

## **06/14: SPSCC**

### **Update on the Annual Population Survey(APS)/Labour Force Survey(LFS)**

#### **Introduction**

1. This paper provides a short update on recent developments of the Annual Population Survey (APS)/Labour Force Survey (LFS).

#### **Background**

2. The APS is a dataset which contains 1 years worth of data and is published on a rolling quarterly basis (i.e. Jan-Dec, Apr-Mar, Jul-Jun and Oct-Sep). The APS in Scotland is made up of the four quarters of the LFS in Scotland and also the boost to the LFS in Scotland. The annual boost to the LFS was previously published as the Annual Scottish Labour Force Survey.
3. The APS allows more accurate analysis of labour market information at detailed geographical levels and also for specific groups such as the NEET group. As the detailed postcode data is made available to the Scottish Executive it is also possible to create specific geographies such as rural and urban classifications.

#### **Publications**

4. The APS for January to December 2004 was published in September 2005 with the data for April 2004 to March 2005 following shortly afterwards. These data were made available in microdata format to the Scottish Executive but summary results were also made available on the National Online Manpower Information System (NOMIS) website.
5. In December 2005 it was discovered there was an error in the April-March 2005 dataset for Scotland and Wales. Subsequent datasets (July-June 2005 and Oct-Sept 2005) were also affected by errors and therefore the only useable dataset published for Scotland so far is the Jan-Dec 2004 dataset.
6. The Jan-Dec 2005 data will be published on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2006 and will be accompanied by a Scottish Executive publication which looks at the main labour market and lifelong learning indicators for Scotland. This publication will compare data for 2004 and 2005 at a Local Authority level and will also include, for the first time, data on urban/rural splits and also 15% most deprived areas in Scotland. The intermediate publications of the APS will also be republished at the end of June.

#### **Future Developments**

7. Due to funding issues the APS boost in England was discontinued from January 2006 which means that the APS in England will revert back to sample sizes used in the Annual Local Labour Force Survey. The boost to the Scottish sample will continue and has agreed funding for 2006 and 2007. Work is ongoing to try to secure funding for future years through the SR2007 process.

8. Work is also ongoing to investigate the possibility of using face to face interviews North of the Caledonian Canal (NOCC). Currently interviews NOCC are carried out by telephone only. This can effect the response rates NOCC and also the reliability of the data. For this reason ONS have developed a possible methodology for selecting households NOCC. Subject to funding it is hoped that face to face interviews NOCC may begin in January 2007.
9. The possibility of a boost to the ethnic sample within the LFS is currently being considered. A theoretical sampling methodology has been developed by ONS and they are currently costing this possible methodology. This is still at the very early stages and the possible benefits which may be gained from this boost, given the possible cost, are currently uncertain.
10. ONS is developing a version of the APS datasets that will be suitable for family and household level labour market analysis, in order to meet the growing demand for more reliable statistics at the local area level. The APS family and household level datasets will be available quarterly on a rolling annual basis.
11. Provided that the development work is completed to schedule, it is envisage that the first APS household dataset to be released will cover the period July 2005-June 2006. The current plan is to publish a workless households First Release, using this dataset, in January 2007. The APS household dataset covering July 2004-June 2005 will be released at the same time, in order to show estimates of year-on-year changes in the First Release.

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