

(OV5)

**Expenditure & Food Survey  
2005-2006**

**VOLUME 5  
Database Changes**

Source: Expenditure and Food Survey, National Statistics

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## DATABASE CHANGES

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**DATABASE CHANGES**

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**Explanatory Notes**

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*This volume of the documentation describes the way in which the 2005-2006 database has changed in relation to the 2004-2005 database. This volume is divided into 10 parts.*

**Part 1** - Changes to raw variables are listed in terms of those that are new for 2005-2006.

**Part 2** - Lists the 2004-2005 variables that have been deleted for 2005-2006.

**Part 3** - Lists any 2004-2005 variables that have changed name for 2005-2006.

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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. Changes to derived variables are listed that:

**Part 4** - are new for 2005-2006

**Part 5** - have been deleted for 2005-2006 and

**Part 6** - that have changed name for 2005-2006.

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

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Note: the Vehicles question block of the EFS (household) questionnaire was redesigned for the 2005/06 quarter 1 (Q1: April-June) to quarter 3 (Q3: October-December) survey period; and then again for the 2005/06 quarter 4 (Q4: January-March) period. As a result, many of the raw variables in the Vehicles block have changed. In certain cases, a 2004/05 variable may approximately map to a 2005/06 Q1-Q3 variable and/or a 2005/06 Q4 variable. Such examples are indicated in the descriptions below, with the period the variable relates to indicated in parenthesis. Users of the Vehicles data are advised to refer to the household section questionnaire User Guide, which gives both the 2005/06 Q1-Q3 and 2005/06 Q4 versions of the EFS questionnaire.

### Household Questionnaire

Variable	Description	SPSS File Name
DVNCVeh	Number of current vehicles (2005/06 Q1-Q3)	Rawhh
DVNFVeh	Number of former vehicles (2005/06 Q1-Q3)	Rawhh
DVNumVeh	Total number of vehicles (2005/06 Q1-Q3)	Rawhh
DVOwnUse	Vehicle is currently owned or used (2005/06 Q1-Q3) – maps to OwnNum & UseNum (2005/06 Q4)	Rawhh
MakMod	What is the make and model of this vehicle? – maps to Model (2004/05)	Rawhh
OwnCar	Is the vehicle (1) privately owned; (2) privately leased; (3) a company vehicle; (4) or something else (please specify)? – maps to Own (2004/05)	Rawhh
OwnFilt	Do you or any members of your household own or privately lease any motor vehicles? (2005/06 Q4) - maps to VhFilt1 (2005/06 Q1-Q3) and VHOFilt (2004/05)	Rawhh
OwnNum	How many vehicles do you own or privately lease? (2005/06 Q4) - maps to DVOwnUse (2005/06 Q1-Q3)	Rawhh
PetrOth	Fuel vehicle runs on if it is not petrol or diesel	Rawhh
SoldFilt	In the past 12 months, have you sold any motor vehicles, excluding trade-in or part exchange? (2005/06 Q4) - maps to VhFilt2 (2005/06 Q1-Q3) and VHSFilt (2004/05).	Rawhh
SoldNum	How many vehicles have you sold?	Rawhh
UseFilt	Have (any of) you had continuous use of any (other) motor vehicle that you do/did not own, such as a company car? (2005/06 Q4) - maps to VhFilt1 (2005/06 Q1-Q3) and VHOFilt (2004/05)	Rawhh
UseNum	How many vehicles have you had continuous use of? (2005/06 Q4) - maps to DVOwnUse (2005/06 Q1-Q3)	Rawhh
VhFilt1	Do you or any members of your household at present own or have continuous use of any motor vehicle? (2005/06 Q1-Q3) – maps to VHOFilt (2004/05) and maps to OwnFilt & UseFilt (2005/06 Q4)	Rawhh
VhFilt2	Have you sold any motor vehicles, excluding trade-in or part exchange? (2005/06 Q1-Q3) – maps to VHSFilt (2004/05) and maps to SoldFilt (2005/06 Q4)	Rawhh
VHOTyp	Variable VHOTyp exists in 2004/05, but was equivalent to VhTyp in 2005/06. In 2005/06 VHOTyp is 'If the vehicle you sold wasn't a car, light van, motorcycle, or motor caravan, what was it?'	Rawhh
xMarSta	Marital status (With the insertion of the Civil	Rawper

Partnership option in third position in the running prompt, the numbering of subsequent categories is affected. As a consequence, a duplicate field xMarSta has been created with the categories according to the new numbering. It is xMarSta that is asked of the respondent. MarSta (which is computed behind the scenes) maps xMarSta to the previous numbering scheme.

