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**Expenditure & Food Survey  
2004-2005**

**VOLUME 5  
Database Changes**

Source: Expenditure and Food Survey, National Statistics

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**DATABASE CHANGES**

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**Contents****Colour (paper version)**

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|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Explanatory note   | pink        |
| <b><u>Raw variable changes</u></b>                         | green card  |
| Part 1 - New raw variables for 2004-2005                   | yellow      |
| Part 2 – 2003-2004 raw variables deleted for 2004-2005     | pink        |
| Part 3 – 2003-2004 raw variables amended for 2004-2005     | green       |
| <b><u>Derived variable changes</u></b>                     | orange card |
| Part 4 - New derived variables for 2004-2005               | yellow      |
| Part 5 – 2003-2004 derived variables deleted for 2004-2005 | pink        |
| Part 6 – 2003-2004 derived variables amended for 2004-2005 | green       |
| <b><u>Expenditure code changes</u></b>                     | blue card   |
| Part 7 - New expenditure codes for 2004-2005               | yellow      |
| Part 8 - 2003-2004 expenditure codes deleted for 2004-2005 | pink        |
| Part 9 - 2003-2004 expenditure codes amended for 2004-2005 | green       |
| <b><u>Other changes</u></b>                                | white card  |
| Part 10 – Question number changes for 2004-2005            | pink        |
| Part 11 - Major changes (1991 to 2004-2005)                | green       |

**DATABASE CHANGES**

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**Explanatory Notes**

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*This volume of the documentation describes the way in which the 2004-2005 database has changed in relation to the 2003-2004 database. This volume is divided into 11 parts.*

**Part 1 - Changes to raw variables** are listed in terms of those that are **new for 2004-2005**.

**Part 2** - Lists the variables that have been **deleted from 2003-2004**

**Part 3** - Lists any variables that have been **amended from 2003-2004** including a description of the change. Note that a large number of raw variables have had name changes.

**For parts 4-6 - Changes to derived variables**

Many derived variables remain unchanged in name, but it should be remembered that there may well be changes in the contents of the variables that feed into them. You should check the composition of the variables you intend using. Changes to derived variables are listed that:

**Part 4** - are **new for 2004-2005**

**Part 5** - have been **deleted from 2003-2004** and

**Part 6** - which have been **amended from 2003-2004**, including a description of the change.

**Parts 7-9 - EFS expenditure codes**

Expenditure codes are also listed and explained in Volume 4 of the User Documentation.

**Part 7** - details of expenditure codes which are **new to 2004-2005**

**Part 8** - details expenditure codes which have been **deleted from 2003-2004** and

**Part 9** - shows expenditure codes which are **amended from 2003-2004**, with details of the changes.

**Parts 10-11 - Changes to numbering and FES/EFS**

**Part 10** - details question number changes from 2003-2004.

**Part 11** - gives details of the major changes to the Expenditure and Food Survey (Previously Family Expenditure Survey) over a ten year view from 1991 to the current year 2004-2005.

**Household Questionnaire**

| <b>Variable</b> | <b>Description</b>  | <b>SPSS File Name</b> | <b>Question Reference</b> |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| PensAmtAbmt     | Private Pension: Has been abated  | Rawhh                 | H 160.17                  |
| CCFulm          | Credit Cards: In the last month did you pay that credit card, charge card bill etc in full? | Rawhh                 | H 340.52                  |
| CCOS            | Credit Cards: How much was outstanding?   | Rawhh                 | H 340.54                  |
| CCFulus         | Credit Cards: Do you usually pay that credit card bill etc in full each month?              | Rawhh                 | H 340.56                  |
| EXGH1..5        | Money Received: Which housing items were paid for?  | Rawhh                 | H 660.22                  |
| EXGHTxt         | Money Received: What was the other expenditure?   | Rawhh                 | H 660.25                  |
| EXGU1..4        | Money Received: Which utility items were paid for?  | Rawhh                 | H 660.28                  |
| EXGUTxt         | Money Received: What was the other expenditure?   | Rawhh                 | H 660.30                  |
| EXGV1..6        | Money Received: Which vehicle items were paid for?  | Rawhh                 | H 660.35                  |
| EXGVTxt         | Money Received: What was the other expenditure?   | Rawhh                 | H 660.38                  |
| EXPH1..5        | Items Paid: Which of the housing items were paid for?                                       | Rawhh                 | H 670.27                  |
| EXPHTxt         | Items Paid: What was the other expenditure?   | Rawhh                 | H 670.30                  |
| EXPU1..4        | Items Paid: Which utility items were paid for?  | Rawhh                 | H 670.32                  |
| EXPUTxt         | Items Paid: What was the other expenditure?   | Rawhh                 | H 670.34                  |
| EXPV1..6        | Items Paid: Which vehicle items were paid for?  | Rawhh                 | H 670.35                  |
| EXPVTxt         | Items Paid: What was the other expenditure?   | Rawhh                 | H 670.40                  |

