October 2017

GSS International Statistics **Dashboard**

News highlights – at home

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| * **Towards a life course of data** * The *proposed* [Titchfield City Group on Ageing Workshop (blogs/presentations/tweets)](https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/titchfield-city-group-ageing/) brought together relevant experts and officials from national statistical offices, UN agencies, government ministries, civil society, academia and the private sector. The activity, held at Winchester University, provided a hugely successful platform for discussion and sharing of good practice in the field of age-disaggregated data and statistics on ageing and future needs. A report is now being prepared for the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) to discuss in March 2018; this will recommend establishing the Titchfield City Group, led by ONS, to take the work forward. More information from: [wesley.miles@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:wesley.miles@statistics.gov.uk) * **Collaborating with China** * A senior delegation from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) China, led by Deputy Commissioner Ms Jia Nan visited ONS Newport from 16 - 18 October 2017. This visit was hosted by John Pullinger and comes under the umbrella of an eight year memorandum of understanding which began in 2012. The topics under discussion on this occasion focused on ONS' Economic Statistics Directorate - Services Statistics in particular. The visit was a great success and the delegation was thrilled with the quality of all presentations. Interest and engagement was very high and particularly around the areas of Flow of Funds and the Sharing Economy. More information from: [jo.green@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:jo.green@statistics.gov.uk) * **The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** * The [GDPR](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj) was adopted by the EU 18 months ago, leaving only a little over seven months before it comes into force, replacing the previous Data Protection Directive. The new Regulation aims to take account of new technologies and ways of processing, as well as increase the rights of individuals and provide a consistent approach across the EU. Whilst the principles remain the same there are a number of significant changes, most of which are focused on transparency and accountability. Data controllers should be thinking about staff training, auditing the personal data they hold and, if required, appointing data protection officers. In addition some member states will be tabling their own legislation to repeal their previous data protection laws and implement the derogations available in the GDPR. In the UK a new [Data Protection Bill](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/data-protection-bill-2017) was introduced to the House of Lords on 13 September 2017. * ESS members will be particularly interested in the changes to processing for statistical activities. For example that further processing for statistical purposes continues to be compatible with the original purpose for which personal data were collected, and that personal data held only for statistical purposes may be kept for longer periods than would otherwise be permitted, subject, in both instances, to the safeguards and measures set out in Article 89 and member state law. Article 89 also allows member states to introduce their own exemptions to a number of specified data subject rights, such as the rights to access and to object, in addition to the rights exemptions on the face of the regulation, such as for the new right to be forgotten. Further information, advice and guidance is available from the [Information Commissioner](https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/data-protection-reform/overview-of-the-gdpr/) * The UKSA is leading a GSS IAC Task and Finish Group with the aim of creating basic guidance documents for departments who process personal data for statistical purposes. The guidance will focus on the use of exemptions, processing conditions, safeguards and privacy notices. More information from : [legalservices@ons.gov.uk](mailto:legalservices@ons.gov.uk) * James Denman, DCLG talks about DCLG’s preparation for this new regulation, in the ILO round-up below. * **GSS International Committee –** met on 3 October 2017 to talk about report backs from the task and finish groups on social and economic statistics, an update on Brexit, and plans for the next ILO workshop. GSSIC has also secured a parallel session at the GSS conference to cover: Brexit; international engagement priorities and international development. GSSIC Secretariat: [Sezen.Barutcu@ons.gov.uk](mailto:Sezen.Barutcu@ons.gov.uk) for more information and papers. * **Sustainable Development Goals** - the SDG team will publish its first progress report on 9 November 2017, which will give an update on UK data collection for the global indicators. The intention is to launch its reporting platform at the same time. The team members are also analysing responses to their consultation, and will publish a formal response in December 2017. Contact: [joanne.evans@ons.gov.uk](mailto:joanne.evans@ons.gov.uk) * **Exiting the EU –** please contact the EU Exit Programme team if you have any concerns on what the UK’s withdrawal from the EU means for our engagement with the ESS. Contact: Will Laffan, EU Exit lead: [will.laffan@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:will.laffan@statistics.gov.uk) * **GSS international activity ‘round-up’** - reports from BEIS, DCLG, DIT, HO, HSE, ONS and WG are below. * **Useful reference** - [ONS International Calendar](https://teamup.com/ksca0c1eead7c5d45a) |

