edit rotated off.

Dropped Variables

Base variable change		Editing Change
BEN5Q01	Rcpt last 6 months SF grant(funeral)	Replaced by ben4Q1
BEN5Q02	Rcpt last 6 months Sure start mat. grant	Replaced by ben4Q2
BEN5Q03	Rcpt last 6 months SF Loan or CC Grant	Replaced by ben4Q3
BEN5Q04	Rcpt last 6 months Back to Work bonus	Replaced by ben5Q1
BEN5Q05	Rcpt last 6 months: Extended HB/CTB	Replaced by ben5Q2
BEN5Q06	Rcpt last 6m: Widows/Bereavement Payment	Replaced by ben5Q3
BEN5Q07	Rcpt last 6 months Child Maint. Bonus	Replaced by ben5Q4
BEN5Q08	Rcpt last 6 months Lone Parent's Run-On	Replaced by ben5Q5
BEN5Q09	Not used - replaced with WINTFUEL	Replaced by ben4Q4
BEN5Q10	Rcpt last 6m: any other NI/State benefit	Replaced by ben5Q6
DSSPIS	DSS paying direct for 1 or	Replaced by GOVPIS

	more IS items	
DSSPJSA	DSS paying direct for 1 or more JSAitems	Replaced by GOVPJSA
MNTDSS1	Maintenance paid to self	Replaced by MntGov1
MNTDSS2	Maintenance paid via DSS/CSA	Replaced by MntGov2
PPREBDSS	Whether DSS paid contribution to Pen	Replaced by PPRebGov
WINTFUEL	In receipt: WFP in last 12m (modelled)	Replaced by ben4Q4
CHLOOK1	Childcare from: close relative	Replaced by chlook01
CHLOOK2	Childcare from: other relative	Replaced by chlook02
CHLOOK3	Childcare from: friend/neighbour	Replaced by chlook03
CHLOOK4	Childcare from: childminder	Replaced by chlook04
CHLOOK5	Childcare from: nursery/playgroup	Replaced by chlook05
CHLOOK6	Childcare from: creche	Replaced by chlook06
CHLOOK7	Childcare from: employer provide nursery	Replaced by chlook07
CHLOOK8	Childcare from: nanny/au pair	Replaced by chlook08
CHLOOK9	Childcare from: other	Replaced by chlook10
CHPAY4	Whether Payment made by "Other"	Replaced by chpay3
PENDSS	Whether money paid into Pen by DSS	Replaced by PENGOV
PPHELP	Whether emp. arranged pension	Replaced by PENHELP
PPNUMC	Number of Pensions contributed to	Dropped from PENPROV table only, is still on ADULT.

New Variables

Base variable change		Editing Change
ADEMA	Whether Adult EMA earnings	Closing down route
BEN4Q1	Rcpt last 12 months SF grant (funeral)	Replaces BEN5Q01 - Closing down route
BEN4Q2	Rcpt last 12 months Sure start mat.Grant	Replaces BEN5Q02 - Closing down route
BEN4Q3	Rcpt last 12 months SF Loan or CC Grant	Replaces BEN5Q03 - Closing down route
BEN5Q4	Rcpt last 6 months Child Maint. Bonus	Replaces BEN5Q07 – Closing down route
BEN5Q5	Rcpt last 6 months Lone Parent's Run-On	Replaces BEN5Q08 – Closing down route
BEN5Q6	Rcpt last 6m: any other NI/State benefit	Replaces BEN5Q10 – Closing down route
MNTGOV2	Maintenance paid via DWP/CSA/SSA	Closing down route
BEN4Q4	Rcpt last 12 m. Winter Fuel Payment	Replaces WINTFUEL - Closing down route
CHARGE9	Whether pay: combined ground rent, service and maintenance	Closing down route

INCLPAY6	Last pay includes Tax credit	Closing down route
UINCPAY6	Usual pay includes Tax Credit	Closing down route
UOTHDED1	Whether deducted: pension/superannuation	Closing down route
UOTHDED2	Whether deducted: AVC's	Closing down route
UOTHDED3	Whether deducted: Union Fees	Closing down route
UOTHDED4	Whether deducted: friendly societies	Closing down route
UOTHDED5	Whether deducted: sports/social clubs	Closing down route
UOTHDED6	Whether deducted: repayment of loan	Closing down route
UOTHDED7	Whether deducted: medical insurance	Closing down route
UOTHDED8	Whether deducted: charities	Closing down route
UOTHDED9	Whether deducted: other	Closing down route
ADEMAPD	Pcode: Adult EMA earnings	Setting to mode
CHLOOK01	Childcare from: close relative	Setting to mode
CHLOOK02	Childcare from: other relative	Setting to mode
CHLOOK03	Childcare from: friend/neighbour	Setting to mode
CHLOOK04	Childcare from: childminder	Setting to mode
CHLOOK05	Childcare from: nursery/school/playgroup	Setting to mode
CHLOOK06	Childcare from: creche	Setting to mode
CHLOOK07	Childcare from: employer provide nursery	Setting to mode
CHLOOK08	Childcare from: nanny/au pair	Setting to mode
CHLOOK09	Childcare from: after school or holiday play scheme	Setting to mode
CHLOOK10	Childcare from: other	Setting to mode
NIETHGRP		Simple algorithm, setting to 'Other'.
WHYNOU01	Why last pay not usual: tax rebate	Simple algorithm, setting to No
WHYNOU02	Why last pay not usual: tax	Simple algorithm, setting to No
WHYNOU03	Why last pay not usual: one-off payment	Simple algorithm, setting to No
WHYNOU04	Why last pay not usual: back pay	Simple algorithm, setting to No
WHYNOU05	Why last pay not usual: unusual deduction/expenses	Simple algorithm, setting to No
WHYNOU06	Why last pay not usual: new tax year	Simple algorithm, setting to No
WHYNOU07	Why last pay not usual: tax credits/SSP/SMP	Simple algorithm, setting to No
WHYNOU08	Why last pay not usual: wage/salary change	Simple algorithm, setting to No
WHYNOU09	Why last pay not usual: change of job	Simple algorithm, setting to No
WHYNOU10	Why last pay not usual: other	Simple algorithm, setting to Yes.
NITRAIN	Whether on Govt. training scheme	Simple algorithm, setting to None of these
RTREBPD	Pcode: Rate Rebate Period	Period code mop up

Category Changes

Base variable change		Editing Change
TAXFUT3	Awaiting outcome of claim: CTC	Variable not used last year but is now. Bulk edit is closing down route.
CHPAY3	Whether Payment made by "Other"	Certificate of eligibility or voucher' option removed as no longer in existence. CHPAY3 is now what was CHPAY4.

Algorithms

New Variables

Base variable change		Editing Change
USMPAMT	Amount included in usual wage for SMP	Treated the same as SMPAMT (set to standard higher rate).
USMPRATE	Higher/lower rate of SMP	Treated the same as SMPRATE (change to 1, higher rate).

Hotdecks

Rotated Variables

Base variable change		Editing Change
FARE	Cost of journey (where no pass)	Edit rotated back on.
ONEWAY	Whether one-way or return fare	Edit rotated back on.
PSSAMT	Cost of season ticket/travel pass	Edit rotated back on.
TTWCOST	Cost of weekly travel to work	Edit rotated back on.
TTWFAR	Distance travelled to work	Edit rotated back on.
TTWFRQ	Frequency of journey to work	Edit rotated back on.
TTWMOD	Usual method of travel to work	Edit rotated back on.
TTWREC	Travel costs: passengers' contributions	Edit rotated back on.

New Variables

Base variable change		Editing Change
ADEMAAMT	Amount of Adult EMA earnings	Hotdecked using any available value of ADEMAAMT as a potential donor – same as how CHEMAAMT is imputed.
CHRGAMT9	Amount paid for combined services	Hotdecked using same factors as the existing hotdeck for CHRGAMT1~8. These are HDHHINC, GVTREGN and either CTBAND or NINRV depending on whether it is a GB or NI case. (This is also a methodological change, see NINRV.)
RTREBAMT	Amount of Rate Rebate allowed	Hotdecked using any available value as is only asked in a few cases.

SEWANUL	Annual sewerage rate	Hotdecked using SEWAMT as a factor. If SEWAMT missing as well then ROOMS (CTBAND OR NINRV) TYPEACC LAC SSTRTREG GVTREGN used as factors.
WATANUL	Amount of Annual water rate	Hotdecked using WATAMT as a factor. If WATAMT missing as well then ROOMS (CTBAND OR NINRV) TYPEACC LAC SSTRTREG GVTREGN used as factors.
WSEWANUL	Amount of Annual water/sewerage rate	Hotdecked using WSEWAMT as a factor. If WSEWAMT missing as well then ROOMS (CTBAND OR NINRV) TYPEACC LAC SSTRTREG GVTREGN used as factors.
UDEDUC1	Amount deducted: pension	Hotdecked using UNETT NSSEC SIC.
UDEDUC2	Amount deducted: AVCs	Hotdecked using UNETT NSSEC SIC.
UDEDUC3	Amount deducted: Union fees	Hotdecked using UNETT NSSEC SIC.
UDEDUC4	Amount deducted: friendly socs	Hotdecked using UNETT NSSEC SIC.
UDEDUC5	Amount deducted: sports/social	Hotdecked using UNETT NSSEC SIC.
UDEDUC6	Amount deducted: loan repayment	Hotdecked using UNETT NSSEC SIC.
UDEDUC7	Amount deducted: Medical Ins	Hotdecked using UNETT NSSEC SIC.
UDEDUC8	Amount deducted: Charities	Hotdecked using UNETT NSSEC SIC.
UMILEAMT	Usual amount included for milage/motoring	Hotdecked using the same factors as MILEAMT – PAYAMT, NSSEC, SIC and UNETT.
UMOTAMT	Usual amount for motoring expenses	Hotdecked using PAYAMT NSSEC SIC.
UOTHDTOT	Total Amount of other deductions	Hotdecked using UNETT NSSEC SIC.
USSPAMT	Amount included in usual wage for SSP	Hotdecked using same factors as the hotdeck for SSPAMT.
UTAXAMT	Usual amount of refund of income tax	Was imputed manually as there were not enough cases to hotdeck with.