Note: the Benefits question block of the EFS (income) questionnaire underwent some changes between 2005/06 Q1-Q3 and 2005/06 Q4. Users of the Benefits data are advised to refer to the income section questionnaire User Guide, which gives both the 2005/06 Q1-Q3 and 2005/06 Q4 versions of the questionnaire.

### Income Questionnaire

Variable	Description	SPSS File Name
BAmt33	ANY NATIONAL INSURANCE OR STATE BENEFIT NOT MENTIONED EARLIER: How much did you get last time?	Rawper
BAmt50	STATUTORY PATERNITY PAY: How much did you get last time?	Rawper
BAmt51	STATUTORY ADOPTION PAY: How much did you get last time?	Rawper
BAmt52	INCOME TAX REFUND: How much did you get last time?	Rawper
BAmt53	MILEAGE ALLOWANCE: How much did you get last time?	Rawper
BAmt54	MOTORING EXPENSES REFUND: How much did you get last time?	Rawper
DVADOPST	DV for statutory adoption pay	Rawper
DVMILALL	DV for Mileage allowance	Rawper
DVMOTEXS	DV for Motoring Expenses Refund	Rawper
DVPATST	DV for statutory paternity pay	Rawper
DVTAXRFD	DV for Income Tax Refund	Rawper
Inclus	Inclusions in last wages / salary (2005/06 Q4). Note: in the 2005/06 annual SPSS database, 2005/06 Q4 values of 1 (StatSick) or 2 (MatStat) were deleted from 'Inclus' and added to Ben2Q or MatAll - this was done so that Statutory Sick Pay and Maternity Allowance are consistently recorded under Ben2Q and MatAll for 2005/06.	Rawper
NumWks34	For how many weeks in last 12 months did you receive benefit? Trade Union sick pay or strike pay	Rawper
NumWks35	For how many weeks in last 12 months did you receive benefit? Friendly Society sickness benefits	Rawper
NumWks36	For how many weeks in last 12 months did you receive benefit? Benefits under private medical scheme	Rawper
NumWks37	For how many weeks in last 12 months did you receive benefit? Benefits under personal accident insurance	Rawper
NumWks38	For how many weeks in last 12 months did you receive benefit? Permanent health insurance	Rawper
NumWks39	For how many weeks in last 12 months did you receive benefit? Benefits under hospital savings	Rawper

**Expenditure and Food Survey****New raw variables**


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	scheme	
NumWks40	For how many weeks in last 12 months did you receive benefit? Benefits under any other sickness insurance	Rawper
NumWks41	For how many weeks in last 12 months did you receive benefit? Payments from unemployment/redundancy insurance	Rawper
RcptNo34	Are you receiving this benefit at present? Trade Union sick pay or strike pay	Rawper
RcptNo35	Are you receiving this benefit at present? Friendly Society sickness benefits	Rawper
RcptNo36	For how many weeks in last 12 months did you receive benefit? Benefits under private medical scheme	Rawper
RcptNo37	Are you receiving this benefit at present? Benefits under personal accident insurance	Rawper
RcptNo38	Are you receiving this benefit at present? Permanent health insurance	Rawper
RcptNo39	Are you receiving this benefit at present? Benefits under hospital savings scheme	Rawper
RcptNo40	Are you receiving this benefit at present? Benefits under any other sickness insurance	Rawper
RcptNo41	Are you receiving this benefit at present? Payments from unemployment/redundancy insurance	Rawper

Note: the Vehicles question block of the EFS (household) questionnaire was redesigned for the 2005/06 quarter 1 (Q1: April-June) to quarter 3 (Q3: October-December) survey period; and then again for the 2005/06 quarter 4 (Q4: January-March) period. As a result, many of the raw variables in the Vehicles block have changed. In certain cases, a 2004/05 variable may approximately map to a 2005/06 Q1-Q3 variable and/or a 2005/06 Q4 variable. Such examples are indicated in the descriptions below, with the period the variable relates to indicated in parenthesis. Users of the Vehicles data are advised to refer to the household section questionnaire User Guide, which gives both the 2005/06 Q1-Q3 and 2005/06 Q4 versions of the EFS questionnaire.