**Income Questionnaire**

| <b>Variable</b> | <b>Description</b>                                 | <b>SPSS File Name</b> | <b>Question Reference</b> |
|-----------------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| NIProgType      | Northern Ireland: Government Classification Scheme | Rawper                | I 10.22                   |

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| <b>Variable</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|-----------------|--|
| WFTCLUMP        | Working Family Tax Credit: Do you receive this benefit as a lump sum                               |
| WFTCAmt         | How much was included for Working Families Tax Credit payment?                                     |
| WFTCper         | Working Family Tax Credit: What period did this cover?   |
| DVWFTC          | DV for amount of Working Family Tax Credit   |
| DPTCper         | Disabled Person's Tax Credit: What period did this cover?  |
| DVDPTC          | DV for Disabled Person's Tax Credit  |
| DPTCLUMP        | Disabled Person's Tax Credit: Do you receive this benefit as a lump sum                            |
| BAmt18          | Working Family Tax Credit: How much did you get last time?   |
| BamtDK18        | Working Family Tax Credit: Is this don't know because paid in combination with another benefit     |
| Bpd18           | Working Family Tax Credit: How long does this cover?   |
| NumWks9         | Working Family Tax Credit: How many weeks in the last 12 months did you receive this benefit?      |
| Rcptnow9        | Working Family Tax Credit: Are you receiving this benefit at present?                              |
| DVFAM           | DV for Working Families Tax Credit   |
| Bamt19          | Disabled Person's Tax Credit: Do you receive this benefit as a lump sum                            |
| BamtDK19        | Disabled Person's Tax Credit: Is this don't know because paid in combination with another benefit? |
| Bpd19           | Disabled Person's Tax Credit: How long does this cover?  |
| NumWeeks10      | Disabled Person's Tax Credit: How many weeks in the last 12 months did you receive this benefit?   |
| Rcptnow10       | Disabled Person's Tax Credit: How many weeks in the last 12 months did you receive this benefit?   |
| Bamt20          | Child Tax Credit (Old): How much did you get last time?  |
| BamtDK20        | Child Tax Credit (Old): Is this don't know because paid in combination with another benefit?       |
| Bpd20           | Child Tax Credit (Old): How long does this cover?  |
| CHTCLUMP        | Child Tax Credit (Old): Do you receive this benefit as a lump sum?                                 |
| DvCHTC          | DV for Children's Tax Credit (Old): DV for Child Tax Credit  |

## Miscellaneous changes

## Household questionnaire

| Variable | Description                                      | SPSS File Name | Description of Change     |
|----------|--|----------------|---------------------------|
| RegLet   | Please give the registration letter              | Rawhh          | Coding frame has expanded |
| School   | What type of school does... attend               | Rawhh          | Coding frame has expanded |
| ExGTyp   | Money received: what was the item of expenditure | rawhh          | Coding frame has changed  |
| ExPTyp   | Items received: what was the item of expenditure | rawhh          | Coding frame has changed  |

## Income questionnaire

| Variable   | Description  | SPSS File Name | Description of Change                     |
|------------|--|----------------|---|
| ProgType   | Government classification scheme                                       | Rawper         | Coding frame has changed                  |
| SEINC      | Self-Employment: average weekly/monthly income from this job/business  | Rawper         | Condition of question has been simplified |
| PayInc     | Pay: did you take home pay incld any items on card P1?                 | Rawper         | Coding frame has expanded                 |
| TxCred1..5 | Tax Credit payments  | rawper         | Coding frame has changed                  |
| PayCrdt    | Benefits received through payroll                                      | Rawper         | Coding frame has changed                  |
| Ben2Q1..6  | Are you at present receiving, any of these benefits in your own right? | Rawper         | Wording of question has changed           |
| Bamt2      | Guardian allowance: How much did you get last time?                    | rawper         | Wording of question has changed           |
| Bpd2       | Guardian allowance: How long does this cover?                          | Rawper         | Wording of question has changed           |

Please note that there have no been no changes in raw variables names.