METHODOLOGY CHANGES

The changes that have been outlined so far are due to changes in the dataset variables and structure. We have also made changes to some of our methodology. These are shown below:

The changes that have been outlined so far are due to changes in the information collected and structure. Most of these changes can be treated by extended our current methodologies, information on these is provided in the 'Further details on changes' section of this report. However, in some cases the new information will require changes in methodology and in addition we are proposing some further methodological changes unrelated to the specific 2002-03 survey. Details on these are shown below divided between the areas for which they are most applicable: Derived Variables, Non-Benefit editing, Benefit Editing and Imputation.

For derived variables the proposed changes have been divided between those that are a result of changes in the information collected by the survey and those that are improvements to the current methodology.

NON-BENEFIT EDITING

The editing of cases where the mortgage left is exceeded by either the amount borrowed or the re-mortgage amount, which are highlighted through a credibility check, has been improved so that fewer cases are left unedited. This has been achieved by considering whether the re-mortgage amount could plausibly be the addition amount borrowed, as opposed to the full amount owing after the re-mortgage.

The method used to edit cases that have been highlighted as having the potential for chrgamt4 or chrgamt9 (service charges) and stramt1 or stramt2 (insurance premiums) to be both including the same insurance payment has been refined.

More Scottish council tax charges than usual have been highlighted as not including council water and sewerage charges. As a result of this, editing instructions for the 2003-04 data have been made more specific.

The set type variables emppay1-3 have been edited in the same way as in release B of the 2001-02 FRS full year data. For those respondents who could plausibly have an occupational or personal pension, emppay1-3 is a conventional set type, however if the respondent is only likely to be eligible for a stakeholder pension, and has therefore been asked the question stakep, emppay3 is a yes/no variable and emppay1-2 are set to skips.

BENEFIT EDITING

1. Combined Benefits

After separation of combined benefits, COMBAMT and COMBPD now edited to skipped. The edited COMBPD values are now transferred to BENPD for each previously combined benefit. Users wishing to reference whether a combined benefit is received can use the variable BENAMTDK

2. Review of FRS Benefit Editing

A paper entitled 'Modelling Take-up of Income Support among pensioners and the quality of social security benefit data in the British Family Resources Survey' (Ruth Hancock and Geraldine Barker) was produced for the Nuffield Community Studies Unit at the University of Leicester.

This paper used the 1997-98 and 1998-99 Family Resources Survey datasets to estimate the take-up of Income Support (IS) by pensioners, to estimate logistic regression take-up models and use these models to make illustrative predictions of take-up responses to simple changes in IS rates. An additional aim was to scrutinise the quality of the FRS data on the state benefits received by pensioners.

The paper identified a number of inconsistencies in the FRS benefit data and suggests desirable improvements. Whilst these inconsistencies did not have large effects on estimated take-up, it was concluded that they suggested that non take-up may be marginally less serious than the uncorrected data imply, particularly in terms of the ratio of the size of the average unclaimed to claimed entitlement.

There have been a number of improvements in the processing of the FRS dataset since the 1998-99 series was produced and these have addressed many of the issues raised. However, this paper has both identified areas for which we were not aware and also raised the issue of how historical datasets should be dealt with when improvements are made in the processing methodologies for more recent years.

The areas identified have been divided between IS and other benefits and the FRS team have looked into this and made some adjustments to the benefit editing for 2002-03.

See Paper ['IS take-up and FRS data quality'](#) for more details.

DERIVED VARIABLES

1. Income from Earnings - UGRSPAY, NINEARNS, SSPADJ/SMPADJ

Due to changes in the collection of information for Last pay and Usual Pay, various changes have been made to the derived variable programs for UGRSPAY, NINEARNS, SSPADJ/SMPADJ

GROSS EARNINGS FROM EMPLOYMENT (UGRSPAY)

Previous method (2001-02) - summary

For adults who are currently working as an employee, gross earnings are calculated from usual gross pay if it exists, otherwise we use last take home pay, national insurance, and PAYE along with other tax deductions.

Final adjustments are made for bonuses and deductions for SMP/SSP.

The exception is for those cases where last pay includes Working Families or Disabled Persons Tax Credit. In these cases we always use last take home pay even if usual gross pay exists.

New method (as used in 2002-03) - summary

For adults who are currently working as an employee, gross earnings are calculated from usual gross pay if it exists **and is deemed as usual for our purposes** ^(C) otherwise we use **last gross wage**. ^(A)

Allowances such as for mileage, tax refunds and money from work accounts are deducted from last gross wage . Deductions for pensions/superannuations and union fees are added onto usual gross wage ^(D).

Final adjustments are made for bonuses and **deductions for SMP/SSP** ^(E).

There is no exception made for recipients of tax credits. ^(B)

Note: Superscripts, ^(A), refer to points in the 'Proposed New method – details' section on the next page.

New method (as used in 2002-03) – details

(A) Information about last gross earnings (GRWAGE) is now collected from all those asked about last pay so this can now be used instead of deriving it from last net pay (PAYAMT) and deductions. It is still necessary to take some deductions from gross pay.

Note to users: Historically on the FRS net and gross pay responses, even when a payslip is consulted, do not reconcile in all cases. In the raw data for the 2002-03 survey, in approximately ten per cent of cases there is an imbalance of more than £5 between last gross pay and the components making up the figure. This is lower than in the previous two survey years, where in about 13 per cent of cases last gross wage and its components did not balance. However, because last gross wage details are now being collected from all asked about last pay, there is a growth in the absolute number

of cases where last gross wage and its components do not balance. We have raised this with the data providers, and further checks have been added to the questionnaire in 2003-04 to improve the situation, however for this survey year the problem continues.

Moving the methodology from using last net pay to gross net pay, means that the Gross Earnings DV is now in some cases derived from different variables to the Net Earnings DV and so there are some cases where the two derived variables do not reconcile. This issue has been further complicated by the imputation methodology that is used in imputing components of pay - See *'Methodology Changes: Imputation'* for details. We will be looking further into this issue, but would appreciate comments from users regarding the impact on their processes of the fact that in a small proportion of cases, gross earnings and net earnings do not reconcile

See Paper ['Imputation and Editing of components of pay'](#) for more details

(B) For the last two years, there has been some uncertainty about whether or not tax credits are included in usual pay. For this reason we included the condition that if tax credits are included in the pay, then use the last pay in all cases. From 2002-03, the usual pay questions explicitly reference tax credits and therefore there is no longer a need for this condition.

(C) The introduction of a question on why last pay was not usual has been used to determine the reason for this. This information can allow us to choose when it is appropriate to use the Usual Pay amount or Last Pay amount. There are ten possible reasons given for the pay being unusual and these are:

(WHYNOUSL) Why was your last pay not usual

1. Included a Tax rebate
2. I am currently being emergency taxed
3. Inclusion of one-off bonus/profit/performance-related payment
4. Inclusion of back pay
5. Unusual payment of deductions/expenses
6. New tax year
7. Just started or finished receiving tax credits/SSP/SMP or change in amount.
8. Wage/salary change
9. Change of job
10. Other (please code)

Reasons 2, 6, 8, and 9 have been deemed as being invalid reasons for our purpose of using usual pay and so in these instances the responses to last pay questions have been used in deriving usual gross pay.

An invalid reason is where the last pay was felt to be not usual because of a change in circumstances. For the purposes of FRS income we are interested in retrospective information rather than future income.

(D) The introduction of questions, based on responses to the 'why last pay not usual' question, now record usual deductions where these were not usual in last pay. This allows the usual deductions, if required, to be included in the derivation of gross wage.

(E) As with usual deductions, usual payments of SSP and SMP can now be identified.

New method (as used in 2002-03) – effect of change

The effect of this change in methodology affects only a small number of cases and initial investigations have shown the impact on estimates is minimal. The FRS and HBAI teams are looking into this further and will be making the results of this available.

2. NET EARNINGS FROM EMPLOYMENT – (NINEARNS)

Equivalent changes to (B), (C), (D) and (E) in the Gross derivation have been made to the derivation of net earnings from employment.

3. Housing Costs (HSCOSTHH)

Total Housing Costs are currently derived on the FRS using mortgage interest/household rent, water and sewerage rates, structural insurance and service charges. For Northern Ireland, the water and sewerage rates are included in the NI Rates and it is not possible to separately identify these costs.

From 2002-03, it is proposed that the Total Housing costs derived variable is split to cover GB and NI separately. The NI version (NIHSCOST) will have the same components as the GB equivalent (GBHSCOST), except that there will be no inclusion of water and sewerage costs.

Changes in treatment

1. GROSS income from Employment (correction of UGRSPAY)

In the FRS gross income from employment is derived from last take home pay or, if this is not usual, from usual gross pay.

Please note that from 2002-03 it is proposed that last gross pay will replace last take home pay.

An error has been identified in the derivation regarding treatment of deductions when deriving gross income from usual gross before deductions (UGROSS). An overview of the methodology is shown below.

FRS

Derivation of Gross earnings (UGRSPAY) from Last take home pay (PAYAMT):

adds DEDUC1 to DEDUC8 and DEDOTH.

Derivation of Gross earnings (UGRSPAY) from Usual Gross Pay (UGROSS):

adds DEDUC1 to DEDUC8 and DEDOTH.