### Household Questionnaire

Variable Name	Description
Carsold	Which vehicles were sold within the last 12 months?
CINamt	Have you paid any vehicle insurance for a vehicle you have continuous use of but don't own? - maps to VhOCin (2005/06)
DVCIN	DV for VhUCrIn
DVCRT	DV for road tax for a vehicle you have continuous use of but don't own - maps to DVRT1 (2005/06)
DVNoVeh	Number of vehicles
FuelType	If provided by an employer: Does this vehicle run on petrol or diesel?
Model	Could you tell me the make and model and engine size of this vehicle? maps to MakMod (2005/06)
NIRegYr	Vehicle: Please give me the year of registration?
OMore	Have (any of) you paid for any work on any of your other vehicles?
OtVhDes	Please give a brief description of this vehicle, for instance, red Golf, black BMW
OtWkVeh	Please give a brief description of the vehicle that had the work done, for instance, red Golf, black BMW
OWkPsn	Who owns vehicle worked on?
Own	Vehicles: privately owned/leased at present? - maps to OwnCar (2005/06)
RefAmAbt	Vehicles: RefAm has been abated - Not collected in 2005/06 Q1-Q3, but maps to RefAbt in 2005/06 Q4
RoadT(1-8)	Paid any road tax in last year? - maps to VhORT (2005/06)
RTaxAny	Vehicles: rcvd any further refunds of road tax in last yr?
RTPsn	Vehicles: who received road tax refund(s)?
RTVeh	Brief description of vehicle for which road tax refunded
SrvPsn	Vehicles: who paid for this service?
SvMore	Vehicles: paid for a service on any other vehicles?
VehDes	Vehicles: brief description
VehSrv	Was it a car/van/motor cycle/other vehicle serviced?
Vh2Psn	Vehicles: who paid?
Vh3Psn	Vehicles: Who sold this vehicle?
Vh4Psn	Vehicles: Who has/had continuous use of this vehicle?
VhBAny	Vehicles: bought any more in last 12 months?
VhBTyp	Was vehicle bought a car/light van/motor cycle/motor caravan/other? - maps to VhTyp (2005/06)
VhOAny	Vehicles: owned or leased any other vehicles?
VhOFilt	Vehicles: any owned or privately leased? - maps to VhFilt1 (2005/06 Q1-Q3) and Usefilt (2005/06 Q4)
VhOPP	Vehicles: does employer pay for any fuel for private use? - maps to VhUpp (2005/06)
VhOTyp	Was vehicle owned or privately leased a car/light van/motor cycle/motor caravan/other? - maps to VhTyp (2005/06)
VhSAny	Have you sold any more vehicles in last year?
VhSFilt	Hhave (any of) you sold any of the vehicles you have mentioned, excluding trade-in or part exchange? - maps to VhFilt2 (2005/06 Q1-Q3), SoldFilt (2005/06 Q4)
VhSTyp	Was vehicle sold a car/light van/motor cycle/motor caravan/other? - maps to VhTyp (2005/06)
VhUAny	Continuous use of any other motor vehicles?
VhUCRAbt	Vehicles: CINamt has been abated - maps to CIAbmt (2005/06)
VhUCrIn	Vehicles: how much insurance paid (continuous use of motor vehicle that you do/did not



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	own)? - maps to CIAmt (2005/06)
VhUFilt	Have any of you had continuous use of any (other) motor vehicle that you do/did not own, such as a company car
VhURT	Vehicles: how much road tax paid (continuous use of motor vehicle that you do/did not own)? - maps to RtAmt (2005/06)
VhURTAbt	Vehicles: road tax abated (continuous use of motor vehicle that you do/did not own)? - maps to RtAbmt (2005/06)
VhUTyp	Was vehicle you had continuous use of but do/did not own a car/light van/motor cycle/motor caravan/other? - maps to VhTyp (2005/06)
VhWkTyp	Other work done on a car/light van/motor cycle/motor caravan/other? - maps to VhTyp (2005/06)
VSrvDes	Vehicles: brief description of car that was serviced?
WhichCar	Which vehicle was bought in last 12 months?