GSS international activity ‘round-up’ via GSS International Liaison Officers

**Masuma Ahmed – ILO, BEIS** *reports*

* A Eurostat task force met in April 2017 to investigate the potential for further disaggregation of statistics on **Final Energy Consumption** (FEC). **Liz Waters** provided insights into how easy/difficult it would be for the UK to provide data according to various proposals put forward, and contributed to intelligence gathered from experts (**BEIS Science Team** for example) as to the most reliable way to gather this data if it proved possible. The task force members will consider the proposals discussed and put these to test over the coming year.
* **Julian Prime** and **Matt Laycock** attended the **IEAs annual Energy Statistics Development Group** meeting in Paris in April 2017 to discuss developments on energy efficiency, review of annual data collections and processes, digitalisation, energy price data, training and capacity building - in addition to broader energy related issues. Julian also attended the **European Environment Agency Energy** (EIONET) meeting in Copenhagen in May 2017 where discussions focused on the integration of reporting on energy and climate issues, benefits of energy efficiency, including a short demonstration of an **Energy Efficiency Index** that the EEA has developed, for which an EIONET consultation is imminent.
* **Andrew Ray** attended the annual international **Oslo Group meeting on energy statistics** in May 2017 (a working group of United Nations Statistical Commission focused on **administrative data** and dissemination) to present new developments on fuel poverty.
* **Iain MacLeay** attended the **Eurostat Energy Statistics Working Group** May 2017 which looks at developing Eurostat’s energy statistics and provided assistance to Eurostat to develop a methodology enabling them to produce earlier estimates of annual balances. Iain also attended a task force in September 2017 looking at reporting international trade and fuels in stocks, with the aim to reduce energy trade asymmetries within the EU.
* **Sean Mattson** attended a meeting of the **EC Working group on ‘Policy-relevant Research on Entrepreneurship and SMEs’** in September 2017. The working group largely discussed the process of updating the factsheets on each counties effort to implement the Small Business Act for Europe (SBA), and provided updates on analysis of international data on SME growth.
* The **Joint Organisation Data Initiative** (JODI) [conference](https://www.jodidata.org/events/13th-international-jodi-conference) was recently held in London and hosted by the UK Government with Richard Harrington MP opening the conference.  JODI is a response to a need for **transparent and reliable oil statistics** in the 1990s to help reduce oil price volatility. Co-ordinated by six international organisations (APEC, Eurostat, IEA, OLADE, OPEC and the UNSD), collection of monthly oil and gas statistics from each organisation's member countries (representing 90% of global oil supply and demand) are currently submitted and published in the freely accessible [JODI-Oil](https://www.jodidata.org/gas/) and [JODI-Gas](https://www.jodidata.org/gas/) databases. **Warren Evans** presented and took part in panel sessions, addressing questions including: the extent to which JODI address the data needs of policy makers working on energy transition issues, how JODI can be improved to further help decision makers, and the important role of industry in making data available. Knowledge was shared among international members, with diverse backgrounds and experience, during highly interactive panel sessions to help address the challenges currently faced in making improvements to the data (further details in the [agenda](https://www.jodidata.org/_resources/files/events/13th-international-jodi-conference/agenda--13th-international-jodi-conference.pdf)).
* The BEIS Data Analytics and Business Statistics Team is due to host a delegation from the **Ministry of Science and Technology in Taiwan** in October 2017. The Taiwanese delegation working in the Science & Technology Policy Research and Information Center (STPI) aim to discuss and better understand the methodology applied in the UK Innovation Survey, with a particular focus on how the survey data feeds into economic analyses and evaluation of innovation policies.

**James Denman – ILO, DCLG** *reports*

* We are **gearing ourselves up** for the (huge) implications and ramifications of the European General Data Protection Regulation (**GDPR**) which comes into effect in May 2018 and which will not be affected by Brexit because its provisions are **very likely to be embedded, lock, stock and barrel, into DCMS’s Data Protection Bill** in order to ensure continuing administrative and commercial interoperability between the UK and Europe after March 2019.
* This will mainly involve **initial awareness/training sessions for DCLG statisticians** followed by an audit of all of our statistical activities to discover the degree to which each business area comes within the remit of the Regulation; followed by the introduction of new data recording/management procedures that will ensure that the affected business areas will be fully compliant with the Regulation. The GDPR is also highly relevant if any statisticians or data scientists want to take advantage of the more permissive Data Sharing provisions in the Digital Economy Act 2017. Further information is available on the following website: <http://www.eugdpr.org> – page 1 of this Dashboard also refers.