Where

DEDUC1	Amount deducted:pensions/superannuation
DEDUC2	Amount deducted: AVCs
DEDUC3	Amount deducted: Union fees
DEDUC4	Amount deducted: friendly societies
DEDUC5	Amount deducted: sports/social clubs
DEDUC6	Amount deducted: repayment of loan
DEDUC7	Amount deducted: Medical insurance
DEDUC8	Amount deducted: Charities
DEDOTH	Total of other deductions

Problem

Double counting of deductions in UGRSPAY when derived from Usual Gross Pay.

UGROSS, as collected in the FRS, is the amount before deductions have been removed. In the cases where this is used in the derivation of UGRSPAY the derived variable is adding deductions onto this amount and so double counting.

This has been happening on the FRS since 1999-2000.

Change

Derivation to be amended to not add deductions when deriving from gross pay.

2. Northern Ireland variables

Where equivalent NI variables are available, the DV programs are modified to incorporate them. In other cases, it has been necessary to modify the programs such that they are GB only. The following three DVs have been modified

GROSSCT (gross council tax band)

WATSEWRT (water and sewerage charge for England and Wales)

DEPBAND (LA deprivation rank)

3. Travel to Work costs variables (TTWCOSTS)

The derived variable TTWCOSTS calculates the weekly costs for travelling to work, using different modes of transport. A similar variable is derived by the Individual Incomes section, and it has been brought to our attention that the methodology we use is slightly different.

This difference is in the cost per mile of using a car as the mode of transport.

There are two rates in the standard departmental travelling expenses. For annual mileage of under 6000 miles, the rate is 40p per mile and for mileage over 6000 miles the rate is 25p.

The Individual Income section use the above two rates, depending on the annual mileage, whereas the FRS team uses only one rate, 40p per mile, regardless of the total mileage travelled.

To be consistent, and to avoid over inflated travelling costs, we have modified our derived variable of travel costs to use the dual rates.

The constant mileage rate has been applied since the derivation of costs was introduced in 1999-00.

4. Definition of Family Type (FAMTHBHAI)

The definition of Pensioner Couple, in the derived variable for HBAI Family Type held on the FRS, has been changed to “either partner being of state pension age”, to be in line with HBAI definition. (Previously this was defined to depend on when the male was over pension age). HBAI and FRS are now consistent from 1996-97.

5. Deprivation Rank

The deprivation rank DV DEPBAND has been revised so that there is a rank for English authorities only. The program was previously allocating a rank for Scottish and Welsh authorities based on the value of their Local Authority Code. This appears to have been an error in the derivation and has been amended for all past years.

6. Treatment of Back to Work Bonus and Child Maintenance Bonus

Following a review of treatment of income, changes made to INIRBEN and INOTHBEN in 2000-01 to removed benefit types 26 and 51 (Back to Work Bonus and child maintenance bonus) have been reversed and are now included within benefit income. This amendment is in line with HBAI treatment

IMPUTATION

1. Net Rateable Value Of Property, for Northern Ireland Only

For Northern Ireland the Net Rateable Value of Property has been used as an equivalent to Council Tax Band in Great Britain. We have therefore constructed a distribution of net rateable values that is similar to that of Council Tax Bands for Great Britain.

2. Imputation of Components of income

As was mentioned earlier, the question on last gross pay is now asked of everyone who has been asked about last pay, not just those respondents consulting a payslip. It is therefore being used for the first time in a derived variable, and thus we have employed imputation of this variable for the first time. We have imputed last gross wage in conjunction with last net pay, national insurance contributions and PAYE income tax to try to ensure that last gross and last net pay are consistent. By using rounded amounts of those components of pay a respondent has given and taking all missing values from the same respondent, we have tried to ensure that consistent figures are imputed.

Users should be aware of the fact that last gross wage and components making up this wage do not always reconcile. In about ten per cent of cases there is a difference of at least £5 per week, and in two per cent of cases the difference is more than £50 per week. These figures are similar or lower than figures corresponding with earlier survey years. If we hotdeck a missing value based on a donor case where the components of income do not balance, then it is likely that the components of the hotdecked case will not reconcile either.

A further complication is that we match missing values on any components of wages actually given, i.e. last gross wage, last net pay, national insurance or PAYE income tax, but do not look at matching on deductions, i.e. those asked at the question DEDUC, including union fees, charities and AVCs. This will also contribute to possible imbalance between last gross pay and the sum of components making up the pay, with a donor case's deductions being different from the deductions for the hotdecked case.

See Paper [‘Imputation and Editing of components of pay’](#) for more details

INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS DIRECTORATE
INCOME ANALYSIS 1

FAMILY RESOURCES SURVEY 2002-03

A COMPARISON OF THE FRS DATA SETS FOR GREAT BRITAIN AND
NORTHERN IRELAND

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Section 1: Brief summary and scope of the document

- 1.1 The aim of this document is to inform users of issues arising from the inclusion of Northern Ireland data in the Family Resources Survey (FRS) data set. The inclusion of Northern Ireland in the FRS sample from April 2002 extends the FRS from a Great Britain series to a United Kingdom series, and thus brings a number of advantages in terms of being able to obtain a geographically complete profile of individuals and households in the United Kingdom.
- 1.2 Data for Northern Ireland are included within the dataset in the same structure as for Great Britain. There has been no expansion in the scope of the survey and so, in most cases, the Northern Ireland information is the same as that of Great Britain. In considering whether to continue to analyse the FRS on a Great Britain basis or to extend to include Northern Ireland data in constructing statistics, users do need to be aware of certain small differences in the information collected for Northern Ireland and Great Britain, and differences between the profiles of Great Britain and Northern Ireland respondents.
- 1.3 The differences between the variables corresponding to Northern Ireland and Great Britain are the subject of Section 2. Where there exist equivalent variables, where one corresponds to Northern Ireland and the other to Great Britain these are commented on. Other variables are specific to Northern Ireland with no equivalent in Great Britain and vice versa. Such variables are identified and should be considered when constructing United Kingdom FRS statistics.
- 1.4 Section 2 concludes that there is very little information collected for Northern Ireland only. The main difference in the type of information collected for Northern Ireland and Great Britain is necessitated by the different local tax systems operating in the two countries. In Northern Ireland local taxation is administered through a rates system, as opposed to the council tax system operating in Great Britain. This feeds into the way certain derived variables are calculated and means that separate housing costs derived variables have to be calculated for Northern Ireland and Great Britain.
- 1.5 There then follows an examination of how the Northern Ireland FRS data differs from the Great Britain data. This work is based on the results of a comparison of a fully edited dataset containing only Great Britain cases and a fully edited dataset containing only Northern Ireland cases. Such an exercise is fundamental to the construction of United Kingdom statistics, if previously only Great Britain figures were presented. There are some areas where the Northern Ireland sample differs significantly from the Great Britain sample, and in such cases introducing the Northern Ireland sample to a previous Great Britain only statistic could result in a large discontinuity.
- 1.6 Section 3 looks at differences between the Northern Ireland sample and the Great Britain sample for variables collected at an individual level. The key results are that median individual incomes in Northern Ireland are lower than in Great Britain. The make up of income is also different, with a lower proportion of income in Northern Ireland made up by earnings and a higher proportion made up by self-employment, disability benefit and other benefits (excluding retirement pensions). There is also a large difference in the ownership of various types of accounts, with the proportion of the sample owning current accounts, stocks and shares, and premium bonds in Northern Ireland being smaller.

- 1.7 Section 4 then looks at differences at the benefit unit level, with differences in the types of benefits received in Northern Ireland compared to Great Britain being considered in detail. This analysis shows that there is a higher level of reliance on state support in Northern Ireland, with higher proportions of the sample receiving Income Support, Disability Living Allowance (care and mobility components), Child Benefit and Housing Benefit. There are a lower proportion of people sampled receiving Retirement Pension in Northern Ireland than in Great Britain. Other differences in terms of asset ownership, income and employment status at benefit unit level are commented upon.
- 1.8 Finally, Section 5 considers variables held at the household level, including household income and housing costs. Households tend to be larger in Northern Ireland, and this is reflected in a higher proportion of the Northern Ireland sample being made up of two adults with three or more children than in the Great Britain sample. The housing stock also differs between Northern Ireland and Great Britain, with a higher proportion of households living in detached houses and a smaller proportion living in flats and maisonettes in Northern Ireland compared to Great Britain. Comparable housing costs in Northern Ireland tend to be lower, with endowment mortgages making up a higher proportion of all mortgages in Northern Ireland than in Great Britain. For the rental sector, a higher proportion of renters have their council as a landlord in Northern Ireland, but a lower proportion rent from Housing Associations.
- 1.9 It should be stressed that the structure of the Northern Ireland data set is identical to that of the Great Britain data set in the way that the vast majority of information is collected. It should also be emphasised that in many areas the profile of Northern Ireland respondents does not differ significantly from Great Britain respondents. There has been some analysis performed in this exercise to compare Northern Ireland statistics with statistics corresponding to individual Government Office Regions in England, or to Wales or Scotland, particularly where the differences between Great Britain and Northern Ireland are very large. In most of the cases where such a comparison to individual parts of Great Britain has been made, it has shown that the Northern Ireland sample is quite similar in profile to some Government Office Regions or to Scotland or Wales in terms of a particular characteristic. Performing such a regional trends style exercise, however, is beyond the scope of this exercise, which is purely to ascertain the impact introducing Northern Ireland cases to the FRS dataset may have on analysis and statistics produced.
- 1.10 Since no grossing factors were available at the time when this exercise was undertaken, all figures correspond to un-grossed estimates, however the differences commented on are large and might be expected to still be exhibited in grossed up estimates, where the factors are not controlled for in the grossing regime. Finally, this analysis should only be used to inform further analysis of the FRS dataset. The fact that estimates have not been grossed up means that any figures quoted should be considered as indicative only, and that further analysis is necessary with grossed up figures to quantify exactly any differences between the Northern Ireland and Great Britain samples. The variation in response rates between Northern Ireland and Great Britain must also be considered. The response rate in Northern Ireland is 55%. This is much lower than that of Great Britain, which is 64%. This is additional reason to treat un-grossed figures with caution. The sampling frame is also different, with the Northern Ireland sample being a simple random sample, where every member of the population has an equal chance of being selected and the Great

Britain being a stratified sample, where respondents are selected proportionally from various strata of the population.