Coding frame changes

| Variable | Old value labels   | New  | File name |
|----------|--|--|-----------|
| RegLet   | P.....1  | P.....1  | Rawhh     |
|          | R.....2  | R.....2  |           |
|          | S.....3  | S.....3  |           |
|          | T.....4  | T.....4  |           |
|          | V.....5  | V.....5  |           |
|          | W.....6  | W.....6  |           |
|          | X.....7  | X.....7  |           |
|          | Y.....8  | Y.....8  |           |
|          | Sept01.....51.....9  | Sept01.....51.....9  |           |
|          | March02...02.....10  | March02...02.....10  |           |
|          | Sept02.....52.....11   | Sept02.....52.....11   |           |
|          | March03...03.....12  | March03...03.....12  |           |
|          | Sept03.....53.....13   | Sept03.....53.....13   |           |
|          | March04...04.....14  | March04...04.....14  |           |
|          | Other registration letter.....15   | Sept04.....54.....15   |           |
|          |  | March05...05.....16  |           |
|          |  | Other registration letter.....17   |           |
| School   | 1: Not yet attending education   | 1: Not yet attending education   | Rawhh     |
|          | 2: Nursery school/nursery class/playgroup/pre-school                                   | 2: Nursery school/nursery class/playgroup/pre-school                                   |           |
|          | 3: STATE run primary (including reception classes)                                     | 3: STATE run primary (including reception classes)                                     |           |
|          | 4: STATE run special (eg for children with disabilities and special educational needs) | 4: STATE run special (eg for children with disabilities and special educational needs) |           |
|          | 5: Middle deemed primary (STATE run or ASSISTED).                                      | 5: Middle deemed primary (STATE run or ASSISTED).                                      |           |
|          | 6: Middle deemed secondary (STATE run or ASSISTED).                                    | 6: Middle deemed secondary (STATE run or ASSISTED).                                    |           |
|          | 7: Secondary/grammar school (STATE run or ASSISTED).                                   | 7: Secondary/grammar school (STATE run or ASSISTED).                                   |           |
|          | 8: Non-advanced further education/ sixth form/tertiary/further education college       | 8: Non-advanced further education/ sixth form/tertiary/further education college       |           |
|          | 9: City Technology Colleges  | 9: City Technology Colleges  |           |
|          | 10: University/polytechnic/any other higher education college                          | 10: University/polytechnic/any other higher education college                          |           |
|          |  | 11: Home Schooling   |           |
| ExGTyp   | Housing expenditure.....1  | Housing expenditure.....1  | Rawhh     |
|          | Fuel expenditure.....2   | Utilities.....2  |           |
|          | Vehicle expenditure.....3  | Vehicle expenditure.....3  |           |
|          | Other travelling costs.....4   | Other travelling costs.....4   |           |
|          | TV rental/ licence.....5   | TV rental/ licence.....5   |           |
|          | Video rental.....6   | Telephone.....6  |           |
|          | School fees.....7  | Video/cable rental.....7   |           |