**Kim Leather – ILO, DIT** *reports*

* The DIT statistics team has been working with colleagues in BEIS and the UN to launch an updated [interactive trade visualisation tool](https://comtrade.un.org/labs/dit-trade-vis/?reporter=826&type=C&year=2016&flow=2&commodity) on the UN Comtrade website. The tool, launched on 5September 2017, visualises the latest data available in the UN Comtrade database, now including trade in services as well as trade in goods data. Countries’ exports, imports and trade balances are displayed in a user-friendly, colour-coded world map, along with downloadable time-series data and information on the top 10 trading partners and traded commodities/services. The visualisations can be customised to the user’s needs by selecting specific trading partners and/or commodities/services.

**Francesca Allerton – ILO, Home Office *reports***

* As well as our regular supply of data to international organisations, including OECD and Eurostat, the Home Office has worked closely with ONS on the **development of international migration statistics**, including sharing ‘exit checks’ administrative data, resulting in reports on international students that received a high level of media attention. We have also presented a paper for **the International Passenger Survey** steering group on differences between IPS and administrative sources relating to the growing numbers of Chinese visitors to the UK, following concerns raised by the UK’s ambassador in Beijing. Home Office also supplied updated information to OECD for its compendium of international data sources on migration, and data for an OECD-UNHCR project (‘complementary pathways’) on numbers granted visas via non-asylum routes for certain common asylum/refugee nationalities.
* Home Office analysts attended the [International Metropolis Conference in the Hague](https://www.metropolisthehague.org/) (September 2017), presenting papers on Refugee Resettlement and Labour migration in the UK. The Director for Migration and Border Analysis at the Home Office also gave a talk at the conference to PhD students from across the globe on policy-relevant migration research.
* The [European Migration Network](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network_en) (EMN) National Contact Point (NCP) of UK has successfully completed the grant application process for 2017/18 and will be awarded over 850,000 Euros to contribute to the objective of the EMN to provide up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable information on migration and asylum to inform policymaking and facilitate practical cooperation. The UK EMN NCP is located within Migration and Border analysis and comprise over 500 national network members from governments, academics, research communities and NGOs.  The key strength of the EMN is its ability to make data and information collected at national and EU readily accessible in a comparative manner to policy makers and migration experts. For 2017 a synthesis report comparing findings across all MS and Norway will be published on the following studies:
* Challenges and practices for establishing applicants’ identity in the migration process
* The impact of EU rules on the effectiveness of return in Member States
* The changing influx of asylum seekers in 2015-16: Member State responses
* Unaccompanied minors after the asylum process

**Claire Weber – ILO, HSE *reports***

* We have had increased involvement with EODS – which is the project to measure **Occupational Diseases across Europe**. This has involved collaboration with DWP (the data holders) even though we are responsible for the measurement of occupational disease. It has been an interesting experience and is currently still only a pilot so set to develop and change over the next few years.

**Charlotte Gaughgan – ILO, ONS Methodology** *reports*

* **The Seasonal Adjustment Centre of Excellenc**e met in Rome in September. The group consists of experts and practitioners of seasonal adjustment from EU NSIs and central banks and provides advice on seasonal adjustment activities. The main focus of the group is supporting the development and use of a new seasonal adjustment software, JDemetra+. Jennie Davies from the ONS Time Series Analysis Branch presented results of testing a plug-in which analyses revisions, and a demonstration of how JDemetra+ can be integrated in to R. For more information email [jennifer.davies@ons.gov.uk](mailto:jennifer.davies@ons.gov.uk) or follow JDemetra+ on Twitter @JDemetraPlus.