Section 2: Northern Ireland and Great Britain FRS data structure

Key points

- **No expansion in the scope of the survey.**
- **In vast majority of cases, Northern Ireland data identical to Great Britain.**
- **Only two pieces of information collected for Northern Ireland only (religious denomination and take-up of free school meals).**
- **Key difference between Northern Ireland and Great Britain data structure is that a rates system not a council tax system operates in Northern Ireland.**
- **Water charges cannot be separately identified for Northern Ireland cases from rates information.**
- **A separate Northern Ireland derived variable for housing costs, which is not equivalent to that in Great Britain, is necessary.**
- **See the accompanying list of Northern Ireland and Great Britain only variables for further information.**

Information collected in Northern Ireland only

- 2.1 There are two pieces of information collected in Northern Ireland only.
- 2.2 Firstly, questions on the religious denomination of respondents, stored under NIREl, are collected for Northern Ireland only. This is because the religion of respondents is an important variable in Northern Ireland, where there can be significant differences in the profile of respondents from different religious denominations.
- 2.3 Secondly, two qualitative questions on the take up of free school meals have been included in the survey for Northern Ireland respondents at the request of the Northern Ireland Health Department. These two variables, FSMApply and FSMTkUp, deal with whether respondents in Northern Ireland know how to apply for free school meals if they are not receiving them, and why these free school meals were not taken up in these cases respectively. These questions are rarely asked, with FSMApply being asked 27 times and FSMTkUp only being asked 20 times.

Areas Where Variables Corresponding to Northern Ireland and Great Britain Differ

Council tax in Great Britain and rates in Northern Ireland

- 2.4 The major difference between Northern Ireland and Great Britain is in the way the local taxation system operates. People in Northern Ireland do not pay council tax; instead a rates system operates where the amount paid is dependent on the respondent's council area and the size of the house in which they live. This has necessitated two distinct questionnaire routings, the first to capture Great Britain council tax information and the second to capture Northern Ireland rates information. Mapping 1 overleaf shows the Northern Ireland questions compared with those used in Great Britain.

Mapping 1 – Council tax variables in Great Britain and rates variables in Northern Ireland compared.

Variable in Great Britain	Description	Variable in Northern Ireland	Description
		BillRate	Do you get a bill for rates on this accommodation?
		PayRate	Do you, or someone in this household, pay the rates bill?
CTConDoc	For your Council Tax, do you have a bill, statement or a payment book that you could consult?	RTConDoc	For your Rates, do you have a bill, or a payment book that you could consult?
CTBand	Could you please tell me which Council Tax band this accommodation is in?		
CTLVBand	Was your Council Tax bill reduced to a lower band because there is a disabled person in the household?		
CTLVChk	You said you were in band [x]; is that the band <u>after</u> this lower valuation, or <u>before</u> ?		
CTAmt	How much Council Tax do you/your household currently pay?	EstRTAnn	Can you tell me, what is the total amount of rates payable for the year, after deducting any discounts or benefits?
CTInstal	(Can I just check) Was that the full payment for the year, or was it an instalment?	RTInstal	(Can I just check) Was that the full payment for the year, or was it an instalment?
CTTime	How many instalments are there, over the whole year?	RTTime	How often do you pay instalments?
CTAnnual	On the statement/bill, what is the total amount payable for the year, [including Domestic Water and Sewerage Charges but] after deducting any discounts or benefit?	RTAnnual	On the statement/bill, what is the total amount payable for the year, after deducting any discounts or benefit?
CTReb	Are you allowed Council Tax Benefit or rebate, to help pay your Council Tax?	RTReb	Are you allowed a Rates Rebate?
CTRebAmt	How much was allowed?	RTRebAmt	How much was allowed?
CTRebPd	How long did this cover?	RTRebPd	How long did this cover?
		RTDeduc	Was this deducted from your LAST rates payment?
WhoseCTB	According to the statement, who is the Council Tax Benefit for?		
WhyNoCT	What is the reason for paying no council tax?	NoRate	Why do you not get a rates bill?
CTBWait	Are you awaiting the outcome of a claim for Council Tax benefit or rebate?		
CTDisc	[In addition to your benefit / Are] you allowed a discount of 25% or 50% in relation to your Council Tax, for any of the reasons shown on this card?		
CT25D50D	Can I just check, were you allowed a 25%, or a 50% discount?		

- 2.5 It can be seen that for most variables, there is an equivalent Northern Ireland rates variable for a Great Britain council tax variable. Exceptions include council tax bandings questions and council tax status discount questions. There are no equivalent concepts in Northern Ireland rates.
- 2.6 A further two variable are added to the Northern Ireland data set that are related to the rates system. These are NIRate, the district council rate for a particular district council, and NINRV, the Net Rateable value of the property. The amount paid by the householder in a year should be approximately equal to $NINRV * NIRate$, however there are a number of factors why this may not exactly match EstRTAnn or RTAnnual. The main reason is the fact that many of the NINRV values are outdated, with the agency from which the data is supplied being in the process of revaluating the data for many Northern Ireland households. The correspondence between $NINRV * NIRate$ and EstRTAnn or RTAnnual should improve in future survey years.

Housing benefit, rates rebate and council tax benefit

- 2.7 The differing rates and council tax systems necessitate further changes to capture information about housing benefit, council tax benefits and rates rebates information. This affects the derived variable, HBINDBU, which states which of income support, council tax benefit / rates rebate or income support a respondent receives. Please see the derived variables discussion at the end of this Section for further details. Also, the variables ExtHBCT1-3, which capture receipt of extended housing benefit and council tax benefit in Great Britain has a Northern Ireland only equivalent, NIExtHBB, which only captures payment of extended housing benefit.

Water and sewerage charges

- 2.8 Water and sewerage charges are included in the Northern Ireland rates amount and it is not possible for Northern Ireland respondents to separately identify these components of their rates. This means that all variables corresponding to charges for water and sewerage correspond to Great Britain only. A list of the variables in question can be found in the spreadsheet listing Northern Ireland and Great Britain only variables. This has a knock-on effect on the derived variables GBHSCost and NIHSCost, giving housing costs for Great Britain and Northern Ireland. See the discussion regarding derived variables at the end of this Section.

Ethnic groups and national identity

- 2.9 The ethnic groups for Great Britain stored under the variable EthGrp differ very slightly from those for Northern Ireland, stored under the variable NIEthGrp, in that NIEthGrp has an extra category of 'Irish Traveller'. All other ethnic groups are identical and Mapping 2 overleaf shows how United Kingdom ethnic groups can be constructed on the FRS.
- 2.10 The national identity variables for Great Britain, NatId1-6, differ from those in Northern Ireland NINatID1-8, and contain two extra option, NINatId3, which denotes an Ulster national identity and NINatID4, which denotes a Northern Irish national identity. Mapping 3 below shows the relationship between the two national identity variables.

Mapping 2 – Ethnic group categories for Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Harmonised Ethnic Group	EthGrp Coding	EthGrp Category	NI EthGrp Coding	NI EthGrp Category
White	1	White - British	1	White
			2	Irish Traveller
	2	Any other white background	3	Any other white background
Mixed	3	Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	4	Mixed - White and Black Caribbean
	4	Mixed - White and Black African	5	Mixed - White and Black African
	5	Mixed - White and Asian	6	Mixed - White and Asian
	6	Any other mixed background	7	Any other mixed background
Asian or Asian British	7	Asian or Asian British - Indian	8	Asian - Indian
	8	Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	9	Asian - Pakistani
	9	Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	10	Asian - Bangladeshi
	10	Any other Asian/Asian British background	11	Any other Asian background
Black or Black British	11	Black or Black British - Caribbean	12	Black - Caribbean
	12	Black or Black British - African	13	Black - African
	13	Any other Black/Black British background	14	Any other Black background
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group	14	Chinese	15	Chinese
	15	Any other	16	Any other

Mapping 3 – National identity categories for Great Britain and Northern Ireland

National identity category	NatID coding	NI NatID coding
English	NatID1	NI NatID5
Scottish	NatID2	NI NatID6
Welsh	NatID3	NI NatID7
Irish	NatID4	NI NatID2
British	NatID5	NI NatID1
Other answer	NatID6	NI NatID8
Ulster		NI NatID3
Northern Irish		NI NatID4

Modes of transport

2.11 The categories under TTWMod, asked of Great Britain respondents about the mode of transport they use to get to work, differ from those in Northern Ireland given under NITTWMod, in that the categories 'London underground train' and

‘Light railway/tram’ are not applicable there. The exact mapping is shown in Mapping 4 below. The derived variable TTWMode combines Northern Ireland and Great Britain data and uses Great Britain categories to codify all travel to work data.

- 2.12 Due to a problem with the Northern Ireland questionnaire, information on travel to work costs for cars and motorcycles have not been collected for the 2002-03 survey year. The variables affected are TTWPAY (Whether pays all/some of travel costs), TTWCode1 (Whether respondent is passenger and contributes), TTWCode2 (Whether respondent is driver and receives money), TTWCode 3 (Whether there is some other arrangement to pay travel costs), TTWCost (Cost of weekly travel to work) and TTWRec (Travel costs: passengers' contributions).