|             |  |   |        |
|-------------|--|---|--------|
|             | Any other items of household expenditure.....8   | School fees.....8<br>Any other items of household Expenditure.....9   |        |
| ExPTyp      | Housing expenditure.....1<br>Fuel expenditure.....2<br>Vehicle expenditure.....3<br>Other travelling costs.....4<br>TV rental/ licence.....5<br>Video rental.....6<br>School fees.....7<br>Any other items of household expenditure.....8  | Housing expenditure.....1<br>Utilities.....2<br>Vehicle expenditure.....3<br>Other travelling costs.....4<br>TV rental/ licence.....5<br>Telephone.....6<br>Video/cable rental.....7<br>School fees.....8<br>Any other items of household Expenditure.....9 | Rawhh  |
| ProgType    | Training for Work (GB).....(1)<br>Youth Training (YT) (GB) .....(2)<br>Project Work.....(3)<br>Work Trial.....(4)<br>New Deal for 18 to 24 year olds.....(5)<br>Enterprise Ulster/Job Training Programme (NI).....(6)<br>Youth Training Programme (NI) .....(7)<br>Action for Community Employment (NI) .....(8)<br>Job Skills (NI).. .....(9)<br>Other government programme .....(10) | Training for Work (GB).....(1)<br>Youth Training (YT) (GB) .....(2)<br>Project Work.....(3)<br>Work Trial.....(4)<br>New Deal for 18 to 24 year olds.....(5)<br>Other government Programme .....(10)  | Rawper |
| DVDHow      | 1. Stand alone DVD player<br>2. DVD as part of computer<br>3. DVD as part of a games console   | 1. Stand alone DVD player<br>2. DVD as part of computer<br>3. DVD as part of a games console<br>4. Other  |        |
| PayInc      | Statutory Sick Pay.....(1)<br>Statutory Maternity Pay.....(2)<br>Neither of these .....(3)   | Statutory Sick Pay.....(1)<br>Statutory Maternity Pay.....(2)<br>Statutory Paternity Pay.....(3)<br>Statutory Adoption Pay.....(4)<br>Neither of these.....(5)  |        |
| PayCrdt1..3 | 1. Working Families Tax Credit<br>2. Disabled Person's Tax Credit<br>3. Working Tax Credit (excluding any childcare tax credit)<br>4. Child Tax credit (including any childcare tax credit)<br>5. None of these  | 1. Working Tax Credit (excluding any childcare tax credit)<br>2. Child Tax Credit (including any childcare tax credit)<br>3. None of these  |        |
| TxCrd       | Working Families Tax Credit.....(1)<br>Disabled Person's Tax Credit.....(2)<br>Working Tax Credit (Excluding any childcare tax credit) .....(3)<br>Child Tax Credit (Including any childcare tax credit).....(4)<br>None of these.....(5)  | Working Tax Credit (Excluding any childcare tax credit) .....(1)<br>Child Tax Credit (Including any childcare tax credit).....(2)<br>None of these.....(3)  |        |

**Expenditure and Food Survey**

|          |           |              |       |
|----------|-----------|--------------|-------|
| MortAbmt | Yes.....1 | Abate.....1  | Rawhh |
| RentAbmt |           | Impute.....2 |       |
| PyRmAbt  |           | Both.....3   |       |
| WatAbmt  |           |              |       |
| SewAbmt  |           |              |       |
| WsewAbmt |           |              |       |
| StrIAbmt |           |              |       |
| CtaxAbmt |           |              |       |
| CTWtAbmt |           |              |       |
| TelAcAbt |           |              |       |
| TelBgAbt |           |              |       |
| TelShAbt |           |              |       |
| EacAbmt  |           |              |       |
| EbbsAbmt |           |              |       |
| GacAbmt  |           |              |       |
| GBBSAbmt |           |              |       |
| RTAbmt   |           |              |       |
| CIAbmt   |           |              |       |
| Labmt    |           |              |       |
| CarpAbmt |           |              |       |
| CpcTxAbt |           |              |       |
| CPInsAbt |           |              |       |
| CPParAbt |           |              |       |
| VHSAbmt  |           |              |       |
| VhurtAbt |           |              |       |
| VhucrAbt |           |              |       |
| CleaAbmt |           |              |       |
| RefAmAbt |           |              |       |
| SrvPyAbt |           |              |       |
| SeasAbt  |           |              |       |
| LnAbAmt  |           |              |       |
| LnAbRep  |           |              |       |
| HPAbt    |           |              |       |
| HPDN1Abt |           |              |       |
| LpayAbt  |           |              |       |
| CshPrAbt |           |              |       |
| PartXAbt |           |              |       |
| DnPayAbt |           |              |       |
| MinMKR   |           |              |       |

**Expenditure and Food Survey**

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There were no new derived variables for 2004-2005.

| <b>Variable</b> | <b>Description</b>                 | <b>Table Level</b> |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| B372            | DPTC – last amount received in pay | dvper              |

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No derived variables have been amended in 2004-2005

There were no new expenditure codes in 2004-2005.

No expenditure codes have been deleted.

No expenditure codes were amended in 2004-2005.



