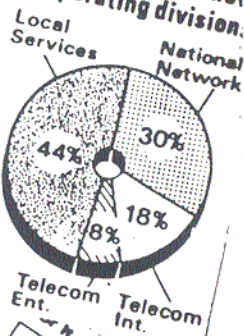


RADICAL State-istics

31

£ie

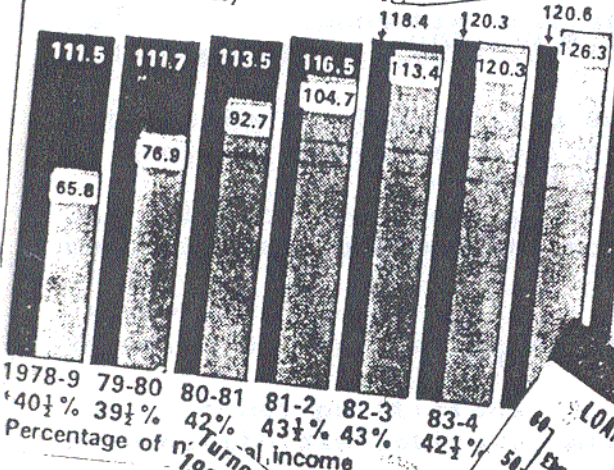
Percentage of turnover of operating division.



PUBLIC SPENDING TOTALS

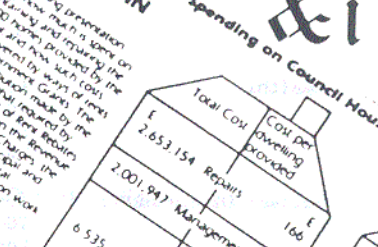
£ Billion.

Cash
Real terms (1983-4 prices)

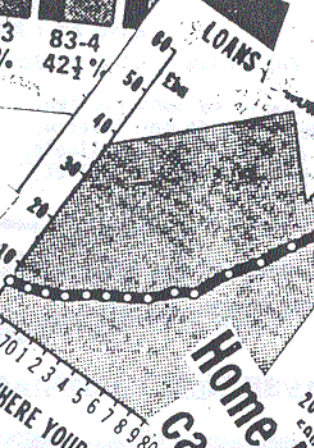
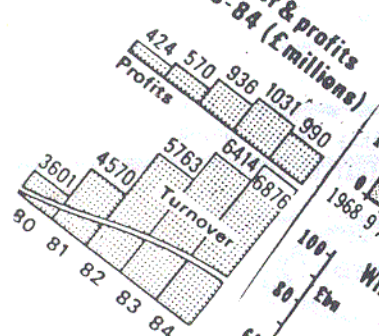
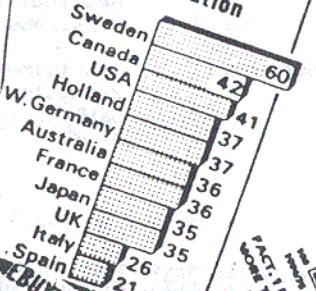


REVENUE SPENDING IN 1983/84

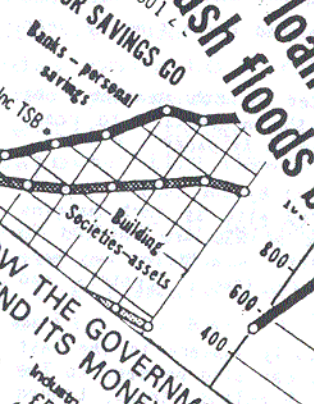
The following presentation shows how much is spent on machinery and repairs by the Councils and how much on the Councils' own machinery. The Councils' own machinery is the machinery that is owned by the Councils and is used for the Councils' own purposes. The Councils' own machinery is the machinery that is owned by the Councils and is used for the Councils' own purposes.