**Sanjiv Mahajan – ILO, ONS National Accounts** *reports*

* **Pensions -** Sarah Levy, Hazel Clarke, Annabel Jones and Sanjiv Mahajan hosted a successful two-day study visit in Newport in September for representatives from the Croatian Bureau of Statistics.  This visit mainly covered the treatment and methodology of Pensions in the UK and Croatia.  The visit also focused on the key delivery of pensions data by all EU Member States by the end of the year to Eurostat and a range of National Accounts related issues.
* **Enhancing UK ONS International Reputation -** Sanjiv Mahajan has worked in ONS for over 25 years with a range of successful national and international achievements across economic statistics, in particular improving the Business Register, business surveys and through to National Accounts as well as lots of improvements across the international community. This has culminated in his recent nomination from the UN Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) and invitation to join the **UN Advisory Expert Group (AEG) on National Accounts**. Sanjiv will incorporate this prestigious role within his existing post in ONS. The UN AEG is the highest National Accounts group in the world to which a National Accountant can be "elected".  The ISWGNA - made up of the UN, European Commission, OECD, IMF and the World Bank - has made an ‘exception’ to the UN AEG quota ruling on this occasion given the merits of Sanjiv's nomination, thereby increasing the European quota by one. This achievement puts the UK, and ONS, back at one of the most significant National Accounting tables in the world for National Statistical Offices (NSOs), after an absence of well over a decade. Sanjiv is also an elected Council Member of the International Input-Output Association and an elected Member of the OECD Bureau of National Accounts - in both cases, the first person ever from the UK Statistics Office.

**Dave Jones – ILO, WG *reports***

* **Well-being of Wales, 2017 -** on 25September the Welsh Government published its first [statutory annual well-being report](http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/well-being-wales/?lang=en) as required under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The report provides an annual update on the progress we are making as a nation towards the achievement of the seven well-being goals, with reference to the 46 national indicators. The report is primarily web-based but also includes a PDF report of progress against the seven well-being goals. Interactive pages developed using Power BI provide the latest position for each national indicator by reading in open data provided by our [StatsWales](https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue?lang=en) service, where possible.
* The publication of the report coincides with the second anniversary of the agreement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Many of the 46 national indicators will help tell a story of progress in Wales against more than one of the SDGs. As part of the report, we have included an [interactive illustration mapping the indicators against the SDGs](http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/national-indicators-mapping-well-being-goals/?lang=en). Furthermore, under the ‘Globally Responsible Wales’ chapter of the report we have more clearly brought out some of the indicators and contextual data that directly relate to the UN SDGs from the perspective of Wales’ global contribution.
* **Many congratulations to Hannah Thomas who won the** International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) Young Statistician of the Year award, earlier this year, and was invited to talk at the International Statistical Institute (ISI) 2017 World Statistics Congress in Marrakech.[Hannah’s blog on GSSnet](https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/blog/2017/09/stats-sun-sometimes-gcse-revision-pays-off/) shares the story.