**Household Questionnaire**

| <b>Variable Name</b> | <b>New Question Number</b> | <b>Old Question Number</b> | <b>Comments</b> |
|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| GivenBy              | 660.11                     | 660.25                     |                 |
| ExGAmt               | 660.12                     | 660.30                     |                 |
| ExGPC                | 660.13                     | 660.35                     |                 |
| ExPAmt               | 670.17                     | 670.30                     |                 |
| ExPPC                | 670.18                     | 670.35                     |                 |
| DVExp1               | 670.19                     | 670.40                     |                 |

**Income Questionnaire**

There were no question number changes in the income questionnaire.

## MAJOR CHANGES

### Changes in definitions 1991 to 2004-2005

#### Family Expenditure Survey:

##### 1991

No significant changes.

##### 1992

*Housing* – Imputed rent for owner occupiers and households in rent-free accommodation has been discontinued. For owner occupiers this was the rent they would have had pay themselves to live in the property they own, and for households in rent-free accommodation it was the rent they would normally have had to pay. Up to 1990 these amounts were counted both as income and as a housing cost. Mortgage interest payments were counted as a housing cost for the first time in 1991.

##### 1993

*Council Tax* - Council Tax was introduced to replace the Community Charge in Great Britain from April 1993.

##### 1994-1995

*New expenditure items* - The definition of expenditure was extended to include two items previously shown under “other payments recorded”. These are:

gambling payments;  
mortgage protection premiums.

*Expenditure classifications* - A new classification system for expenditures was introduced in April 1994. The system is hierarchical and allows more detail to be preserved than the previous system. New categories of expenditure were introduced and are shown in detail in table 7.1. The 14 main groups of expenditure were retained, but there were some changes in the content of these groups.

*Gambling Payments* - data on gambling expenditure and winnings are collected in the expenditure diary. Previously these have been excluded from the definition of household expenditure used in the FES. The data have been shown as memoranda items under the heading “Other payments recorded” on both gross and net bases. The net basis corresponds approximately to the treatment of gambling in the National Accounts. The introduction of the National Lottery has stimulated a reconsideration of this treatment. From April 1994, (gross) gambling payments have been included as expenditure in “Leisure Services”. Gambling winnings continued to be noted as a memorandum item under “Other items recorded”. They

## MAJOR CHANGES

are treated as windfall income. They do not form a part of normal household income, nor are they subtracted from gross gambling payments. This treatment is in line with the PRODCOM classification of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (SOEC) for expenditure in household budget surveys.

### **1995-1996**

*Geographical coverage* - The FES geographical coverage was extended to mainland Scotland north of the Caledonian Canal.

*Under 16s diaries* - Two week expenditure diaries for 7-15 year olds were introduced following three feasibility pilot studies which found that children of that age group were able to cope with the task of keeping a two week expenditure record. Children are asked to record everything they buy with their own money but to exclude items bought with other people's money. Purchases are coded according to the same coding categories as adult diaries except for meals and snacks away from home which are coded as school meals, hot meals and snacks, and cold meals and snacks. Children who keep a diary are given a £5 incentive payment. A refusal to keep an under 16's diary does not invalidate the household from inclusion in the survey.

Pocket money given to children is still recorded separately in adult diaries; and money paid by adults for school meals and school travel is recorded in the Household Questionnaire. However, no attempt is made to determine whether money given to children for the purpose of school meals or school travel is actually used for those purposes.

Databases and tables in Family Spending reports for 1994-95 to 1997-98 excluded these expenditures, however, and pocket money and other transfers to children were shown in the same way as in earlier years. From 1998-99 they include results from the under 16s diaries. Appendix G of the 1998-99 report shows what difference the inclusion made.

## MAJOR CHANGES

### **1996-1997**

*Self-employment* - The way in which information about income from self-employment is collected was substantially revised in 1996-97 following various tests and pilot studies. The quality of such data was increased but this may have led to a discontinuity. Full details are shown in the Income Questionnaire, available from the address in the introduction.

*Cable/satellite television* - Information on cable and satellite subscriptions is now collected from the household questionnaire rather than from the diary, leading to more respondents reporting this expenditure.

*Mobile phones* - Expenditure on mobile phones was previously collected through the diary. From 1996/97 this has been included in the questionnaire.