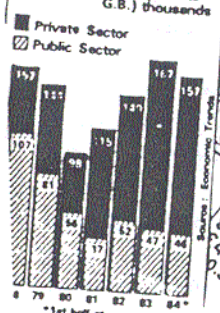
Lines in service per 100 population



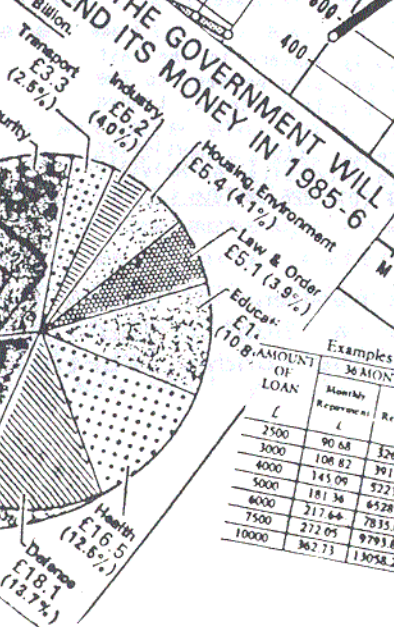
Home cash loans: now the cash floods back



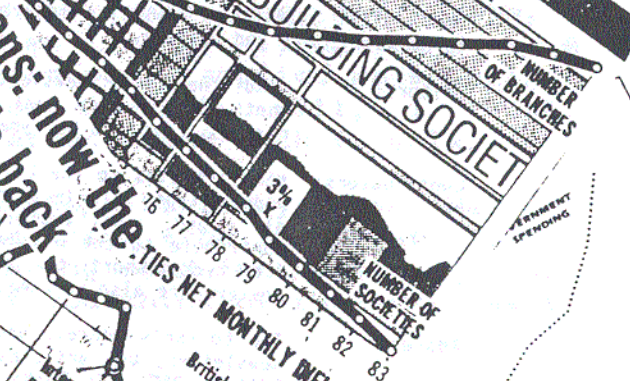
NEW HOUSES



HOW THE GOVERNMENT WILL SPEND ITS MONEY IN 1985-6



JUST FOR THE BUILDING SOCIETIES



EXAMPLES BASED ON APR 19.8% (VARIABLE)

Amount of Loan (£)	36 MONTHS		60 MONTHS		120 MONTHS	
	Monthly Repayment	Total Repayment	Monthly Repayment	Total Repayment	Monthly Repayment	Total Repayment
2500	90.68	3204.48	76.57	2828.60	45.43	1654.80
3000	106.82	3917.52	92.10	3426.00	54.52	1994.40
4000	145.09	5213.24	127.42	4657.20	72.69	2682.00
5000	181.36	6528.96	162.10	5942.40	92.77	3404.40
6000	217.64	7858.08	197.42	7226.40	112.94	4144.80
7500	272.05	9793.80	251.43	9226.80	146.30	5358.00
10000	362.73	13058.28	335.24	12444.00	195.07	7144.80

subgroups. All members are welcome to join in all subgroup activities, or to invite other members (via the newsletter) to start a new subgroup on any topic that interests them.

The subgroups currently active, and the persons to contact, are:

Education:	Ian Plewis University of London Institute of Education Thomas Coram Research Unit 41 Brunswick Square London WC1N 1AZ tel: 01-278 2424 x264(wk) 01-340 1047 (home)
Health:	Alison Macfarlane 40 Warwick Rd St Albans Herts tel: St Albans 52111
Nuclear Disarmament:	John Lintott 280 Dalston Lane London E8
Race:	Roy Carr-Hill, Centre for Medical Economics, The University, Heslington, York, YO1 5DD. tel: 0904-59861
Women in Statistics:	Jean Ullman 22 Kipling St Salford M7 9FF tel: 061-792 7413

The Radical Statistics Newsletter is available by subscription. Current rates are £3 per year for individuals and £5 for institutions and £1.50 for the unwaged. The newsletter is available from the Radical Statistics Group, c/o BSSRS, 9 Poland Street, London W1V 3DG

NEXT EDITOR: John Bibby
33 Haughshaw Road
HALIFAX HX1 1AH

Beware! - is this the beginning
of a perpetual oligarchy?

COPY DATE: 15th January 1985 (no late passes!)

Guidelines for Editors and Contributors

The Radical Statistics Newsletter is produced three times a year in February, May and October.

Editors: send the typed newsletter to Bob Peacock, one month before they want the newsletter to reach readers. Copy to be typed on A4 paper.

Contributors: send articles to the Editor by the copydate on A4 paper, typed single-spaced with 1½ inch margins all round. All members of RSG are invited to contribute to the newsletter - articles may vary from very short to quite long. Letters and reviews are also welcome.