News highlights – away

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| 3   * **Data for Development** * On 17 October 2017 DFID and OECD jointly launched a [report on Data for Development](http://www.oecd.org/development/development-co-operation-report-20747721.htm) in London. Attending was John Pullinger, National Statistician, Angel Gurría, OECD Secretary-General, Pritti Patel, Secretary of State for DFID and a range of development actors. They discussed how to work together to ensure there is data to support Sustainable Development Goals and highlighted practical steps to take around the six recommendations in the OECD report. GSS colleagues from DFID were pivotal with the success of the launch and the report itself. More detail in: [Angel's remarks at the launch day](http://www.oecd.org/about/secretary-general/bridging-the-data-divide-for-development.htm). * **UN Global Platform on Big Data for Official Statistics** * The UN Global Working Group (GWG) on Big Data for Official Statistics was formed to investigate the benefits and challenges of Big Data, including the potential for monitoring and reporting on SDGs. In August 2016 the GWG proposed that a platform should be created to facilitate data sharing and enhance services, primarily for the benefit of NSIs, but also for the public sector. A GWG committee, chaired by Heather Savory, ONS, is exploring how a Global Platform could be created, in collaboration with the World Bank, Microsoft, Amazon, and other NSIs. A mandate to begin the creation will be sought at the United Nations Statistical Commission. * **Eurostat High Level Groups** * [**HLGMOS**](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cros/category/acronyms/hlg-mos_en)approved two projects this year - Data Integration (DI) and Data Architecture (DA). Both have active participation from the UK – Jane Naylor on DI and Eric Deeben on DA. The DI project deliverables include an on-line guide covering quality measures for integrated data, methodology, security, trust. The DA project aims to deliver a reference data architecture, proofs of concept, and guidelines for how the data architecture can be applied within statistical institutions. Also, Pam Davies, ONS is participating in the capabilities and communities group and James Gamjee, SG is participating in the sharing tools group along with Eric Deeben, ONS. * **Meetings** * [The Conference of European Statisticians](https://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2017.06.ces.html) (CES) met in Geneva on 19-21 June 2017, attended by the statistical heads from nearly 60 countries and representatives of major international organisations including Eurostat and the IMF. Seminars on measuring poverty and on the next generation of statisticians and data scientists were well received and resulted in a number of key actions for taking forward these topics. A report of the conference is available from [international@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:international@statistics.gov.uk) * The [Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians](https://www.unece.org/stats/cesbureau.html) met in Yerevan, Armenia on 10-11 October 2017. The Bureau provides vision and direction to all activities of the CES and is formed of a group of eight leading Chief Statisticians (Finland, UK, Armenia, Austria, Canada, Croatia, Mexico and New Zealand), elected by CES members, and six leading international organisations. Topics for in-depth review by the CES were agreed and progress on current reviews was discussed. The Bureau also selected subjects to be explored through seminars that will be held during the next plenary meeting of the CES in June 2018. The Bureau also approved the work plan on strategic partnerships, including the plan to organise a high-level seminar on 11-12 April 2018. The UK has produced a survey which will be sent to statistical organisations. The aim, to discover which type of partnership is deemed to be most important and to identify which specific issue/key challenges within partnership work deserves further attention at the seminar. A report of the Bureau meeting is available from [international@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:international@statistics.gov.uk) * [Council Working Party on Statistics - the Estonian Presidency](https://eu2017.stat.ee/) has continued negotiations on the *Integrated Farm Statistics* (IFS) proposal and opened discussions on the *GNI* proposal. The Estonians have a heavy workload with six legislative proposals currently being considered by the Council. The Presidency is attempting to progress all pending dossiers at the Council Working Party on Statistics (CWPS), but progress is understandably slow. The Presidency`s plans for the rest of the year also include continuation of negotiations on the proposal on *Integrated European Social Statistics* (IESS), conclusion and adoption of the *TERCET* regulation and the beginning of discussions on the *Framework Regulation on Business Statistics* (FRIBS). Negotiations on the latter may prove lengthy, with a number of Member States, including the UK, having some specific concerns on the proposal including the usual issues on the use of delegated and implementing acts. A proposal for a recast of the *Rail Transport Statistics Regulation* will also be considered by CWPS, but is unlikely to raise any concerns. * Nikki Shearman, UKSA attended [the DGINS conference](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/ess/-/103rd-dgins-conference-budapest-20-to-21-september-2017) and the ESSC meetings in Budapest, subjects discussed at the DGINS included ESS priorities post 2020 and they also agreed the Budapest Memorandum on Migration Statistics. The aim of the Memorandum is to improve migration statistics through the growing use of data from administrative sources, and the importance of good European and wider international cooperation in the exchange of data and good practice. At ESSC matters discussed included the new European Code of Practice and the election of a new board overseeing the [European Masters in Official Statistics](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cros/content/emos_en) (EMOS) qualification. * **ONS International Development team activity** * Our activity continues to grow. You may have seen this blog on some of our work earlier in the year in Rwanda: <https://blog.ons.gov.uk/2017/06/21/making-sure-that-every-life-counts-ons-in-rwanda/> please