Note: the Benefits question block of the EFS (income) questionnaire underwent some changes between 2005/06 Q1-Q3 and 2005/06 Q4. Users of the Benefits data are advised to refer to the income section questionnaire User Guide, which gives both the 2005/06 Q1-Q3 and 2005/06 Q4 versions of the questionnaire.

### Income Questionnaire

Variable Name	Description
BAmt1	INCOME SUPPORT: How much did you get last time (recorded under BAmt2 in 2005/06)
BAmt18	WORKING FAMILIES' TAX CREDIT (WFTC): How much did you get last time? (BAmt18 exists in 2005/06 but is 'STATUTORY MATERNITY PAY: How much did you get last time?')
BAmt19	DISABLED PERSON'S TAX CREDIT: How much did you get last time?
BAmt20	CHILDREN'S TAX CREDIT (old): How much did you get last time?
BAmt23	SOCIAL FUND GRANT FOR FUNERAL EXPENSES: How much did you get last time? (BAmt23 is equivalent to BAmt24 for 2005/06)
chtclump	Do you receive this benefit as a lump sum?
dptcamt	How much was included for Disabled Persons Tax Credit payment?
dptclump	Disabled Persons Tax Credit: Do you receive this benefit as a lump sum?
dptcper	Disabled Persons Tax Credit: What period did this cover?
dvchtc	Benefits: DV for children's tax credit (old)
dvfam	Benefits: DV for Family Credit / Working Families Tax Credit
dvwftc	DV for Working Families Tax Credit
wftcamt	How much was included for Working Families Tax Credit payment?
wftcper	Working Families Tax Credit: What period did this cover?

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**Variable name changes**

**Household questionnaire: variable name changes**

<b>2004/05 Variable Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>2005/06 Variable Name</b>
FiltSr	Have (any of) you paid for a service for this vehicle in the last 3 months?	Service
HBenAmt	How much Housing Benefit was allowed for the last rent?	AmtHB
HBenefit	Are you receiving Housing Benefit, either directly or by having it paid to your landlord on your behalf?	HBen
IntAcc	Does your household have access to the internet at home?	Inter
PercHBen	Housing Benefit: how long did this rent rebate cover?	PerHB
PercRent	Rent: what period does last payment cover?	RentPer
Rent	How much rent did your household actually pay last time it was due, AFTER deducting any housing benefit (or rent rebate)?	RentAmt
RentHday	Do you have a rent holiday?	RentHol
RentHolis	For how many weeks a year do you have a rent holiday?	RentHoWk
SampMnth	Sample Month	SampMth
SViseDesc	Please describe the type of responsibility you have for supervising the work of other employees?	SViseDsc
VhBFilt	Vehicles: have you bought any vehicles in last 12 months?	OwnLst

**Income questionnaire: variable changes**

<b>2004/05 Variable Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>2005/06 Variable Name</b>
Bamt1	INCOME SUPPORT: How much did you get last time	Bamt2
Bamt10	ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE: How much did you get last time?	Bamt11
Bamt11	JOB SEEKERS ALLOWANCE: How much did you get last time?	Bamt12
Bamt12	PENSION CREDIT: How much did you get last time?	Bamt13
Bamt13	INCAPACITY BENEFIT: How much did you get last time?	Bamt14
Bamt14	STATUTORY SICK PAY: How much did you get last time?	Bamt15
Bamt15	INDUSTRIAL INJURY DISABLEMENT BENEFIT: How much did you get last time?	Bamt16
Bamt16	MATERNITY ALLOWANCE: How much did you get last time?	Bamt17
Bamt17	STATUORY MATERNITY PAY: How much did you get last time?	Bamt18
Bamt2	GUARDIAN'S ALLOWANCE: How much did you get last time?	Bamt3