Mapping 4 – Modes of Transport Categories for Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Mode of Transport	TTWMod coding	NITTWMod coding
Car/van (include minibus/works van)	1	1
Motorbike/moped/scooter	2	2
Bicycle	3	3
Bus (include coach, private bus)	4	4
Railway train	5	5
London underground train	6	N/A
Light railway/tram	7	N/A
Walk	8	6
Taxi	9	7
Other	10	8

Other minor differences in base variables

- 2.13 One minor difference is in the administrative structure of Northern Ireland compared with Great Britain. Local Authority codes (stored under the LAC variable) only correspond to Great Britain. In Northern Ireland there are 26 council areas, given under the NICoun variable.
- 2.14 Deprivation bands are only available for England, so correspondingly there is no information for Northern Ireland. ACORN codes to classify the type of area a respondent comes from are currently only available for Great Britain. We are however working towards obtaining this information for the whole of the United Kingdom.
- 2.15 The types of educational establishments in Northern Ireland differ from the types that exist in Great Britain, with the concept of Middle-deemed Primary Schools or Middle-deemed Secondary Schools not being applicable. Thus these categories in the question TypeEd are not available in Northern Ireland.
- 2.16 The categories at the question Train, which asks about the type of Government Training Scheme a respondent in Great Britain is undertaking, are different from the categories at NITrain, which asks about the Government Training Schemes in Northern Ireland. The Future question, asking about whether the respondent consents to another organisation carrying out a follow-up interview is not asked in Northern Ireland.

Differences in derived variables

- 2.17 Where equivalent Northern Ireland variables are available, the derived variables programs are modified to incorporate them. In other cases, it has been necessary to modify the programs such that they correspond to Great Britain only. The following three derived variables have been modified to correspond to Great Britain only; GrossCT (gross council tax band), WatSewRT (water and sewerage charge for England and Wales) and DepBand (LA deprivation rank).

Housing costs

- 2.18 In addition, two separate housing costs variables have been derived, one corresponding to Northern Ireland (NIHsCost) and the other corresponding to Great Britain (GBHsCost). Total housing costs for Great Britain are derived on the FRS using mortgage interest/household rent, water and sewerage rates, structural insurance and service charges. For Northern Ireland, as was mentioned earlier, the water and sewerage rates are included in the Northern Ireland Rates and it is not possible to separately identify these costs. Therefore the total housing costs derived variable has been split to cover Great Britain and Northern Ireland separately. The Northern Ireland version (NIHsCost) has the same components as the Great Britain equivalent (GBHsCost), except that there is no inclusion of water and sewerage costs.

Housing benefit, rates rebate and council tax benefit

- 2.19 The derived variable, HBINDBU and HBINHH contain information about which, if any, of council tax benefit, income support, or housing benefit or rates rebate a responding benefit unit or household is receiving. These derived variables have been modified so they treat recipients of council tax benefit in Great Britain and recipients of rates rebates in Northern Ireland equivalently.

Other variables with no Northern Ireland data

- 2.20 There are a number of further variables with no cases for Northern Ireland. For these variables there were no Northern Ireland cases which met the conditions for the question to be asked, and thus there are no values for Northern Ireland. For all these variables, there are only a very few cases in Great Britain.

Section 3: A comparison of individuals in the Northern Ireland and Great Britain FRS samples

Key points

- Lower median income in Northern Ireland than Great Britain, but similar to Yorkshire and Humberside and Scotland, and higher than Wales and the North East.
- Higher proportion of income made up by earnings and lower proportion from self-employment, disability benefits and other (non-retirement pension) benefits in Great Britain than in Northern Ireland.
- There is a much lower ownership of accounts in Northern Ireland, compared with Great Britain and its constituent parts, particularly for current accounts, stocks and shares, and premium bonds.
- Higher rates of disability in Northern Ireland, with those respondents needing care generally needing a higher level of care in Northern Ireland than Great Britain.
- Lower proportion of Northern Ireland sample contributing to or receiving money from a pension than in Great Britain.

Sample sizes

- 3.1 The FRS sample for Great Britain consists of 63,041 individuals, of whom 47,439 were adults. This can be compared to the FRS sample for Northern Ireland, which consists of 4,359 individuals, of whom 3,095 were adults. The smaller Northern Ireland sample must be borne in mind when comparing the two data sets, however the differences commented on are very likely to be statistically significant at the 95 per cent confidence level.¹

Demographic information

- 3.2 The age distribution is such that people in the Northern Ireland sample are younger on average with 75 per cent of adults surveyed in Great Britain being below pension age, compared with 78 per cent of adults in Northern Ireland. In terms of the age of all individuals in the FRS sample, the average age in Great Britain is 38.4 years compared to 35.8 years in Northern Ireland. This difference is highly statistically significant.
- 3.3 The sample in Northern Ireland is predominantly white, with less than one per cent of the sample being from ethnic minorities. The equivalent statistic for the sample in Great Britain is 7 per cent.
- 3.4 The marital status of Northern Ireland adults differ from adults in Great Britain. In the Northern Ireland sample, a higher proportion of adults are single or separated. There is a much lower rate of cohabiting couples in Northern Ireland compared to Great Britain and a lower proportion of divorced people. See Table 1 for further information.

Table 1 – Marital status in Great Britain and Northern Ireland compared

¹ Survey design factors were not available for this exercise, so significance has been assessed assuming a simple random sample, which is the case in Northern Ireland, but not for Great Britain. In most cases the level of significance of the difference is much greater than 95 per cent, so it is likely that such a difference would also hold when design effects are included.

Marital status	Proportion of sample in Great Britain	Proportion of sample in Northern Ireland	Difference between Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Married	57	58	-2
Cohabiting	9	5	5
Single	18	22	-4
Widowed	8	8	-
Separated	2	3	-1
Divorced	6	4	2

Income

3.5 Incomes in Northern Ireland are lower than Great Britain, with a median individual income in Great Britain of £219 per week compared to £202 in Northern Ireland according to the survey. These statistics do disguise some large differences between constituent parts of Great Britain, with the median income of respondents in Wales and the North East being lower than Northern Ireland and the median income of respondents in Yorkshire and Humberside, and Scotland being similar to Northern Ireland.

3.6 People in the Northern Ireland sample on average have a lower proportion of their income made up by earnings, investments and income from other pensions than people in the sample in Great Britain. A higher proportion of the income of respondents in Northern Ireland is made up by self employment income, disability benefits and other (non-retirement pension) benefits. Table 2 shows the extent of these differences under two measures. The main figure is the proportion of the average amount earned in Great Britain or Northern Ireland made up by each component, while the bracketed figure is the average proportion of a respondent's income made up by a particular component.

Table 2 – Components of individual income in Great Britain and Northern Ireland compared

Component of income	Proportion of income in Great Britain	Proportion of income in Northern Ireland	Difference between Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Income from employment	64 (47)	57 (42)	7 (4)
Income from self employment	9 (5)	13 (7)	-4 (-2)
Income from investments	2 (4)	1 (2)	1 (2)
Retirement pension plus IS	7 (14)	7 (13)	- (1)
Income from other pensions	7 (7)	6 (6)	2 (2)
Disability benefits	2 (5)	5 (9)	-3 (-4)
Other benefits	6 (13)	9 (16)	-3 (-3)
Any remaining/ other income	2 (5)	2 (7)	- (-1)
Income from Tax Credits	1 (1)	1 (2)	- (-)

3.7 The information in the Table above, however, does disguise some significant differences between regions within Great Britain. While most Government Office Regions in England and in Scotland have higher proportions of income made up by earnings, the North East and Wales have similar levels to Northern Ireland. In London, a similar proportion to Northern Ireland of respondent's income is made up of other pension income and other benefits. Finally,

respondents in Wales have a similar proportion to Northern Ireland of income made up by disability benefits.

- 3.8 For further details, please see below for information on earnings, accounts, benefits and tax credits, and pensions being received.

Earnings

- 3.9 Looking only at those respondents with earnings from employment, median earnings in Northern Ireland are £285 per week, compared to £301 for the whole of Great Britain. There are significant regional differences with the constituent parts of Great Britain, ranging from the North East where respondents have median earnings of £265 per week to respondents in London with median earnings of £376.
- 3.10 As can be seen in Table 2, the proportion of income made up by earnings from employment in Northern Ireland is significantly lower than that made up by earnings in Great Britain, however a regional analysis of the proportion of income made up by earnings from employment shows that the proportion of income made up by earnings for individuals in the North East and Wales is about the same as individuals in Northern Ireland.
- 3.11 The higher median income in Great Britain than Northern Ireland feeds through into higher deductions from earnings in Great Britain, although more people in Northern Ireland have deductions for union fees or for charities, and this feeds into a higher number of bonuses in Great Britain, for higher amounts. Northern Ireland respondents are more likely to be paid weekly and less likely to be paid monthly than Great Britain respondents. A lower proportion of respondents in Northern Ireland consulted their payslips for pay details than in Great Britain.

Business sizes and employment conditions

- 3.12 The size of the organisations worked for by Northern Ireland respondents are smaller in terms of the number of staff. The total hours worked by adults in Northern Ireland are not significantly different from Great Britain.
- 3.13 Pay in Northern Ireland is more likely to include tax credits. People in Great Britain are more likely to receive free meals, free / subsidised goods, medical insurance, shares, a phone or a company vehicle as benefits in kind of working at an organisation. This may be related to the fact that sizes of organisations in Northern Ireland are smaller.

