

LFS Non-Response Analysis Project– Phase One

This note provides an outline of the first phase of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) Non-Response Analysis Project. It describes the scope of Phase One and provides a breakdown of the expected analysis and outputs from the phase.

Scope

Phase One is in two parts. The first part will review the findings from the LFS Census Non-Response Report¹ to summarise what is already known about the characteristics of non-responders in the LFS.

The second aspect will show trend data from 1992 to the current quarter using the main quarterly LFS datasets. This quantitative analysis will provide a complete picture of non response trends over the period and enable a better understanding of the changing pattern of non-response over the period (e.g. by wave, mode and GOR). There will be an interpretative commentary which will summarise the main findings and suggest areas for further research in phase 2.

The analysis is expected to include the following:

1. Detailed breakdown of response (e.g., fully co-operating, refusals² and non-contact) by GB by wave³ – every quarter from 1992
2. Detailed breakdown of response by GB by mode of interview⁴ by wave – every quarter from 1992
3. Detailed breakdown of response by GOR by wave - every quarter from 1992
4. A comparison of the distribution of the achieved sample within GOR by age/sex with population controls by wave.

The tables will be provided in an annex of the report while a series of charts will be featured within the main report.

Completion

Phase One is expected to be completed by December 2005.

Outputs

It is expected that the results of the first phase will lead to the following:

- ☐ A final report (for Phase One)
- ☐ Paper to be submitted to Steering Group Committee
- ☐ Article in Labour Market Trends
- ☐ Presentation to colleagues (e.g. in SVS, LMD and SDCAS)

¹ Freeth, S. (2004) Report of the 2001 Census-Linked Study of Survey Non-Response, ONS unpublished report.

² Refusals will be segregated into circumstantial refusal, outright refusal and refusal to follow-up interview (only waves 2 to 5).

³ Waves 1 to 5.

⁴ Telephone & face to face interviews.