**2005-2006: VOLUME 5, PART 3**  
**2004-2005 raw variables that have**  
**changed name for 2005-2006**

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Bamt23	SOCIAL FUND GRANT FOR FUNERAL EXPENSES: How much did you get last time?	Bamt24
Bamt24	SOCIAL FUND GRANT FOR MATERNITY EXPENSES: How much did you get last time?	Bamt25
Bamt25	COMMUNITY CARE GRANT: How much did you get last time?	Bamt26
Bamt26	WINTER FUEL PAYMENTS: How much did you get last time?	Bamt27
Bamt27	BACK TO WORK BONUS: How much did you get last time?	Bamt28
Bamt28	EXTENDED PAYMENT: How much did you get last time?	Bamt29
Bamt29	WIDOW'S LUMP SUM: How much did you get last time?	Bamt30
Bamt3	INVALIDITY CARE ALLOWANCE: How much did you get last time	Bamt4
Bamt30	CHILD MAINTENANCE BONUS: How much did you get last time?	Bamt31
Bamt31	LONE PARENT BENEFIT RUN-ON: How much did you get last time?	Bamt32
Bamt32	OTHER NI/STATE BENFIT: How much did you get last time?	Bamt33
Bamt4	RETIREMENT PENSION: How much did you get last time	Bamt5
Bamt5	WIDOWS PENSION: How much did you get last time	Bamt6
Bamt6	WAR DISABLEMENT OR WAR WIDOWS PENSION: How much did you get last time	Bamt7
Bamt7	SEVERE DISABLEMENT ALLOWANCE: How much did you get last time?	Bamt8
Bamt8	DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE (DLA) CARE COMPONENT: How much did you get last time?	Bamt9
Bamt9	DLA MOBILITY COMPONENT: How much did you get last time?	Bamt10

**Expenditure and Food Survey**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>SPSS File Name</b>
C91414 (c, t, w)	Blank and pre-recorded DVDs	DVHH

Variable A2853, B372, B404 and B4041 are no longer used – DVPER data file.

There were no derived variables name changes for 2005-2006.

<b>Expenditure Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
C91414	Blank and pre-recorded DVDs - <i>adult</i>
C91414c	Blank and pre-recorded DVDs - <i>child</i>
C91414t	Blank and pre-recorded DVDs - <i>total</i>
C91414w	Blank pre-recorded DVDs - <i>internet</i>

Note: code C91414 was added in 2005/06 and not in 2003/04 as erroneously stated in 2003/04 EFS User guide, Volume 5, Part 7.

No expenditure codes have been deleted.



No expenditure codes were amended in 2005/2006.

## MAJOR CHANGES

### Changes in definitions 1991 to 2005/2006

#### 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 to 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 are treated as windfall income. They do not form a part of normal household income, nor are they

## **MAJOR CHANGES**

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.

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### 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.

## **MAJOR CHANGES**

### *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**

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*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

#### *Benefits*

The benefit section of the Income Questionnaire was changed as part of the move to harmonisation with other ONS surveys.

#### *Tax credits*

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.)

#### *Internet purchases*

Information was collected on more items which were purchased over the internet.

#### *High expenditure*

New questions were asked about individual purchases costing more than £5,000 and these were removed from diary data to avoid double counting.

### 2004/2005

## **MAJOR CHANGES**

The 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'.

### **2005/2006**

#### *Vehicles section*

The vehicles section was redesigned for 2005/06. Previously, information about vehicles was recorded in 7 separate sections:

- Vehicles owned or privately leased (in the past 12 months)
- Vehicles bought
- Vehicles sold
- Use of other vehicles
- Vehicle service
- Vehicle repair
- Road tax

These have now been combined into one section, which first identifies all the vehicles owned, leased, used and sold by the household in the last 12 months, and then asks for details on each vehicle in turn. This has resulted in the addition of some new raw variables, and the amendment and deletion of others. During April to December 2005 respondents who had sold a vehicle were not asked whether they had bought that same vehicle in the previous year. This was corrected from January 2006. Questions on road tax refunds were inadvertently omitted from the 2005/06 questionnaire.

#### *Urban and rural definition*

A new urban and rural area classification based on 2001 Census data has been introduced onto the EFS dataset. The classification replaces the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions (DTLR) 1991 Census-based urban and rural classification that was used previously. The new classification is the standard National Statistics classification for identifying urban and rural areas in England and Wales, and Scotland. Please refer to 'Definitions' for further details.

#### *Stratification variables*

Stratification variables were updated using 2001 Census data when drawing the 2005/06 sample. Until 2004/05, area level stratifiers were derived from 1991 Census data.