Employment status

- 3.14 One of the reasons for the difference between median income in Northern Ireland and Great Britain is that a lower proportion of respondents in Northern Ireland were employed according to the ILO employment definitions. In terms of this definition, a higher proportion of respondents in Great Britain are full time or part time employees (52 per cent of respondents in Great Britain compared to 47 per cent in Northern Ireland). There are also a higher proportion of retired people in the Great Britain sample, as might be expected from the differing age distributions. More people in Northern Ireland are self-employed (9 per cent of

respondents in Northern Ireland compared to 7 per cent in Great Britain), and a much higher proportion are permanently sick and disabled. This contributes to the fact that a higher proportion of the sample in Northern Ireland has never worked compared with Great Britain. See Table 3 for further information. There are also a smaller proportion of taxpayers in Northern Ireland compared to Great Britain.

Table 3 – Employment status in Great Britain and Northern Ireland compared

Employment status	Proportion of sample in Great Britain	Proportion of sample in Northern Ireland	Difference between Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Full-time Employee	39	36	3
Part-time Employee	12	11	2
Full-time Self-Employed	5	8	-2
Part-time Self-Employed	1	1	-
Unemployed	3	2	1
Retired	23	21	2
Student	2	1	1
Looking after family/home	5	6	-1
Permanently sick/disabled	6	10	-4
Temporarily sick/injured	-	-	-
Other Inactive	3	4	-1

3.15 There are a higher proportion of respondents in Great Britain falling under the NSSEC higher and lower management categories than in Northern Ireland, but a smaller proportion falling into employers in a small organisation or own account workers. In terms of responses to the Standard Occupation Classification 2000, a higher proportion of respondents in Great Britain were in the managers and senior officials group and a lower proportion in the skilled trades group than in Northern Ireland.

Educational attainment

3.16 The level of educational attainment in Great Britain is higher, with a higher proportion of adults responding to the survey having any professional, vocational or other work-related qualifications for which they received a certificate than in Northern Ireland (52 per cent in Great Britain compared to 40 per cent in Northern Ireland).

3.17 The types of educational establishment attended by individuals in Northern Ireland differ from those in Great Britain. As mentioned in Section 2, there are no middle primary or middle secondary schools in Northern Ireland, and correspondingly more people in Northern Ireland attend primary and secondary schools. Proportionally, there are fewer respondents in Northern Ireland attending non-advanced further education or private schools.

Children's earnings and savings

3.18 A lower proportion of children surveyed in Northern Ireland have any savings. In Great Britain, 51 per cent of children surveyed had any savings, whilst in

Northern Ireland the figure is 42 per cent. A larger proportion of children in the Great Britain sample have spare time jobs.

- 3.19 Note that there are only 89 records on the ExtChild table for Northern Ireland, which is insufficient for any comparative analysis. The ExtChild table contains details of amounts paid by households in the survey to children outside the household. Also there are only 31 records for Northern Ireland on the Maint table, which records how much the respondent is paying for maintenance for children outside the household, which again precludes further analysis.

Savings vehicles

- 3.20 Ownership of most types of savings vehicle is lower in the Northern Ireland sample than Great Britain and investments make up a slightly smaller proportion of total income in Northern Ireland than in Great Britain. The median amount of investment income for those with investment income is £1.08 per week in Northern Ireland which is identical to that in Great Britain.
- 3.21 While it is generally true that the proportion of adults owning a savings vehicle in the sample in Great Britain exceeds the proportion in Northern Ireland, the difference is more pronounced for some products. A much lower proportion of the sample in Northern Ireland own current accounts, other bank / building society accounts and ISAs, leading to a lower ownership of accounts, measured by the Accounts question. Similarly a much lower proportion of the sample in Northern Ireland than Great Britain own stocks and shares, which leads to a lower ownership of investments, measured by the Invests question, and a lower proportion of the sample own premium bonds, which leads to a lower ownership of other investments, measured by the OtInVa question. Further details of the differences are given in Table 4 below.
- 3.22 The ownership of an Automatic Credit Transfer type account is higher in Great Britain, with 90 per of individuals in the sample owning such an account, compared with 78 per cent in Northern Ireland. This is mainly due to the lower ownership of current accounts.

Table 4 – Ownership of savings vehicles by adults in Great Britain and Northern Ireland compared

Type of account	Ownership in Great Britain (per cent)	Ownership in Northern Ireland (per cent)	Difference between Great Britain and Northern Ireland (per cent)
Current Account	85	73	13
Post Office Account	5	3	1
TESSA	6	4	2
Other Bank/ Building Society Account	47	29	18
ISA	26	15	11
Any account	90	79	11
Gilts	1	-	-

Unit Trusts	4	2	2
Stocks or shares	18	11	7
PEPS	7	4	3
Company Share Scheme	3	2	1
Member of Share Club	-	-	-
Any investments	24	15	9
National Savings	3	1	1
SAYE	-	-	-
Premium bonds	17	4	13
Fixed Rate Savings Bond	-	1	-
Any other investments	19	5	13

3.23 Ownership of different types of accounts in Northern Ireland is low even when compared to individual parts of Great Britain, for instance the part of Great Britain with the lowest proportion of the sample owning current accounts is Yorkshire and Humberside where 81 per cent of the sample has this type of account. Indeed Northern Ireland has the lowest ownership out of all constituent parts of the United Kingdom for the ownership of all types of account except gilts, company share schemes and SAYE.

Benefits and tax credits

3.24 It is more logical to analyse benefit receipt at a benefit unit level, as a number of benefits, such as child benefit, can only be paid to one member of a benefit unit. Considering benefit receipt at a benefit unit level is consistent with the way this information is presented in the FRS publication.

3.25 As shown on Table 2, the proportion of individual income made up by disability benefits and by other (non-retirement pension) benefits is higher in the Northern Ireland sample than Great Britain. The proportion of income made up by disability benefits in Northern Ireland is similar to Wales, while the proportion of income made up by other (non-retirement pension) income in Northern Ireland is similar to the North East and London.

Pensions being received

3.26 The proportion of income made up by non-state pensions is slightly lower for Northern Ireland and Great Britain. There are fewer respondents in Northern Ireland who receive some money from a pension. Of all adults in the Northern Ireland sample, 12 per cent receive money from a non-state pension, compared with 18 per cent of adults in the Great Britain sample. This will be related to the different age profiles in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

3.27 The types of pension held in Northern Ireland differ from those held in the Great Britain. In the Great Britain sample, a higher proportion of those with pensions have an annuity than in Northern Ireland. A higher proportion of those with pensions in Northern Ireland have a personal pension. This may be related to the employment mix in Northern Ireland, where more people are self-employed and therefore more likely to have paid into a personal pension rather than some of the other types of pension.

Pensions being paid into

3.28 Less people are contributing to a pension in the Northern Ireland sample than in Great Britain, with 54 per cent of adults aged below 65 who have ever

worked sampled making provision for retirement in Northern Ireland compared to 57 per cent in Great Britain. The type of pension contributed to is more likely to be a personal pension in Northern Ireland compared with Great Britain. This is likely to be a result of the higher rates of self-employment in Northern Ireland. Also fewer people in the Northern Ireland sample are offered occupational pensions by their employer than in the Great Britain sample, with 72 per cent of employees in Great Britain being offered a scheme, compared to just 63 per cent of Northern Ireland employees.

- 3.29 More respondents in Northern Ireland with occupational pensions are able to keep their occupational pension if they leave their employment than in Great Britain. A higher proportion of employees sampled in Northern Ireland than Great Britain obtained help from their employers in organising a personal pension. The amounts of superannuation paid in Northern Ireland are larger than in Great Britain. A lower proportion of personal / stakeholder pensions were opted out of SERPS/S2P in Northern Ireland.

Health and carers

- 3.30 The proportion of the sample in Great Britain with a long-standing illness is higher than the proportion in Northern Ireland, with 29 per cent of all individuals in the Great Britain sample having a long-standing illness compared to 27 per cent of the sample in Northern Ireland.
- 3.31 However, the proportion of the sample in Northern Ireland with a long-standing limiting illness is higher than Great Britain (19 per cent in Great Britain and 20 per cent in Northern Ireland), and this difference is larger for adults only (23 per cent in Great Britain compared to 25 per cent in Northern Ireland). The picture for children in terms of long-standing limiting illness is more similar for Northern Ireland and Great Britain.
- 3.32 There is also a higher rate of DDA disability for adults responding in Northern Ireland (25 per cent) than in Great Britain (23 per cent), and this applies across most of the DDA categories. There are also a higher proportion of people registered as disabled with their Local Authority in Northern Ireland than Great Britain. A higher proportion of the sample in Northern Ireland is away from work because of an injury than in Great Britain. These are among the reasons for the increased receipt of disability benefits in Northern Ireland.
- 3.33 The frequency of care required by those needing care in Northern Ireland is higher, with 23 per cent of those receiving care needing it continuously and 59 per cent receiving it once or twice a day or more. The equivalent figures for Great Britain are 14 per cent needing care continuously and 40 per cent receiving it once or twice a day or more.
- 3.34 The fact that frequency of care is higher for Northern Ireland feeds through into the DayNight variable, where a smaller proportion of people in the Great Britain sample require care both day and night than in Northern Ireland. This is also reflected in the hours spent caring, with 56 per cent of Northern Ireland carers caring for ten or more hours, compared with 41 per cent in Great Britain.

Travel to work information

- 3.35 Respondents in Northern Ireland are more likely to travel to work by car than any other Government Office Region, although Northern Ireland figures for the

proportion of people travelling to work by car are comparable to the East Midlands, West Midlands and Wales. Adults in Northern Ireland are less likely to travel by bicycle, bus, railway train or walking than adults in Great Britain. As stated in Section 2, London Underground train and light railway categories are not available to respondents in Northern Ireland. The costs of travelling to work are much higher in Northern Ireland than the rest of the UK at an average of £26 per week in comparison with £18 in Great Britain, despite the fact that people in Northern Ireland do not seem to travel further to work than those in Great Britain. This is likely to be partly a function of the differences in the modes of transport used in Northern Ireland and Great Britain

Follow up studies

- 3.36 A positive response to the Future question, asking whether a respondent minds being contacted again by the interviewing organisation is lower in Northern Ireland (38 per cent saying no to a follow up study) than Great Britain (27 per cent saying no to a follow up study).