Addresses: The Editor's address usually appears in the last newsletter, but articles can also be sent to The Editor, RSG, c/o BSSRS, 9 Poland Street, London W1V 3DG.
Bob Peacock's address (for newsletter reproduction) is The Open University, 60 Melville Street, Edinburgh EH3 7HF (031 226 3851).

REMINDER: Next year's AGM is set for the weekend of 23/24 February. Mark it in you diary. It is hoped to have a public 'do' plus 10th birthday celebrations on the Saturday, and AGM on the Sunday. Further details in the next Newsletter.

CONTENTS

Past and Present (Editorial)	3
Subgroup Reports	6
Some problems in interpreting race and crime statistics....Monica Walker	7
Spending and standards....Ian Plewis	10
Radstats: responsible statistics and responsible statisticians....Ludi Simpson	14
Outline for a study of the use of statistical models in social research and policy-making....Jeff Evans	16
The politics of numeracy: unequal distribution of a scarce skill....Jeff Evans	23
Jeremy Bentham and the founding of the Statistical Society of London....John Bibb	25-32
Can we trust politicians with health statistics?...Alison Macfarlane	37
Radstats publications list - please tear this off to a convenient notice-board	win it
Radstats membership form - please tear it off and give to a friend	

STOP PRESS = Pages 23-32
and 37-40 held over until next issue.

PAST AND PRESENT - (Editorial)

Ref.5101

The Editor's lot is never a happy one! In my naive case, I waited for press-day only to find my in-tray lying bare. A certain amount of pressure judiciously applied nevertheless produced an interesting crop whose quality will, I trust, compensate for whatever the Newsletter might lack in bulk.

The first article after Subgroup Reports is by Monica Walker, and follows up a piece on race and crime from the last issue. It's good to find the Newsletter being used for debates of this kind - please write to say what you think of the articles in this one!

Ludi Simpson's article should provoke considerable discussion. Not far below the surface of his Responsible Statistics and Responsible Statisticians lies a certain amount of anger, I feel, along with the message that Radstats may be losing sight of its objectives. Ludi refers to the "navel-gazing and armchair philosophising" which all of us indulge in from time to time - or is it more often? Ludi asks what is to be done about this. Or are our problems other than Ludi suggests? Please write to say what you think.

Health group

The plans, which we described in the last newsletter, to lay to rest statistically various myths about the 'national health' are not as far advanced as we might have hoped, but we are now renewing our efforts to tackle them. It is still not too late for people new to Radical Statistics or who missed out on the invitation in the last newsletter to make contributions, so don't feel reticent about what you have to offer. We are looking for contributions from about 500 to 1500 words in length, with some data and ideas for illustrations if relevant, debunking some myth about health or the health services. If you are in need of inspiration just read the new glossy first annual report of the National Health Service, and see what it says about any subject you are well informed about!

An adhoc working group, set up to advise the Labour Party about policies it could adopt to deal with inequalities in health has invited us, along with a number of other groups and individuals to comment on its preliminary outline of its ideas. Rather than try to produce written comments, we are having small informal meetings with members of the working group and inviting other like-minded people to join us. So far, meetings have been organised in London and Oxford, and an attempt is being made to organise one to the north of Watford Gap. If anyone would like to organise a meeting in their area, please contact Alison Macfarlane, 40 Warwick Road, St Albans, Herts. for a copy of the working group's outline, and relevant phone numbers.

We have also been invited to join a similar working group which has just been set up on drugs policies. This is slightly embarrassing as we have rather less information to offer than the other people involved, but we shall try to contribute what we can. We should, however be particularly pleased to hear from anyone else in Radical Statistics who is well informed about drugs and the drugs industry.

The paper based on our drugs project has finally achieved academic status by being accepted for publication in the British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology. When it appears, we shall try to get it a little publicity, otherwise it will remain buried.

EDUCATION GROUP REPORT

We thought about the idea of working on myths at our last meeting in September. The few of us present decided that it was worth taking the idea further, and the best way to do this was to restrict ourselves to three broad areas:

1. Standards and comprehensive education
2. Teaching methods, mixed ability teaching and mixed age teaching
3. Class size and education spending

These three topics emerged from the longer list suggested in RS 30. We are having another meeting on 15 November, and it is certainly not too late for anyone interested to join us, either then, or by getting in touch with me.