*Job seekers allowance (JSA)* - Introduced in October 1996 as a replacement for Unemployment Benefit and any Income Support associated with the payment of Unemployment Benefit. Receipt of JSA is collected with NI Unemployment Benefit and with Income Support. In both cases the number of weeks a respondent has been in receipt of these benefits is taken as the number of weeks receiving JSA in the last 12 months and before that period the number of weeks receiving Unemployment Benefit/Income Support.

*Retrospective recall* - The period over which information is requested has been extended from 3 to 12 months for vehicle purchase and sale. Information on the purchase of car and motorcycle spare parts is no longer collected by retrospective recall. Instead expenditure on these items is collected through the diary.

*State benefits* - The lists of benefits specifically asked about was reviewed in 1996/97. See the Income Questionnaire for more information.

*Sample stratifiers* - New stratifiers were introduced in 1996/97 based on standard regions, socio-economic group and car ownership.

*Government Office Regions* - Regional analyses are now presented using the Government Office Regions (GORs) formed in 1994. Previously all regional analyses used Standard Statistical Regions (SSRs). For more information see Appendix F.

## MAJOR CHANGES

### **1997-1998**

*Bank/Building society service charges* - Collection of information on service charges levied by banks has been extended to include building societies.

*Payments from unemployment/redundancy insurances* - Information is now collected on payments received from private unemployment and redundancy insurance policies. This information is then incorporated into the calculation of income from other sources.

*Retired households* - The definition of retired households has been amended to exclude households where the head of the household is economically active.

*Rent-free tenure* - The definition of rent-free tenure has been amended to include those households for which someone outside the household, except an employer or an organisation, is paying a rent or mortgage on behalf of the household.

*National Lottery* - From February 1997, expenditure on National lottery tickets was collected as three separate items: tickets for the Wednesday draw only, tickets for the Saturday draw only and tickets for both draws.

### **1998-1999**

*Children's income* - Three new expenditure codes were introduced: pocket money to children; money given to children for specific purposes and cash gifts to children. These replaced a single code covering all three categories.

*Main job and last paid job* - Harmonised questions were adopted.

### **1999-2000**

*Working Family Tax Credit* - the questionnaire was altered to deal with the replacement of Family Credit by Working Family Tax Credit in October 1999.

## MAJOR CHANGES

### 2000-01

*Household definition* – the definition was changed to the harmonised definition which has been in use in the Census and nearly all other government household surveys since 1981. The effect is to group together into a single household some people who would have been allocated to separate households on the previous definition. The effect is fairly small but not negligible.

Up to 1999-2000 the FES definition was based on the pre-1981 Census definition and required members to share eating and budgeting arrangements as well as shared living accommodation. The definition of a household was:

One person or a group of people who have the accommodation as their only or main residence  
*and (for a group)*  
share the living accommodation, that is a living or sitting room  
**and** share meals together (or have common housekeeping).

The harmonised definition is less restrictive:

One person or a group of people who have the accommodation as their only or main residence  
*and (for a group)*  
share the living accommodation, that is a living or sitting room  
**or** share meals together or have common housekeeping.

The report on the 2000-01 survey, *Family Spending 2000-01*, contains a discussion of the effect of the change in Chapter 9. There is no clear-cut answer but the effect may be to increase average household size by a maximum of 1.9 per cent.

### *Question reductions*

A thorough review of the questionnaire showed that a number of questions were no longer needed by government users. These were cut from the 2000-01 survey to reduce the burden on respondents. The reduction was fairly small but it did make the interview flow better. All the questions needed for a complete record of expenditure and income were retained.

### *Redesigned diary*

The diary was redesigned to be easier for respondents to keep and to look cleaner. The main change of substance was to delete the column for recording whether each item was purchased by credit, charge or shop card.

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## MAJOR CHANGES

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### *Ending of MIRAS*

Tax relief on interest on loans for house purchase was abolished from April 2000. Questions related to MIRAS were therefore dropped. They included some that were needed to estimate the amount if the respondent did not know it. A number were retained for other purposes, however, such as the amount of the loan still outstanding which is still asked for households paying a reduced rate of interest because one of them works for the lender.