do follow @emposkett on twitter for latest updates and blogs. * The ONS international development team and the DFID Data for Development team have agreed a joint programme of assistance to African countries on statistical modernisation. Through capitalising on the UK’s comparative advantage in the modernisation of official statistics, it aims to improve the quality and availability of data in Africa. Initially the programme will focus on developing new medium to long term partnerships with three African National Statistical Offices, and the UN Economic Commission for Africa. The scoping work for these partnerships is now underway, and is likely to lead to some exciting new short and long term opportunities for GSS staff, including up to four Grade 6/7 posts based in Africa. Contact Emily Poskett (emily.poskett@ons.gov.uk) if interested to learn more. * ONS labour market statisticians continue to support DFID on improving measures of jobs and productivity. Nick Palmer has researched the current international system of labour statistics and has identified priority areas for improvement with regard to the needs of developing countries. He has proposed a set of recommendations for a global partnership involving the World Bank and the International Labour Organisation as well as ONS and DFID. In addition to this David Freeman delivered training in Lithuania, on labour market statistics, for countries from the Caucuses and Eastern Europe. * In June, the Director General from the National Institute of Statistics for Rwanda visited ONS in Newport, and then spoke to the GSS SCS, giving a Rwandan perspective on data for decision making. * Also in June, Emma Rourke, ONS spoke at a [High Level meeting](http://www.data4sdgs.org/high-level-meeting) in Kenya on Data for Development in Africa, about the new skill sets that are needed in a modern statistical system. * At the same high level meeting, Emily Poskett showcased the new [UK SDG platform](https://datasciencecampus.github.io/sdg-indicators/). Because it has been developed with open source technology in [github](https://github.com/), and we have produced manuals to help others to understand how to copy the platform, it has received interest from a wide range of other countries. * In August ONS Economic Statistics Transformation Division hosted a study visit from the Indian Statistical Service on GDP compilation approaches. * The inaugrual data for development festival, for partners of the [GPSDD](http://www.data4sdgs.org/) will be held in Bristol in March 2018, and will include a visit to ONS Newport and the Data Science Campus. * **News from DFID** * Ethiopia is carrying out a Population and Housing Census in 2018. DFID is providing £4.5mil support through the UN Population Fund. £100k of this is being used to fund technical assistance from the ONS. Contact Florence Vojak ([F-Vojak@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:F-Vojak@dfid.gov.uk)) for further details. * Development Assistance Committee (DAC) at OECD held a workshop on results in development cooperation on 9-10October. Papers for the workshop are available at: * [Strengthening the Results Chain: synthesis of case studies of results-based management by providers](http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oecd/development/strengthening-the-results-chain_544032a1-en#.WZ6RfdxLdGp) * [Delivering Results to Leave No One Behind](http://www.oecd.org/dac/results-development/docs/leave-no-one-behind-results-workshop-oct-2017.pdf) * [Strengthening providers’ results frameworks through targets & indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)](http://www.oecd.org/dac/results-development/docs/strengthening-providers-results-frameworks.pdf)   OECD DAC has also set up a new webpage on results in development cooperation at <http://www.oecd.org/dac/results-development/>.   * In July, DFID published the latest results from the HMG-wide International Climate Finance (ICF) portfolio. UK ICF investments aim to support international poverty eradication by helping developing countries deal with climate change. The results show that UK investments have supported 34m people to cope with the effects of climate change and reduced or avoided 9.2 million tonnes of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. To find out more go to: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2017-uk-climate-finance-results> * The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics has published the provisional results of their 2017 population census. The census, which was supported by DFID’s country office, reports that Pakistan’s population now stands at 207.8m, 57% higher than the previous census from 1998 and over 10m higher than the most recent UN population projection for 2017. The provisional results are available at <http://www.pbscensus.gov.pk/>. * DFID continues to provide support to statistical data collection and analysis in Afghanistan. In particular, staff in the DFID country office has: * helped to train and provide a transfer of knowledge to the Afghanistan Central Statistics Organization (CSO) to reduce their dependence on overseas consultants for complex data analysis; * provide specific support on the *Survey of Afghan People*, a key survey for the understanding of opinions, attitudes and views of the Afghan population; * provided leadership on statistics donor coordination with the express purpose of improving skills, knowledge and good practice at CSO. * There were a number of data events at the United Nations General Assembly held between 19-25 September in New York. Side events covered topics such *Using data and technology to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;* *Inclusive data to end poverty and Leave No One Behind* (organised by DFID), *Gender and SDGs* and *Data disaggregation/Inclusive Data Charter*. One of the key messages coming from the discussions was that the technology now exists to collect, analyse and disseminate the data required to monitor the SDGs and that we need to “get on with it”. More information on UNGA is available at <https://gadebate.un.org/en> and Rachael Beaven ([R-Beaven@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:R-Beaven@dfid.gov.uk)) was in attendance.   More information from: [daryl-lloyd@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:daryl-lloyd@dfid.gov.uk) (ILO, DFID) |

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