Section 4: A comparison of benefit units in the Northern Ireland and Great Britain FRS samples

Key points

- **More reliance on benefits and tax credits in Northern Ireland.**
- **Higher proportion of benefit units receiving Income Support, Disability Living Allowance (Care or Mobility), Child Benefit and Housing Benefit in Northern Ireland.**
- **Higher proportion of benefit units receiving Retirement Pension in Great Britain.**
- **Account ownership and income components show similar patterns at benefit unit level to individual level.**
- **Lower level of asset ownership in the Northern Ireland sample compared to Great Britain.**

Sample sizes

- 4.1 The FRS sample for Great Britain consists of 31,873 benefit units. This can be compared to the FRS sample for Northern Ireland, which consists of 2,123 benefit units. The smaller Northern Ireland sample must be borne in mind when comparing the two data sets, however the differences commented on are very likely to be statistically significant at the 95 per cent confidence level.²

Demographic information

- 4.2 A higher proportion of heads of benefit units are defined as pensioner couples and pensioner singles in Great Britain compared with Northern Ireland. This is what would be expected from the differing age profiles in the Northern Ireland and Great Britain samples.
- 4.3 There is a higher proportion of benefit units consisting of a lone parent in the Northern Ireland sample compared with Great Britain (7 per cent of all benefit units in Great Britain compared to 9 per cent of benefit units in Northern Ireland), with a higher proportion of couples below pension age in the Great Britain sample compared to Northern Ireland (19 per cent of all benefit units in Great Britain compared to 16 per cent of benefit units in Northern Ireland). The average number of children in a benefit unit is higher in the Northern Ireland sample than in the Great Britain sample.

Income

- 4.4 Components of income in benefit units compared between Great Britain and Northern Ireland shows very similar patterns to that of individuals, with benefit units in the sample in Northern Ireland having a lower proportion of their income made up by earnings, investments, and income from other pensions than benefit units in Great Britain and having a higher proportion of their income made up of self employment income, disability benefits and other (non-retirement pension) benefits than benefit units in Great Britain.

² Survey design factors were not available for this exercise, so significance has been assessed assuming a simple random sample, which is the case in Northern Ireland, but not for Great Britain. In most cases the level of significance of the difference is much greater than 95 per cent, so it is likely that such a difference would also hold when design effects are included.

Employment status

- 4.5 The pattern for employment in benefit units is similar to that for individuals. There is a higher proportion of benefit units defined as self-employed in the Northern Ireland sample, and a higher proportion where the head or spouse is sick or disabled and below pension age. There are a higher proportion of benefit units where one member is in full-time and the other in part-time work in the Great Britain sample than in Northern Ireland.

Savings vehicles

- 4.6 In terms of the values of assets held, these are generally lower for Northern Ireland. Of the people asked TotSav in Northern Ireland, 52 per cent had less than £1,500 saved, compared to 47 per cent in Great Britain. In Northern Ireland, 14 per cent of people asked had between £1,500 and £3,000 saved compared to 9 per cent in Great Britain. The Northern Ireland figures are similar to those found in the North East.
- 4.7 At the higher savings bands, 20 per cent of those asked TotSav in Great Britain answered that they had over £20,000 saved, compared to just 10 per cent in Northern Ireland. This is much lower than any Government Office Region or Scotland or Wales. About the same proportion of respondents in Northern Ireland as in Great Britain (27 per cent in Northern Ireland compared to 26 per cent in Great Britain) are routed into the assets block, having savings between £1,500 and £20,000.
- 4.8 In terms of the ownership of accounts at the benefit unit level, a very similar pattern to that found at the adult and household level can be seen, with ownership of most account being lower in the Northern Ireland sample than in Great Britain, and particular differences being shown in the ownership of current accounts, other bank / building society accounts, ISAs, premium bonds and stocks and shares.

Benefits and tax credits

- 4.9 There are some large differences in proportion of benefit units receiving certain benefits received in Northern Ireland and Great Britain. The proportion of all benefit units in the sample receiving at least one benefit or a tax credit is much higher in Northern Ireland than Great Britain (69 per cent in Northern Ireland compared with 64 per cent in Great Britain). The proportion of total income derived from benefits in Northern Ireland is higher than in Great Britain, with a median benefit income of £93 per week in Great Britain compared to £99 in Northern Ireland.
- 4.10 A higher proportion of benefit units in the sample in Northern Ireland receive income support, housing benefit or child benefit than in Great Britain. This is partly a function of the employment mix in Northern Ireland (for Income Support), the differing local tax systems (for Housing Benefit) and the higher average number of children per benefit unit (for Child Benefit). The proportion claiming disability benefits in Northern Ireland is also much higher, particularly for Disability Living Allowance (Care and Mobility), with 14 per cent of Northern Ireland respondents being on at least one of these benefits, compared with just 7 per cent of the sample in Great Britain. A higher proportion of the sample in Great Britain receive retirement pension than in Northern Ireland. This is likely

to be a function of the differing age profiles in the Northern Ireland and Great Britain samples.

Table 5 – Receipt of benefits by benefit units in Great Britain and Northern Ireland compared

Benefit	Proportion in Great Britain receiving benefit	Proportion in Northern Ireland receiving benefit	Difference between Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Working Families Tax Credit	5	5	-1
Income Support	11	17	-6
Housing Benefit	14	17	-3
Council Tax Benefit	18	N/A	N/A
Rates Rebate	N/A	2	N/A
Retirement Pension	27	24	3
Widow's Benefits	1	1	-
Jobseeker's Allowance	2	3	-1
Incapacity Benefit	5	7	-2
Severe Disablement Allowance	1	2	-1
Attendance Allowance	3	5	-2
Invalid Care Allowance	1	2	-1
Disability Living Allowance (Care)	5	11	-6
Disability Living Allowance (Mobility)	5	10	-5
Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit	1	1	-
War Disablement Benefits	1	-	-
Child Benefit	26	30	-4
Any Income Related Benefit	21	25	-4
Any Non-Income Related Benefit	61	66	-4
Any Benefit	64	69	-5
Any Tax Credit	5	6	-1
No Benefits or Tax Credits	36	31	5

4.11 The fact that there is no Council Tax in Northern Ireland means that Council Tax Benefit cannot be received there, instead it is possible to receive a Rates Rebate, however a much smaller proportion of respondents in Northern Ireland receive a Rates Rebate than the proportion in Great Britain receiving Council Tax Benefit, so the benefits cannot be thought of as analogous.

Section 5: A comparison of households in the Northern Ireland and Great Britain FRS samples

Key Points

- Household composition is different in Northern Ireland with a larger proportion of families containing two adults and more than three children and a smaller proportion of households consisting of two adults over pension age and no children.
- The proportion of households living in detached houses is much larger in Northern Ireland, with far fewer households living in flats or maisonettes.
- Property prices are lower in Northern Ireland than Great Britain.
- Endowment mortgages make up a bigger proportion of all mortgages in Northern Ireland than in Great Britain.
- A higher proportion of renters rent from Housing Associations in Great Britain and a lower proportion rent from councils.
- Account ownership and income components show similar patterns at household level to individual level.

Sample sizes

- 5.1 The FRS sample for Great Britain consists of 26,960 households. This can be compared to the FRS sample for Northern Ireland, which consists of 1,750 households. The smaller Northern Ireland sample must be borne in mind when comparing the two data sets, however the differences commented on are very likely to be statistically significant at the 95 per cent confidence level.³

Demographic information

- 5.2 The average number of people in households in the Northern Ireland sample is larger than the average in Great Britain. This is because the average number of children in Northern Ireland households exceeds the average in Great Britain. The average age of the head of household is lower in the Northern Ireland sample than the Great Britain sample, as would be expected from the age distribution of individuals. There is a lower proportion of ethnic minority heads of household in the Northern Ireland sample compared with Great Britain. This is again what you would expect from the analysis at the individual level.
- 5.3 Looking at household composition at a more detailed level, for most breakdowns there is no significant difference between the Great Britain and Northern Ireland samples. There are however less households with two adults with no children who are both over pension age in the Northern Ireland sample than in Great Britain. Households with two adults and three or more children make up a higher proportion of the sample in Northern Ireland than in Great Britain.

Income

³ Survey design factors were not available for this exercise, so significance has been assessed assuming a simple random sample, which is the case in Northern Ireland, but not for Great Britain. In most cases the level of significance of the difference is much greater than 95 per cent, so it is likely that such a difference would also hold when design effects are included.

- 5.4 As stated in the Section on individual characteristics, median incomes for individuals in the Northern Ireland sample are lower than Great Britain. This also holds for households, with a median household income in the sample in Great Britain of £389 per week compared to £341 in Northern Ireland. These statistics again disguise some large differences between constituent parts of Great Britain, with the median income of respondents in Wales and the North East being lower than Northern Ireland and the median income of respondents in Scotland being similar to Northern Ireland.
- 5.5 Again, households in the Northern Ireland sample have less of their income made up by earnings, investments, retirement pensions and other pensions than respondents in Great Britain. A higher proportion of their income is from self employment income, disability benefits and other (non-retirement pension) benefits than people in Great Britain. Table 6 shows the extent of these differences. Again, the main figure is the proportion of the average amount earned in Great Britain or Northern Ireland made up by each component, while the bracketed figure is the average proportion of a respondent's income made up by a particular component.