## **Expenditure and Food Survey**

### **2001-02**

*FES* → *EFS* - From April 2001, the Expenditure and Food Survey (EFS) has replaced the Family Expenditure Survey (FES) and the National Food Survey (NFS). In 1997 ONS reviewed its multi-purpose surveys and found that the FES and the NFS had a significant degree of overlap between them. For example, it was noted that they were both diary surveys and both collected data on food expenditure. ONS and MAFF, the sponsors of the NFS, agreed a collaborative programme to develop a merged survey. The intensive development and testing that followed was successful and the two departments agreed to go ahead with the merged survey. MAFF has now become the Department for Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). A full account of the development is in the Social Survey Methodology Bulletin No. 48 ([www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=8127&move=N](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=8127&move=N))

The following key features have been implemented into the EFS:

- The survey is broadly based on the FES – that is a household interview to collect regular payments and purchases of certain large items by retrospective recall, full income details from every adult and a two week diary of all spending kept by every person aged 7 upwards.
- Food weights for food brought home are collected in the diary.
- A more detailed coding frame than on the FES is used for food, both food brought home and food eaten out. (Expenditure code changes are detailed later on).
- The survey should record home grown and wild food (e.g. blackberries).

## **MAJOR CHANGES**

*Expenditure classification: COICOP* – From April 2001 the EFS has changed to a wholly different classification of goods and services based on COICOP, the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose. This classification is used for National Accounts in the UK and worldwide. It was agreed by the United Nations Statistical Commission. Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Community, added a further level called COICOP-HBS for European household budget surveys such as the EFS.

COICOP is very different from the FES classification. For example eating out formed part of Food and Non-Alcoholic Drinks in the FES classification, but is part of Restaurants and Hotels in COICOP. To improve comparability with the FES codes the EFS has added a further level of sub-division, called COICOP+. The 12 main COICOP headings can be broadly mapped to the 14 FES main headings. At the more detailed level, however, there are areas where it has not been possible to achieve exact equivalence.

*Processing system* – EFS survey data is stored on and analysed by a different system to the INGRES system used by FES. SPSS is now used for this purpose. As a result, large number of variables, with names longer than 8 characters, have now had their names changed. The SPSS system also means there is no need to store data in a large number of tables. Data is stored in several raw and derived files at either person or household level.

*Government Office Regions (modified)* – Regional analyses are now done using Government Office Regions modified (GORX) rather than the Standard Statistical Regions (SSRs).

*Question numbers* – Due to a number of changes from FES to EFS, a large amount of question numbers have changed. These have been listed in ‘Part10 – Question Number Changes’.

*Household reference person* – Questions in the survey which used to refer to the Head of Household, instead refer to the Household Reference Person.

### *Proxy interviews*

While questions about general household affairs are put to all household members or to a main household informant, questions about work and income are put to the individual members of the household. Where a member of the household is not present during the household interview, another member of the household (e.g. spouse) may be able to provide information about the absent person. The individual’s interview is then identified as a proxy interview. From 2001/02, the EFS began accepting responses that contained a proxy interview.

### *Short income*

From 2001-02, the EFS accepted responses from households that answered the short income section. This was designed for respondents who were reluctant to provide more detailed income information.



## MAJOR CHANGES

### **2002-03**

#### **Main shopper**

At the launch of the EFS in April 2001, the respondent responsible for buying the household's main shopping was identified as the Main Diary Keeper. From 2002-03, this term has been replaced by the "Main Shopper".

The importance of the Main Shopper is to ensure that we have obtained information on the bulk of the shopping in the household. Without this person's co-operation we have insufficient information to use the other diaries kept by members of the household in a meaningful way.

The main shopper must therefore complete a diary for the interview to qualify as a full or partial interview. Without their participation, the outcome will be a refusal no matter who else is willing to complete a diary.

### **2003-04**

There were four main changes in the survey:

1. The benefit section of the Income Questionnaire was changed as part of the move to harmonisation with other ONS surveys.
2. Disabled person's tax credit, Children's tax credit and Working families tax credit were replaced by Working tax credit and Child tax credit. (Note that data on both sets of benefits were collected during April 2004, to allow an overlap.)
3. Information was collected on more items which were purchased over the internet.
4. New questions were asked about individual purchases costing more than £5,000 and these were removed from diary data to avoid double counting.

**MAJOR CHANGES**

**2004-2005**

There only one main change to have occurred in the survey was that the order of questions has changed in the following sections of the household questionnaire: 'Money given to household members' and 'Items paid direct from outside household'.