Table 6 – Components of household income in Great Britain and Northern Ireland compared

Component of income	Proportion of income in Great Britain	Proportion of income in Northern Ireland	Difference between Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Income from employment	64 (52)	57 (47)	7 (5)
Income from self employment	9 (6)	13 (8)	-4 (-1)
Income from investments	2 (2)	1 (1)	1 (1)
Retirement pension plus IS	7 (13)	7 (12)	- (-)
Income from other pensions	7 (9)	6 (6)	2 (1)
Disability benefits	2 (4)	5 (8)	-3 (-4)
Other benefits	6 (10)	9 (14)	-3 (-3)
Any remaining/ other income	2 (3)	2 (3)	- (-)
Income from Tax Credits	1 (1)	1 (2)	- (-)

Housing

- 5.6 Houses in the Northern Ireland sample tend to be larger on average than houses in Great Britain. The average number of rooms in a house in Northern Ireland is 5.8 rooms and 3.0 bedrooms, whereas in Great Britain the figures are 5.4 rooms and 2.7 bedrooms. This difference is statistically significant and the house sizes in Northern Ireland are larger than those of any constituent part of Great Britain.
- 5.7 This is partly a function of differences in housing stock between Northern Ireland and Great Britain. There are a much higher proportion of detached houses in the Northern Ireland sample than Great Britain, with fewer semi-detached houses and a very much smaller number of flats and maisonettes in the Northern Ireland sample than Great Britain. The proportion of households living in detached houses in Northern Ireland exceed those of any Government Office Region in Great Britain or in Scotland or Wales, and the proportion living

in flats or maisonettes is lower than any Government Office Region in Great Britain or in Scotland or Wales.

Table 7 – Accommodation types in Great Britain and Northern Ireland compared

Accommodation	Proportion of households living in accommodation in Great Britain	Proportion of households living in accommodation in Northern Ireland	Difference between Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Detached house/bungalow	22	37	-15
Semi-detached house/bungalow	31	25	5
Terraced house/bungalow	28	29	-
Purpose-built flat or maisonette	18	8	10
Other	1	1	-

5.9 There are differences between Great Britain and Northern Ireland in terms of how these properties are occupied in terms of tenure. The main difference is in the smaller proportion of the sample living in Housing Association accommodation in the Northern Ireland sample relative to Great Britain. In the Great Britain sample, 7 per cent of households lived in such accommodation, compared to just 3 per cent of the Northern Ireland sample. This is a lower proportion than any Government Office Region or for Scotland or Wales. A higher proportion of households in Northern Ireland were renting from their council than in Great Britain. This means that the social rented sector is a very similar size in both Northern Ireland and Great Britain. There are smaller but significant differences in the private rented sector, with more properties being let furnished in the Northern Ireland sample than Great Britain and fewer properties being let unfurnished.

Table 8 – Tenure types in Great Britain and Northern Ireland compared

Tenure type	Proportion of households by tenure in Great Britain	Proportion of households by tenure in Northern Ireland	Difference between Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Rented from Council	16	18	-2
Rented from Housing Association	7	3	4
Rented privately unfurnished	5	4	1
Rented privately furnished	4	6	-2
Owned with mortgage	40	40	-
Owned outright	29	29	-

5.10 There are slight differences in the length of time a household has been in their property, with a higher proportion of the sample in Northern Ireland than in Great Britain having been in the property for more than twenty years and a smaller proportion having been in the property for less than 12 months.

Housing costs

5.11 Care must be taken when comparing costs related to accommodation in Northern Ireland and Great Britain, in order that the fact that no data on water charges is available in Northern Ireland does not bias the exercise. See section 2 for further details. It is also necessary to consider the differences in the average length of time a household has occupied their home given the rapid increase in purchase prices of property.

Mortgages

5.12 The total weekly housing costs of owner occupiers, including mortgage payments, endowment policies, structural insurance and service payments are higher in Great Britain than in Northern Ireland. The average mortgage cost in the Great Britain sample is £46 per week compared to £37 in Northern Ireland. Mortgage costs in Northern Ireland are however higher than the costs in the North East or Wales and similar to costs in the East Midlands, and Yorkshire and Humberside.

5.13 For those owner occupiers buying with a mortgage, looking at mortgage interest payments only, these payments are again lower on average for the Northern Ireland sample than for Great Britain, but are close to the average in Wales, the North East, and Yorkshire and Humberside. The median purchase amount for owners and part-owners in Great Britain is £56,000, which compares to £45,000 in Northern Ireland. The amount in Northern Ireland is similar to other Government Office Regions, except the Eastern, London, South East and South West regions. A higher proportion of people with mortgages in Northern Ireland rented the property before buying.

Table 9 – Mortgage type in Great Britain and Northern Ireland compared

Mortgage type	Proportion of households by mortgage type in Great Britain	Proportion of households by mortgage type in Northern Ireland	Difference between Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Endowment mortgage	36	42	-6
Repayment mortgage	50	46	4
Pension mortgage	1	0	1
PEP Unit Trust or ISA mortgage	2	2	-
Endowment and Repayment Mortgage	9	9	1
Other	2	1	1

5.14 There are differences in terms of the type of mortgages people have used to purchase their property. Endowment type mortgage make up a higher proportion of all mortgages in the Northern Ireland sample than in Great Britain, and a lower proportion were buying with a repayment mortgage. Further differences are shown in Table 9 above. Northern Ireland has the lowest proportion of repayment mortgages and the highest proportion of endowment mortgages in any area in the United Kingdom except for Scotland. A higher proportion of households in the Northern Ireland sample than Great Britain obtained their mortgage from building society not a bank.

5.15 A higher proportion of the households with mortgages in the Great Britain sample had organised a re-mortgage than in the Northern Ireland sample, with 34 per cent of all households with mortgages having organised a re-mortgage in Great Britain compared to 24 per cent in Northern Ireland. There is a much lower proportion of households taking out re-mortgages in Northern Ireland than any other region except Scotland.

5.16 It is not possible to perform any meaningful comparison of Northern Ireland and Great Britain in terms of whether any other organisations contribute towards the mortgage, as there are too few cases for Northern Ireland on the MortCont table.

Renting

5.17 The total weekly housing costs of renters, taken as the rent eligible for housing benefit paid by a household, before the deduction of any housing benefit but after taking off certain expenses such as service charges, is higher in Great Britain than in Northern Ireland. The average household rent in the Great Britain sample is £62 per week compared to £52 in Northern Ireland. Rents in Northern Ireland are about the same as most Government Office Regions, and Wales and Scotland, except London, the South East, Eastern and the South West regions.

5.18 As shown in Table 8, there are a higher proportion of people renting from the council in the Northern Ireland sample and a lower proportion renting from Housing Associations in Northern Ireland compared to Great Britain. There are a higher proportion of signed contract agreements and a lower proportion of unwritten rental agreements in Great Britain compared with Northern Ireland. Less than one per cent of households have rent holidays in Northern Ireland, compared to over a quarter of renters in Great Britain. A smaller proportion of households in Northern Ireland consulted paperwork for rent figures in the Northern Ireland sample than Great Britain.

5.19 It is not possible to perform any meaningful comparison of Northern Ireland and Great Britain in terms of whether any other organisations contribute towards the rental costs, as there are too few cases for Northern Ireland on the RentCont table.

Education

5.20 A higher proportion of households in the Northern Ireland sample contain children receiving free school meals than in the Great Britain sample.

Savings vehicles

5.21 Again, a similar pattern of account ownership is seen to the individual level, with the ownership of most types of savings vehicle being lower in Northern Ireland than Great Britain and there is a lower proportion of income made up by investments.

5.22 While it is generally true that the proportion of households owning a savings vehicle in the sample in Great Britain exceeds the proportion in Northern Ireland, the difference is more pronounced for some products. Again, a much lower proportion of the sample in Northern Ireland own current accounts, other bank / building society, ISAs, premium bonds or stocks and shares. The ownership of an Automatic Credit Transfer type account is higher in Great

Britain, with 92 per cent of individuals in the sample owning such an account, compared with 82 per cent in Northern Ireland.

Table 10 – Ownership of savings vehicles by households in Great Britain and Northern Ireland compared

Type of account	Ownership in Great Britain (per cent)	Ownership in Northern Ireland (per cent)	Difference between Great Britain and Northern Ireland (per cent)
Current Account	87	77	10
Post Office Account	7	4	3
TESSA	8	6	3
Other Bank/ Building Society Account	54	35	19
ISA	31	19	12
Gilts	1	1	-
Unit Trusts	5	3	2
Stocks or shares	23	14	9
PEPS	9	5	3
Company Share Scheme	5	3	2
Member of Share Club	-	-	-
National Savings	4	2	2
SAYE	1	1	-
Premium bonds	23	5	17
Fixed Rate Savings Bond	1	1	-

Benefits and tax credits

5.22 Benefit receipt has been analysed in detail at a benefit unit level, and the differences shown in Table 5 also remain at a household level. Similarly, at a household level, the proportion of income made up of benefits is higher for the Northern Ireland sample than Great Britain, with a higher proportion of income from disability benefits in Northern Ireland and higher other (non-retirement pension) benefits. See the benefit unit Section for further details.

Health and carers

5.23 In terms of the measures of the health of household members, similar patterns are seen to those observed at the individual level, with a higher proportion of household reference persons being sick or disabled in Northern Ireland. In the Great Britain sample a greater proportion of households had a member who gave help or support for anyone not living with them with a long-term physical or mental ill-health problem or disability than in the Northern Ireland sample, however a higher proportion of the Northern Ireland sample receives help from non-household member because they have long-term physical or mental ill-health or disability or problems relating to old age.

Section 6: Further information

- 6.1 If you require further information, please contact the FRS team via e-mail at Team.FRS@dwp.gsi.gov.uk or via telephone on 020-7962 8991.
- 6.2 We would particularly welcome comments on the presentation and contents of this report, and whether you have found it useful. Finally, we would be happy to advise on any further analysis of FRS data in Northern Ireland.